

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY











# STARK COUNTY ILLINOIS AND ITS PEOPLE

A RECORD OF SETTLEMENT, ORGANIZATION,  
PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

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ILLUSTRATED

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VOLUME II

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JUDGE FRANK THOMAS

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# BIOGRAPHICAL

## JUDGE FRANK THOMAS.

Judge Frank Thomas, who is now serving for the second term upon the bench of Stark county, is a native of Wyoming, Illinois, his birth having there occurred September 17, 1848. He is a son of James M. Thomas and a grandson of General Samuel Thomas, the founder of Wyoming, Illinois. The common schools afforded him his preliminary educational training, after which he attended the Northwestern University and subsequently entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he completed the literary course and was graduated. Subsequently he spent two years in the study of law there, and at the end of six years passed in the Michigan university he left that institution with the degrees of B. A. and B. L.

Immediately afterward Mr. Thomas returned to his native town and was admitted to the bar in Toulon in September, 1872. He opened a law office in Wyoming and was successful in building up a large practice of a most important character. No dreary novitiate awaited him. He proved his ability in the trial of early cases, which indicated the thoroughness of his preparation and his comprehensive knowledge of law principles. He was attorney for the Rock Island and Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Companies for about eighteen years. He also served as city attorney of Wyoming for about twenty years, discharging his duties with marked ability and thus carefully safeguarding the interests of the city. His elevation to the bench was the logical sequence of the splendid record which he had made as advocate and counselor and he is now serving for the second term as judge of Stark county. His career as a judge is in harmony with that of his record as a man and citizen—characterized by the utmost fidelity to duty and by a masterful grasp of every problem presented for solution.

Judge Thomas was united in marriage in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on the 14th of September, 1872, to Miss Anna Walsh, who was there reared and educated. She died, leaving two children, but the son, Harry Thomas, died at the age of eight years. The daughter, Katie, is now the wife of A. R. Seewald, a merchant of Terre Haute, Indiana, and they have a daughter, Fara Frances. Judge Thomas was

again married in Wyoming, on the 12th of April, 1882, his second union being with Miss Julia M. Hoover, who was born in Peoria county. They also have two children: Anna L., the wife of Nelson L. Steer, a wholesale grocer of Peoria; and Julia B., attending the Toulon schools.

Judge Thomas is a member of Wyoming Lodge, No. 479, A. F. & A. M., and Wyoming Chapter, No. 133, R. A. M., of which he was high priest for twelve years, and is a loyal adherent of the teachings of the craft. He has long taken an active interest in local politics and for a time was identified with the democratic party but for a number of years has supported the republican party. He is a man fearless in the support of his honest convictions yet never bitterly aggressive. He is a student of the great political, sociological and economic questions of the day and his opinions are the result of careful consideration of the policies which he regards as effective forces in good government. His fellow townsmen speak of him in terms of high regard, and his reelection to the bench indicates that public opinion and the decisions of the higher courts indorse his judicial record.

Judge Thomas is a member of the First Congregational church of Toulon, and is one of the principal workers in the Sunday school of that church. His class of eighteen young ladies speak in the highest terms of him as a teacher, each one of them showing her appreciation of his work in this position by being truly loyal to him. He is a conscientious anti-saloon advocate, which is ever in evidence by his work and contributions to that cause.

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### J. KNOX HALL.

J. Knox Hall, a son of Dr. Thomas and Matilda (Manifold) Hall, is a native of Stark county, having been born in the town of Toulon, April 20, 1848. He was educated in the Toulon public schools and upon leaving school entered the office of the old Stark County News to learn the printer's trade. Later he was associated with W. E. Nixon in the publication of the Stark County Sentinel. Purchasing Mr. Nixon's interest, he continued as sole proprietor, editor and publisher of the Sentinel until 1885, when he was appointed postmaster of Toulon by President Cleveland—the first postmaster in Illinois to be appointed by the new administration. At the close of his term as postmaster he resumed literary work, in which he is still engaged.

Politically Mr. Hall is a democrat, though he is broad enough to



respect the opinions of those who view the political situation from a different standpoint. For four years he was a member of the Toulon city council, at the time the waterworks and sewer system were under construction, and he has always taken a commendable interest in every movement for the improvement of his native city. In church matters he was formerly a Baptist but now belongs to the Congregational church.

Mr. Hall is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, being a member of Toulon Lodge, No. 93, Free and Accepted Masons; Wyoming Chapter, No. 133, Royal Arch Masons; Kewance Commandery, No. 71, Knights Templar; and Mohammed Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, of Peoria.

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### HUGH MALLETT.

Hugh Mallett, who throughout his entire life has engaged in harness making, conducting a profitable and growing business along that line at Bradford, was born in Milo, Bureau county, Illinois, on the 11th of April, 1875, and is a son of James F. and Mary J. (Haskins) Mallett. The father is also a native of Bureau county, while the mother's birth occurred in Tioga county, New York. They were married in Illinois, however, and are now residents of Lombardville, where they have resided since 1895. The father devoted many years of his life to general farming and is now engaged in stock buying.

Hugh Mallett was educated in Milo and when seventeen years of age began to learn the harness making trade at Lombardville, Illinois, being employed there and at Bradford until 1901, when he started in business on his own account. In August, 1915, in association with W. F. Costello and others, he organized the Jim Dandy Collar Company, of which Mr. Mallett is the secretary, while Mr. Costello acts as manager. They manufacture a combination collar and pad in one and the establishment now has a capacity of fifteen dozen collars per day and one hundred and twenty-five sets of harness per year. Mr. Mallett has sold over four gross of collars from his harness shop to the farmers of the locality and they have given general satisfaction. He is thoroughly honest and upright in his dealings and is known as "Honest Hugh."

In August, 1906, Mr. Mallett was united in marriage to Miss Ruth Drawyer, and they have become the parents of three children, James, Russell and Madeline. In his political views Mr. Mallett is

a republican, well versed on the questions and issues of the day but is not an office seeker. For sixteen years he has been identified with the Masonic fraternity, and both he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. His success is due in large measure to the fact that he has always continued in the line in which he embarked as a young tradesman, never dissipating his energies over a broad field but concentrating his efforts upon the business in which he has developed skill and ability.

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### MRS. RHODA M. JACKSON.

One of the best known residents of La Fayette is Mrs. Rhoda M. Jackson, who is a most active church woman and prominent in other connections. She was born in Fulton county, Illinois, and is a daughter of the Rev. Amos Morey, a native of Maine, who with his parents removed in his childhood days to Ohio, the family home being established in Huron county, where Mr. Morey was reared to manhood. He there learned the trades of carpenter and cabinet maker and while residing in that locality he was united in marriage to Miss Lydia H. Wright, who was born in the state of New York but was reared in Ohio. They removed from Ohio to Illinois, settling in Fulton county, where Mr. Morey worked at his trade but while thus engaged he devoted all his leisure time to studying for the ministry and at length was ordained in the Methodist church, becoming one of the well known ministers and circuit riders of Fulton county in early days. Prior to his ordination he had served as a local preacher for many years. In 1857 he came to La Fayette and in his last days as a superannuated minister lived with a daughter on a farm in Knox county.

His daughter Mrs. Jackson was largely reared and educated in Fulton county and on the 2d of November, 1859, in Abingdon, Knox county, she gave her hand in marriage to Edward L. Jackson. They established their home upon a farm in Knox county, where they resided for a number of years, but in 1901 they came to Stark county, settling in La Fayette, where Mr. Jackson lived retired during the remainder of his life, his death occurring in the year 1910.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jackson were born three sons, who reached adult age, while two children passed away in early life. Cassimer reached mature years, was married and for some time engaged in business in Dixon, Illinois, but afterward removed to Alabama, where he passed away September 26, 1913. Amos Morey Jackson is now a farmer of

Oklahoma. The youngest son, Clyde, was married and for some time was a commercial traveler. He resided at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where he died in January, 1907.

Mrs. Jackson is now numbered among the old settlers of Stark county. She is a most earnest Christian woman, holding membership in La Fayette Methodist Episcopal church and taking a most helpful part in church and Sunday school work. She belongs to the Ladies Aid Society and there is perhaps no one more familiar with the history of the churches in this part of the county. Her entire life has been guided by her Christian belief, which has been manifest in many kindly deeds, her sympathy and her charity. She possesses many sterling traits of character which have gained her the warm regard that causes all to speak of her in terms of affection and goodwill.

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### C. J. DEISHER.

C. J. Deisher, who is conducting a general mercantile establishment at Lombardville, has made good use of his time, talents and opportunities, ever proving loyal to the interests entrusted to his care and capable in the management of his business affairs. He was born in Osceola township, this county, May 6, 1866, a son of James and Caroline (Woodward) Deisher. The father was born in Ithaca, New York, and when about eighteen years of age came to the middle west, settling on a farm which he continued to develop and improve until fourteen years prior to his demise, when he engaged in the livery business, conducting his stables until his death, which occurred four years ago. His wife had passed away when their son, C. J., was but five years of age.

Spending his youthful days in his father's home, C. J. Deisher attended the public schools of Bradford and remained with his father until he reached his majority. At the age of twenty-one years he went to Missouri but after spending a time in that state returned to Lombardville and assumed the management of the elevator there for the firm of Mallett & Code, with whom he continued for twenty-two years, his long connection with that firm standing in incontrovertible proof of his ability, trustworthiness and fidelity. About three years ago he established a general store in Lombardville and is still conducting the business, meeting with excellent success in his management of the enterprise. That his trade has now reached large pro-

portions is indicated by the fact that he runs two wagons in the country.

On the 5th of January, 1887, Mr. Deisher was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Murray and they have become the parents of four children: Lloyd, who is engaged in business with his father under the firm style of C. J. Deisher & Son; Blanche, who is the wife of John Bell, proprietor of a store in Milo; Maud, who is a school teacher; and Ray, at home.

The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Deisher exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the democratic party. He may truly be called a self-made man and deserves all the credit which that term implies. Through his own efforts he has built up a business of gratifying proportions and in 1915 the sales of the firm of C. J. Deisher & Son amounted to over sixty-five thousand dollars. His plans are carefully formulated and promptly executed. He studies the business situation thoroughly, knows the demands of the trade and through liberal purchases is able to meet the wishes of his patrons. He has ever recognized the fact that satisfied patrons are the best advertisement and along that line he has built up a business of gratifying proportions.

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### I. M. SPENCER.

I. M. Spencer is to a considerable extent living retired although he still makes his home on his farm on section 11, Elmira township, where he owns two hundred acres of valuable land, and where he has now resided for the long period of seventy-six years. He has now passed the seventy-sixth milestone on life's journey, his birth having occurred on the 9th of June, 1840, about a half mile west of his present residence. There are few citizens of this section of the state who have so long resided here and through three-quarters of a century Mr. Spencer has been a witness of and a participant in the events which have shaped the history of Stark county.

He is a son of Isaac P. and Eunice Clarinda (Gardiner) Spencer, the former a native of Caledonia county, Vermont, and the latter of Onondaga county, New York. In the spring of 1835 Isaac P. Spencer arrived in Peoria county, Illinois, and it was in that county that he was married. The following year he came to Stark county and located a claim, whereon he took up his abode in 1837. He built the first brick house in the neighborhood, his home being on section 10.



I. M. SPENCER AND FAMILY

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Osceola township. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon his land, and he faced all of the hardships and privations of pioneer life in attempting to establish himself in this locality. While upon his first tract of land he also operated a brick kiln and he made the bricks which were used in the erection of the first brick house in Elmira township, built in 1842. His son afterward razed that house and upon the site erected his present residence. The father occupied the old home until his death, which occurred in 1884, and throughout the entire period of his residence in this county followed the occupation of farming. The work of development seemed scarcely begun at the time of his arrival. The forests were uncut and on the prairies grew the native grasses starred with millions of wild flowers in June, while in the winter seasons the entire countryside was covered with an unbroken sheet of snow. Comparatively few roads had been laid out and the greater part of the land was still in possession of the government, so that the family shared in all of the different phases of pioneer life and later development. The mother passed away in 1873 and was laid to rest in the Osceola cemetery.

I. M. Spencer pursued his early education in a little log school building erected in the midst of the timber, and later he had the benefit of a few terms' instruction in a school at Galesburg. He early began assisting in the work of the fields and was thus busily engaged until the outbreak of the Civil war. He watched with interest the progress of events which culminated in the attack on Fort Sumter and his patriotic spirit was at once aroused. On the 17th of June, 1861, he offered his services to the government and joined the boys in blue of Company B, Nineteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, to serve for three years, or during the war. He enlisted as a private and, possessing musical talent, was called upon to serve as fifer and bugler, being chief bugler of his regiment during the last two years of his service, which was terminated on the 9th of July, 1864, when he received his honorable discharge. He took part in every engagement with his regiment, including the battles of Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Resaca and others.

With a most creditable military record Mr. Spencer returned to his home, having given valuable aid to the country in defending the Union. He had been reared to farm life and resumed agricultural pursuits but soon afterward went into a store at Osceola, where he remained for twelve years. This was one of the first stores of the town and the building occupied was one which had been erected by his father. At the end of his mercantile experience Mr. Spencer resumed farming, in which he continued until 1903, since which time

he has lived retired to a greater or less extent, although he still occupies the old homestead, where he owns two hundred acres of valuable land that returns to him a gratifying annual income.

Mr. Spencer was married in 1871 to Miss Rose Franklin, and they have three children: Ralph, who is on a farm near his father's place; Dana, living in Santa Rosa, California; and Raymond, of Kewanee, Illinois.

In politics, Mr. Spencer has long been an earnest and stalwart republican, and he has served as tax collector, for several terms as school director and for many years as school trustee. His wife is a member of the Baptist church, and he attends religious services at different churches in his home locality. He belongs to the Grand Army post at Osceola, of which he is now commander, and he has nearly always attended the state and national encampments, finding great pleasure in this association with his old army comrades. He is a well read man, always keeping in touch with modern thought and progress and well informed on the leading questions and issues of the day. His life at all times has been active, upright and honorable, and there is no one more deserving of mention in this volume than this honored pioneer settler and war veteran.

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#### A. J. ADAMS.

A. J. Adams, who holds the responsible position of cashier of the National Bank of Wyoming, was born in Penn township, Stark county, on the 5th of April, 1878. His father, Robert A. Adams, was a son of John Adams and was a farmer by occupation. He was married to Miss Mary E. Earhart, who is still living at Castleton. They were the parents of five children, of whom only two survive: A. J.; and Harry F., who resides upon the home farm.

A. J. Adams was reared under the parental roof and had the usual experiences of the farm boy, early gaining training in agricultural work and in habits of industry and thrift. He was given excellent educational opportunities as after attending the country schools he entered Knox College and still later took a course in the Gem City Business College, from which he was graduated in 1898. Entering the business world, he secured a position in a store at Castleton and later turned his attention to banking, serving for two years as manager of the Scott-Wrigley & Walters branch bank at Castleton. Later he came to Wyoming as assistant cashier of the National



Bank and after serving in that capacity was made cashier. For seven years he has directed the policy of the institution and its prosperity testifies to his knowledge of business conditions, his sound judgment and his familiarity with banking routine.

Mr. Adams was married in 1900 to Miss Delilah Miller, a native of Iowa, and they have become the parents of a daughter, Arline. Mr. Adams is a republican in his political belief and keeps well informed as to the questions and issues before the people. The principles which guide his life are found in the teachings of the Congregational church, and he is always ready to aid movements seeking the moral advancement of his community. He is recognized as a leader in local banking circles and personally he has gained the warm friendship of those who have been closely associated with him.

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### JAMES A. NOWLAN.

James A. Nowlan was born in Toulon on the 12th of April, 1873, a son of James and Nellie A. (Plummer) Nowlan, the former a son of Michael and Frances (Kearney) Nowlan, natives respectively of Carlow and Wexford counties, Ireland. James Nowlan, father of the subject of this sketch, was born at Grafton, Massachusetts, on the 6th of February, 1837, and in 1840 accompanied his parents and the other children on their removal west, the family locating in Goshen township, Stark county, Illinois. He became a resident of Toulon in early manhood and resided there for many years, or until his death in 1900. His wife survives and is still living in that city.

James A. Nowlan was graduated from the local high school with the class of 1890 and seven years later, in partnership with Charles E. Nixon, purchased the Stark County News. They published the paper together until 1904, when Mr. Nowlan bought his partner's interests, becoming sole proprietor of the journal. He has since been alone in business and has adhered to the highest standards of journalism. The typographical work of the paper is of a high order, the news columns give complete and reliable accounts of happenings of general interest, and the editorial page is devoted to the upbuilding of the interests of Toulon and Stark county. Mr. Nowlan has proved not only an excellent editor but also a man of keen business insight and enterprise, and the paper has returned him a good profit. On the 1st of January, 1915, he purchased The Galva Standard, and a year

later bought The Galva News, combining the two publications under the latter name.

Mr. Nowlan was married on the 15th of April, 1904, to Miss Cora De M. Townsend, of Wyoming, Illinois, a daughter of William J. and Jane E. Townsend. To this union have been born five children, three sons and two daughters.

Mr. Nowlan is a staunch advocate of republican principles and personally and through his papers has been an influential factor in republican success in this section of the state. He has served as alderman, as city treasurer and has held other minor offices, at all times proving a capable and conscientious public servant. He is associated with the blue lodge and other bodies of the Masonic order and in his daily life exemplifies the spirit of fraternity which is at the basis of that organization.

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### C. G. THURSTON.

C. G. Thurston, who was born upon the farm which he is now operating on section 33, Penn township, has proved very efficient as an agriculturist and stock raiser and has gained a gratifying measure of success. His natal day was the 17th of March, 1878, and he is a son of Daniel S. and Clarinda (McKimmis) Thurston. The father was born in Tioga county, New York, but became an early settler of Stark county, Illinois, where he developed a tract of raw prairie land into a highly improved farm. He died in this county presumably on the 17th of November, 1896. He was a democrat in politics and served as supervisor and school director. His wife, who was a native of Ohio, passed away in December, 1912, and both were buried in Pleasant Valley cemetery.

C. G. Thurston attended the common schools and was also a student in the high school at Wyoming, Illinois, thus receiving a thorough education. He has devoted his life to farming and now owns sixty-five acres of the old homestead and operates two hundred and forty acres. He is breeding Duroc-Jersey hogs in addition to raising the usual crops and both branches of his business are profitable. About eight years ago he became the local representative for the Oxweld Acetylene Company and in the intervening time he has installed a number of lighting plants in residences in his locality.

Mr. Thurston supports the republican party and is now filling the office of school director. He is a member of the Methodist Prot-

estant church and fraternally is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America at Castleton and the Odd Fellows at Wyoming. He realizes that enterprise and progressiveness are necessary to succeed in farming as well as in other fields of activity and has based his success upon the sure foundation of industry and good judgment.

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### CHARLES P. DEWEY.

Prominent among the enterprising, progressive and farsighted business men of Toulon is Charles P. Dewey, financier and banker, who for more than forty years has been identified with the moneyed interests of the county. He is honored and respected by all, not alone by reason of the success he has achieved but also owing to the straightforward business policy which he has ever followed. Stark county numbers him among her native sons. He was born July 28, 1857, a son of Samuel M. Dewey, a native of Hanover, New Hampshire, and a grandson of Andrew Dewey. The former was reared in the old Granite state to the age of eighteen years and pursued his education in the schools there. He afterward went to Boston, where he remained for four years and subsequently he became a resident of Stark county.

Charles P. Dewey spent his youthful days under the parental roof and supplemented his early education, obtained in the common schools, by study in Wheaton College, where he remained for two years. He then returned to Toulon and for a year or more was connected with mercantile interests but later entered a bank as bookkeeper. He worked his way upward to the position of cashier and in 1879 purchased an interest in the business. Upon the death of his partner, Samuel Burge, he became head of the banking house and for years carried on the business in the same locality. The firm of Dewey, Burge & Gould conducts a general banking business and enjoys the unqualified confidence of the entire community. Their business methods are thoroughly reliable as well as progressive and their interests have been conducted with a recognition of the fact that the bank is most worthy of support which most carefully safeguards the interests of its depositors. In addition to his banking interests Mr. Dewey is the owner of several farms in Stark county and has handled considerable improved farm property, winning substantial success in that way.

At Wayne, Illinois, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Dewey

and Miss Flora I. Dunham, who was there born and reared, a daughter of Esquire Daniel Dunham, a very prominent citizen of Wayne. Five children have been born of this marriage: Olive C., the wife of Thomas G. Plant, of Moultonboro, New Hampshire; Mills, who is cashier in the bank; Charles P., who is engaged in the real estate and loan business in Salt Lake City; Maurice A., who was educated at the Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, and is now at home; and Marilla I., who is a student in the Toulon schools.

Mr. Dewey and his wife have been members of the Congregational church of Toulon for twenty-five years and he has taken an active part in both church and Sunday school work. He contributes generously to its support and stands at all times for the benefit and upbuilding of the community along material, intellectual, social and moral lines. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, but while he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, he has never sought nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, and by his close application, indefatigable energy and persistency of purpose he has reached the plane of affluence and is numbered among the most substantial residents of his county.

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### ROBERT L. BREEN.

Robert L. Breen, who is editor and half owner of the Bradford Republican, has made that paper one of the best of the country journals of Illinois and is recognized as one of the foremost citizens of Bradford. He was born in Lewistown, Fulton county, this state, on the 24th of May, 1878, a son of William and Rosa (Mulerone) Breen, natives respectively of Tipperary and of County Mayo, Ireland. The father was born in 1823 and remained in his native land until he attained mature years, after which he came to the United States and was employed for some time on government works in the south. After working in various states he removed to Iowa and purchased land at a dollar and a quarter per acre, which he subsequently sold at five dollars per acre. He was the first of his family to come to the United States, and after he had been here for some time he sent for his two sisters, who joined him. Following his marriage he engaged in the coal business at Lewistown, Illinois, and also had the contract for carrying mail from Lewistown to Havana for many years. On retiring from active life he removed to Lacon, Illinois, where he

died in 1899, when seventy-six years of age. His religious belief was that of the Catholic church, and in politics he was a democrat. His wife, who was born on the 7th of July, 1839, was brought to the United States by her mother in 1849 and lived for three years in Cairo, Illinois, after which removal was made to Lewistown, where she was married on Thanksgiving day of 1857. She, too, passed away in Lacon, her demise occurring on the 20th of November, 1907. She was a faithful communicant of the Catholic church. By her marriage she became the mother of twelve children, two of whom died in infancy, the others being: Mary, who gave her hand in marriage to Thomas F. McEntee, of Lacon; Lawrence, who was drowned in the Chicago river on the 5th of September, 1913; Bridget, wife of the late Frank Poreh, of Lacon; Katherine, who married Thomas F. O'Brien, of Oak Park, Illinois; William F., a resident of Toluca, this state; John, who is living in Lacon; Edward, who died July 13, 1914; Robert L.; and David V. and Thomas G., both of Lacon.

Robert L. Breen was seven years of age when the family removed to Lacon, and he attended a parochial school there until he was thirteen years old, when he entered the office of the old Lacon Democrat and began learning the printer's trade. He was promoted from time to time and when he left that office in 1902 held the position of foreman. In that year he went to Kewanee, Illinois, and became connected with the Star-Courier, with which he was identified for six years, working in various departments. In March, 1907, he came to Bradford and together with others purchased the Bradford Republican, of which he is now half owner. He is also editor and manager of the paper and its growth in circulation and advertising patronage is largely due to his able direction of its affairs. He understands everything in connection with the publication of the paper, the typographical work, the editorial work, the management of the business affairs of the publication and the work of the editor. The paper has gained an enviable reputation for giving full and reliable accounts of all happenings of local interest, and of the more important events in the world without, and it has always promoted improvements in the community. The paper has a large and representative circulation and this makes it valuable as an advertising medium for the local merchants.

On the 11th of October, 1904, occurred the marriage of Mr. Breen and Miss Nora I. Hickey. She was born in Camp Grove, Marshall county, Illinois, and is a daughter of David and Mary (Day) Hickey, natives of Ireland. The father became the owner of valuable land in Marshall county and gained a gratifying measure of success as a

farmer. Mrs. Breen attended the country schools and after completing the course offered there became a student in the Academy of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Peoria, Illinois, from which she was graduated. Mr. and Mrs. Breen have four children; Evelyn, Catherine, Robert V., Jr., and Margaret.

Mr. Breen supports the republican party at the polls and gives careful study to the questions and issues before the people. Both he and his wife belong to St. John's Catholic church, and he is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Order of Foresters. He is well known not only in Bradford but throughout the county and holds the respect and the esteem of his fellow citizens.

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### HON. CYRUS BOCOCK.

One can hardly mention a phase of development of Stark county with which Hon. Cyrus Bocoek of Bradford has not been prominently connected, and he is well known outside the limits of the county, for he served for two terms in the state legislature and was for eight years a member of the board of equalization. Not only does he command the respect of all with whom he is associated because of his marked ability, but he also has the faculty of making and retaining friends and is probably the most popular man in the county.

A native of Ohio, he was born in Highland county on the 5th of October, 1832, of the marriage of Elijah and Barbara (McKinney) Bocoek, natives of Virginia and Pennsylvania, respectively. They were married in Ohio on the 18th of July, 1822, and remained in the Buckeye state until 1832, when they removed westward to Fulton county, Illinois. There the father purchased timber land, which he cleared and placed under cultivation, devoting the remainder of his active life to agricultural pursuits. He reached an advanced age, dying in March, 1885, on his eighty-seventh birthday. He was a quiet and unassuming man but possessed genuine worth. His wife died in 1879 when eighty-one years old, in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which she was a devoted and active member. Mr. and Mrs. Bocoek were the parents of seven children, all of whom are now deceased, save our subject.

Cyrus Bocoek passed his boyhood and youth under the parental roof and received a good education for those days. He attended the public schools until about twenty years of age and he then became a student in a select school but was compelled to give up further study

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MRS. CYRUS BOCK





CYRUS BOCK

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in less than a year on account of his health. Later he taught that school for six months and then, having received a teacher's license, went home and began teaching in the district schools. For fourteen years he followed that profession and also engaged in farming, as the school term lasted but six months during the winter. During this entire time he taught in three adjoining districts, one of which was his home district. This record indicates the excellence of his work and his popularity with his patrons.

In 1857 Mr. Bocoek came to Stark county, Illinois, and engaged in farming here for eighteen months, but as the crops were a failure he returned home and again turned his attention to teaching. In the spring of 1866 he became a resident of Camp Grove, Stark county, and purchased a small country store at that place. At that time the nearest railroad was thirteen miles away and the settlers did much of their buying at small crossroads stores such as Mr. Boboek conducted for about four years. In 1869 he sold out his business and when the railroad was built through Castleton he was quick to recognize the value of that town as a trade center and built the first store there. He engaged in general merchandising at Castleton for fourteen years and also established the postoffice there. On selling out his mercantile interests he took up his residence upon his farm of two hundred and forty acres in Penn township, which he had bought in the meantime and which he operated successfully for three years. He then removed to Bradford and engaged in the loan and collection business, in which field he was active for many years. In the management of his affairs he displayed unusual knowledge of local business conditions, a keen insight into human nature and a soundness of judgment that enabled him to succeed where others would have failed. He was also uncompromisingly honest in all of his transactions and no one has ever charged him with sharp practice or deception. For many years he was the only auctioneer in this locality and cried the greater number of the sales in his part of the county. Since 1910 he has confined his attention chiefly to such business as comes within the scope of a notary public, public administrator and conveyancer. He has served as public administrator of Stark county for about thirty years and has settled more estates than any other man within its borders. He has also drawn up many wills, leases, mortgages and other legal papers and is recognized as an expert in work of that character.

Mr. Bocoek was one of the organizers and is still one of the large stockholders of the local electric light plant and also of the Empire Telephone Company, of which he is president and which operates through Stark, Bureau and Henry counties. In addition to his ex-

tensive interests in those concerns he owns eight hundred acres of fine land in South Dakota and two hundred and forty acres in Penn township, this county. His advice is often sought on business matters, as his judgment is unusually reliable and as the greatest confidence is felt in his integrity.

Mr. Bocoek was married on the 2d of April, 1857, to Miss Eleanor M. Fouts, who was born in Fulton county, Illinois. She grew to womanhood there and acquired her education in the public schools, and for some time was one of Mr. Bocoek's pupils. They have become the parents of seven children, as follows: Charles W., ex-treasurer of Stark county, is residing in Toulon and a sketch of him appears elsewhere in this work. Francis M., a retired farmer living in Wyoming, this county, married Miss Annie Mahler. Robert Leonard, who was formerly a traveling man but is now a merchant of Los Angeles, California, married Miss Ella Christie. Emma Luella is at home. Sarah Ada gave her hand in marriage to William Malone, a resident of this county. Cyrus Osear passed away on the 12th of March, 1904. Clarence E. is now dean and professor of science at the Idaho Normal University at Albion, Idaho, and has been connected with that institution for eleven years.

Mr. Bocoek is a staunch republican and has for years been a leader in his party. He has served on the county and congressional central committees and has at all times done all in his power to secure the success of his party at the polls. He has held a number of offices, both local and state, and in all of his official capacities has discharged his duties with an eye single to the public welfare. While living in Fulton county he was county supervisor for five years and held a similar office in this county for many years. As before stated he has been public administrator for about thirty years and for some time he has been a member of the town board of Bradford. In 1872 he was elected to the state legislature and served one regular term and one adjourned term. In 1888 he was again chosen as a state official, being elected a member of the board of equalization, and in 1892 he was reelected, serving for eight years in that capacity. For the last six years of that time he was a member of the committee on corporations and among the powerful companies with which his committee was concerned was the Pullman Company. He is an exemplary member of the Masonic fraternity, being identified with Bradford Lodge, No. 595, A. F. & A. M., of which he had served as secretary for twenty-one years, when he resigned that office in 1914. He is also affiliated with the Knights Templar commandery at Princeton, Illinois, and the Eastern Star, and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fel-

lows, in which lodge he has filled all of the chairs. His life has been a long and honorable one filled with accomplishment along many lines of endeavor and, although he has reached an age when most men are no longer able to take a part in the world's work, he is still active in business and is vigorous in both mind and body. He has gained financial independence solely through his own efforts, as he began his career without capital and without the aid of influential friends, and has at all times depended entirely upon his own resources. Although he values highly material prosperity, he has never made the attainment of wealth his chief aim in life. On the other hand he has at all times adhered to the highest standards of probity and has given of his time, thought and means to the advancement of his town and county and has been willing to aid those less fortunate than himself. He is respected for his ability and loved for his generosity and kindness.

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### JAMES HARTLEY.

James Hartley was an efficient and prosperous farmer of Essex township and at the time of his death owned three hundred and twelve acres there. His birth occurred in Lancashire, England, in 1837, and his parents were Edmund and Mary (Morris) Hartley, who in 1851 emigrated to America. Not long after arriving here they took up their residence at Trivoli, Illinois, where the father worked by the month until 1854. In that year he came with his family to Stark county and in partnership with a Mr. Ingram purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Essex township. He at once began the improvement of the place and as he managed his affairs well and practiced economy his resources steadily increased. He invested in more land and accumulated three hundred and twelve acres, all of which are under cultivation. He continued to follow agricultural pursuits until his demise, which occurred in 1871.

Mr. Hartley was married in Toulon to Miss Ann Miller, who was born in England in 1837, a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Holland) Miller. Her father came to America in 1846 and settled in Pennsylvania, where he remained until 1852, when he removed to Peoria, Illinois, whence he subsequently came to Wyoming. Her mother passed away in England. Mr. and Mrs. Hartley became the parents of seven children, two of whom died in childhood, the others being: Edwin, a retired farmer of Wyoming, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Mary, the widow of John Duckworth, of Wy-

oming; William, who resides upon the home farm in Essex township; Clara, now Mrs. Tom Taylor, of Lincoln; and Joseph, who is operating the homestead in partnership with his brother William.

Mr. Hartley supported the republican party and took the interest of a good citizen in public affairs although he never sought office. He discharged to the full all the obligations resting upon him, and his integrity, his industry and his ability gained him a high place in the respect of his fellow citizens.

Following her husband's death Mrs. Hartley remained upon the homestead supervising its operation. She not only proved capable in the management of the farm but she also added to the place until it embraced over five hundred acres. She was one of the best business women in the county and also possessed in a high measure lovable womanly qualities which endeared her to those who were closely associated with her. She passed away upon the home farm on the 21st of June, 1915.

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#### ORAN L. HATCH.

An excellent farm of two hundred and sixty-two acres is regarded as one of the best improved farm properties of Elmira township, and to Oran L. Hatch, the owner, pays a substantial tribute in recognition of the care and labor which he continually bestows upon the fields. He was born December 27, 1869, upon this farm, a son of John M. Hatch, and a grandson of Moses and Jane (Gates) Hatch, who were natives of Maine and Vermont, respectively. The former was a man of prominence in his home locality, where he was frequently called to positions of honor and trust. He devoted his life to farming, owning two hundred and fifty acres of rich and productive land. He passed away April 18, 1858, at the age of sixty-four years, and his wife died at the age of thirty-four years. Their family numbered six children: Jane, who became the wife of A. L. Clark and died in January, 1848; Martha, the wife of Samuel Page, who died in 1851; Eliza, who died at the age of eighteen months; John M.; Horace, who died in March, 1883; Eliza, who became the wife of S. D. Lisle, of Neponset, Illinois, and died about four years ago.

John M. Hatch was born at Groton, Vermont, March 10, 1827, and after acquiring a common school education worked in a sawmill and in a brickyard for a time. He afterward learned the carpenter's

trade and for one year he cultivated his father's farm, but in 1851 removed from New England to the middle west, settling on section 6, Elmira township, Stark county, Illinois. He acquired five hundred and fifty acres of land lying in Stark and Henry counties. While he carried on farming, he also engaged extensively in raising hogs. In February, 1895, he removed to Kewanee, Illinois, where he erected a fine residence, there spending his remaining days in the enjoyment of well earned rest, his death occurring January 20, 1906. He became one of the organizers and stockholders of the Bank of Kewanee but was not active in the management of the business. On the 24th of February, 1853, he married Miss Roxanna Lisle, who was born in Vermont, a daughter of William and Atlanta (Darling) Lisle, who traveled by wagon from the Green Mountain state to Illinois in 1835, and settled in Elmira township, Stark county. Her father secured a tract of raw land on which not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made and at once began the development of a farm, being closely associated with the progress of the county in pioneer times. He died October 5, 1858, while his wife passed away April 12, 1885, at the age of seventy-seven years. She was long a consistent and devoted member of the Congregational church. By her marriage she became the mother of fifteen children: Elizabeth, who married William G. Perkins and is now deceased; Thomas, who died in infancy; Thomas, the second of the name, who died at Pike's Peak, Colorado, in 1859; Stephen D., a resident of Neponset, Illinois; Mrs. Hatch; Walter, a farmer of Dakota, Nebraska; Janette, twin sister of Walter and the wife of John L. Price, of Republic county, Kansas; Julia, the deceased wife of Silas Patten; Lydia, who has passed away; George W., who enlisted in 1864 in response to a call for one hundred day men to defend the Union and died in the service when but twenty years of age; Franklin, deceased; Norris, a farmer; Emeline, the wife of William Berry; Lucinda, the wife of David Moffitt, of Reno, Nevada; and Rufus D., living in Neponset, Illinois. Of this family, as previously stated, Roxanna became the wife of John M. Hatch. She still survives her husband and now makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Charles N. Good. By her marriage she had a family of six children: Horace, who died at the age of thirteen months; Burton, who died at the age of fifteen months; Clara E., the wife of Charles N. Good of Elmira township; Cora, the wife of Albert Earley, of Kewanee township; Martha J., who died at the age of eleven years; and Oran L.

The last named pursued his education in the common schools near the home place and upon the retirement of his father took

charge of the farm, on which he has remained continuously since with the exception of two years which he spent in Deadwood, South Dakota, there looking after his interests in a copper mine. He returned to the farm, however, in 1908, and is now busily engaged in the cultivation of two hundred and sixty-two acres of rich and productive land. He has put all of the improvements upon the place save the house and has one of the three best improved farms of the township. He has ever been progressive in his methods and has done whatever he has undertaken in a most efficient manner, following thoroughly modern processes of farming. For a number of years he has been at the head of the Kewance Farmers Institute and he is now vice president and one of the directors of the C. B. Hurst Silo Company, which he aided in organizing. This company is engaged in the manufacture of a special wet mix silo. In years gone by Mr. Hatch has also devoted some attention to bee culture and is considered an authority on that subject. He has installed on his farm a repair shop, which is probably one of the best equipped of any farm shop in the state, and in fact would be a credit to a town or city. In recognition of this the Prairie State Farmer sent a representative from Chicago to obtain Mr. Hatch's views upon the subject of following such a plan. The shop was equipped at a cost of nearly one thousand dollars, and Mr. Hatch has become quite expert along mechanical lines. Here he has done much work of value in connection with the farm, including the building of a tractor, which he uses in the heavy work, not only in the fields and on the road but in building work as well. His ability is not confined to iron work and machinery alone, as he is an artistic woodworker and when he built the barns upon his place he drew the plans himself and the bill for lumber was made to tally with his own figures. In a word he is a very resourceful man, ready to do anything necessary in connection with developing and improving his farm. Mr. Hatch also has other business connections, for he was one of six men who organized the Farmers Elevator Company of Kewance, and they have the material on the ground for the erection of a large elevator there.

On the 3d of September, 1894, Mr. Hatch was married to Mrs. Minnie E. (Berry) Higgins, the widow of James Higgins. By her former marriage she had one child, Nevada, and by her present marriage had two children, Bertha and John, but the latter died when a year old. The former is the wife of C. E. Reece and lives on the home place.

In politics Mr. Hatch maintains an independent attitude, considering the capability of the candidate rather than his party affiliation.



He has never been ambitious to hold political office but has served as pathmaster and as school director. He holds membership with the Red Men, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Arcanum of Kewanee, and he is also a member of the Kewanee Civic Club. In a word, he stands at all times for progress and improvement along those lines which work for the benefit of the individual and of the community. His efforts may well serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, showing what may be accomplished, for he is justly accounted one of the leading agriculturists and business men of Elmira township and this section of the state.

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### W. N. NELSON.

W. N. Nelson is a prominent business man of La Fayette, serving as cashier of the State Bank there. The spirit of progress actuated him at every point in his career and laudable ambition has prompted him to reach the position which he now occupies. He is numbered among Iowa's native sons, his birth having occurred at Belle Plaine, that state, November 27, 1873. His father, Tury Nelson, was a native of Sweden, born in 1846, and in that country was reared to the age of nineteen years, after which, in 1865, he crossed the briny deep to the new world and made his way direct to Illinois, having friends in Henry county. For a few years he worked by the month as a farm hand in Henry and Stark counties, and in Goshen township of the latter county he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Larson, also a native of Sweden. Soon after their marriage they removed to Iowa, establishing their home upon a farm near Belle Plaine, where the father carried on general agricultural pursuits for about four years. He then sold his property there and returned to Illinois, settling in Goshen township, Stark county, upon land which his wife had inherited. He afterward purchased other land and for a long period was numbered among the active, industrious and successful farmers of his district. Upon the homestead place he and his wife reared their family of eight children. The husband and father died February 5, 1915, and the mother is now making her home with her children.

W. N. Nelson was reared on the old homestead farm in this county and is indebted to the public school system for the early educational privileges which he enjoyed. He was qualified for business life by a course in a commercial college at Dixon, Illinois, after

which he made his initial step in the business world as a clerk in a hardware store in Galva. A year later he went to Kewanee where he was employed by the Tube Works Company. After doing manual labor in the works for a time he was transferred to a position in the office, where he acted as timekeeper until promoted to the position of assistant chief. His identification with that company covered fifteen years, a fact indicative of his capability and trustworthiness.

On the 27th of November, 1901, Mr. Nelson was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Parish, of Toulon, a daughter of Pethuel Parish, mentioned elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Nelson was born in Stark county and was a schoolmate of her husband in their childhood days. Their early friendship ripened into love and was consummated in a marriage that has been blessed with three children, Roland, Gilbert and Mary Elizabeth.

Mr. Nelson resigned his position in the Tube Works at Kewanee to come to La Fayette as cashier of the State Bank, of which he took charge in March, 1915, and removed his family to La Fayette. His business training and keen insight well qualify him for the duties which now devolve upon him, and he is found to be a courteous and obliging bank official, always attending to the business of the institution and watchful of the interests of depositors. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen, and he and his wife are consistent members of the La Fayette Methodist Episcopal church. They are held in high regard in this community and wherever they are known, because they possess those sterling traits of character which in every land and clime awaken confidence and respect.

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### HARMON PHENIX.

Harmon Phenix is still active in financial circles as president of the Phenix Banking Company of Bradford, although he has reached the advanced age of eighty-two years, and his business ability and acumen are recognized by all. He has resided in Bradford for many years and has worked his way steadily upward from comparative poverty to financial independence.

Mr. Phenix was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, on the 20th of January, 1834, of the marriage of John and Lydia A. (Daniels) Phenix. John Phenix was a native of New York, as were his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Phenix, but his grandfather was born in the north of Ireland, whence in company with a brother

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HARMON PHENIX



MRS. HARMON PHENIX

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he emigrated to New York city. He, his son Stephen and grandson John Phenix were all weavers by trade and expert artisans. John Phenix went to Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, in early manhood and there turned his attention to carpentering, but following his removal to Stark county, Illinois, in 1834, which was then a part of Putnam county, he entered eighty acres of land in Penn township and concentrated his energies upon the operation of his farm. Two years later his wife and children joined him, going by boat to Peoria, the voyage requiring seven weeks. At that time Peoria was but a small town and this entire section of Illinois was a pioneer district. The family lived in a log house for some time but later a more comfortable residence was erected, and at length Mr. Phenix built a third home, which was commodious and convenient. He at length turned the operation of his farm over to his son Abram and devoted his time and attention to the carpenter's trade until he was compelled to retire because of physical disability. He died at the age of seventy-two years. He was an adherent of the democratic party and served acceptably as a member of the school board. His religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Lydia A. Daniels, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, where she was reared and educated. At the time of her marriage she was engaged in teaching school. She reached the venerable age of ninety-one years and passed away in Osceola township in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church. She was the mother of six children, namely: Daniel B., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Elizabeth, who married Samuel Sturm and died at the age of eighty-four years; Nancy, who became the wife of Solomon Geer and was seventy-five years old at the time of her death; Abram, who is living retired in Bradford and a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Mary C., who married Hiram Drawyer and died when about eighty years of age; and Harmon.

The last named was brought to this country when but an infant and passed the days of his boyhood and youth upon the home farm. He early assisted in the work of cultivating the fields and caring for the stock, and thus not only learned much concerning agricultural work, but was also trained in habits of industry. He attended a subscription school, as that was before the days of public schools, and remembers well the crude equipment of the schoolhouse. The seats were slabs resting on pegs driven into the wall, the building itself was of logs and the curriculum was very limited. When about nineteen years of age he began working at the carpenter's trade, which he followed for three or four years, and during that time he carefully

saved his money, as he had determined to continue his education. He became a student in an academy at Pawpaw, Illinois, and after attending there for three terms passed an examination covering the work completed in that time. For three years he engaged in clerking in a store at Pleasant Green and at the end of that time bought out the business, which he continued until 1869. He then removed his stock of merchandise to Bradford, establishing a general store there in partnership with his cousin, Charles W. Phenix. In 1874 he sold his interest to his partner and engaged in the hardware and implement business until 1881, when he sold out to Deyo Brothers and again became associated in business with Charles W. Phenix, establishing a bank. This partnership was maintained until 1888, when Mr. Phenix of this review became sole owner of the business, which he conducted alone until 1895. In that year he admitted his son, Daniel J., his nephew, Bardwell D. Phenix, and his brother, Daniel B. Phenix, to a partnership, forming the Phenix Banking Company, of which he is president; D. B. Phenix, vice president; D. J. Phenix, cashier; and B. D. Phenix, assistant cashier. This company has gained an enviable prestige throughout the county which is well deserved, as its policy has conformed to high commercial standards and its business has at all times been based upon sound principles. The company owns a great deal of valuable land in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Mississippi, Kansas, Texas, and Missouri, and its affairs are in a most satisfactory condition. Our subject still owns personally about two hundred and forty acres in this county. He had no unusual advantages in his youth, but he possessed great energy and determination, and these qualities, together with his good judgment and keen insight, have been the most important factors in his success.

On the 7th of March, 1864, Mr. Phenix was united in marriage to Miss Emma L. Libby, who was born and reared in Canada. She passed away on the 4th of October, 1912, in the faith of the First Baptist church, leaving five children to mourn her loss: Oscar H., at home; Lillian C., who is the widow of Edwin Plummer and resides with her father; Naney, the wife of Otto C. Boyd, of Bradford; Daniel J., who is associated with his father in business; and Elbert H., who is conducting a bakery and confectionery store.

Many representatives of the Phenix family have been actively identified with the teacher's profession, including our subject and his mother, Lydia A. Phenix, who taught school for some time. His wife, Mrs. Emma (Libby) Phenix, was also a teacher and two of their children, Lillian C. and Daniel J., taught in the public schools. Two of his grandchildren are preparing for college teachers, these



being R. Bonita Plummer, who is a third-year student at Knox College, Galesburg, and Emily Plummer, who is a senior student in the Bradford high school.

Mr. Phenix gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and for many years was a member of the village board and school board, his long retention in those offices proving the acceptability of his services. He also held other offices in the township. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and the principles which govern his life are found in the teachings of that organization and in the tenets of the Masonic fraternity. He was made a Mason in Toulon Lodge, No. 95, A. F. & A. M., in 1862, and became a charter member of Bradford Lodge, No. 514, A. F. & A. M., of which he was the first junior warden and of which he served as master for many years. He was formerly also identified with the Wyoming chapter, R. A. M., but has demitted on account of his age. He is now eighty-two years old but he is still quite active, still looks after his business interests, and in mind and body is as vigorous as most men of seventy. He has not only gained a considerable measure of wealth but he has also won and retained the sincere respect and warm regard of those who have been associated with him.

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### W. R. LIGGETT.

W. R. Liggett resides on section 20, Osceola township, where he has an excellent farm property of one hundred and seventy acres which yields well deserved tribute to the care and labor which he bestows upon the place. He was born on the 3d of February, 1853, in Warren county, Ohio, a son of William and Anne (Medaris) Liggett, who were natives of Maine and Ohio, respectively. They came to Illinois in 1854, traveling across the country with team and wagon, after which Mr. Liggett secured what is now known as the old homestead farm and thereon resided until his death, which occurred in 1875. His entire life had been devoted to general agricultural pursuits. His widow long survived him, and when death called her in 1904 her remains were laid to rest in the Osceola Grove cemetery.

When a little lad of about six years W. R. Liggett became a pupil in the district school near his father's home. Through the summer months he worked in the fields and early received practical training in the best methods of tilling the soil and developing the crops. After his father's death he purchased the old homestead and has converted it

into a very valuable farm property, making all of the improvements thereon save erecting the house and one barn. He owns one hundred and seventy acres of rich and valuable land which annually responds to his care and cultivation in golden harvests. It is pleasantly situated not far from Bradford and is an excellent property that in its well improved appearance indicates the practical and progressive methods of the owner.

In 1889 Mr. Liggett was united in marriage to Miss Emma Jane Stephens and they have become the parents of three children: Charles, who is engaged in farming with his father; Iva, now the wife of Harold Pettigrew; and Alma M., at home.

In politics Mr. Liggett has always been a democrat since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He and his wife attend the local church and they are interested in all those forces which work for the benefit and improvement of the community. Mr. Liggett has always lived in this county since his arrival here sixty-one years ago, when he was a babe of but two years. He has witnessed many changes in the intervening period as the work of progress and improvement has been carried steadily forward. He has borne his part in the task of promoting the agricultural development of the county and he has been quick to adopt all new measures and methods which make the labors of the agriculturist of greater avail in the attainment of success.

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### ERNEST H. LLOYD.

Well known among the business men of Toulon and Stark county is Ernest H. Lloyd, the manager and cashier of the State Bank, which position he has occupied for twelve years. He is regarded as one of the best informed men of the county on banking matters and broad experience and progressiveness have brought him to the front in this connection. He was born in Toulon, May 13, 1867, and comes of Welsh ancestry. His paternal grandfather, Stephen Lloyd, Sr., was a native of South Wales and became an early settler of Pennsylvania. It was at Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, that his son and namesake, Stephen Lloyd, Jr., was born and reared. Having arrived at years of maturity, he was married in that state to Miss Phoebe Lloyd, a daughter of S. Lloyd, also a native of Wales. The parents of our subject came west to Illinois in 1863, settling in Toulon, where the father engaged in the grain and lumber business, becoming recognized as one of the enterprising, alert and progressive

merchants of the city. Here he reared his family, remaining in Toulon until 1882, when he disposed of his business here and removed to Pawnee county, Nebraska. He had previously purchased and was the owner of a large body of unimproved land there. He spent his last years in that state, passing away in Burchard, Nebraska, in 1895, while his widow survived until 1912. Their family numbered five sons and a daughter: Catherine, the wife of J. C. Dort, of Pawnee City, Nebraska; W. T., who is a jeweler of Washington, Kansas; D. J., a business man of Los Angeles, California; Ernest H., of this review; John, a commercial traveler living in Kansas City; and Fred, a farmer and stock raiser of Colorado.

Ernest H. Lloyd spent his early youth in Toulon and afterward accompanied his parents on their removal to Nebraska, where he continued his education in the high school. When a young man of eighteen years he entered a bank at Burchard, Nebraska, and worked his way upward in that institution until he became stockholder and cashier. He was connected with the bank for seventeen years, at the end of which time he sold his interest and returned to Toulon. This city had ever had a warm place in his heart and it seemed like coming home to him. He purchased an interest in the State Bank and became cashier and manager of the institution. He is now concentrating his attention upon constructive effort and bending his energies to administrative direction and executive control. The bank has an extensive business for a town of this size, and is regarded as one of the thoroughly safe financial institutions of this part of the state. The policy which is maintained under the direction of Mr. Lloyd is one which will bear the closest investigation and scrutiny and brings to the institution merited success and gratifying growth.

In Burchard, Nebraska, on the 30th of December, 1893, Mr. Lloyd was married to Miss Ada W. Walker, who was born in Toulon and reared in this city, being a daughter of John Walker, who was one of the well-known residents of Stark county up to the time of his death. In the family are three sons: Harry W., who is a graduate of the Toulon high school; Ernest W., a high school pupil; and Walker S., a lad of five years.

Politically Mr. Lloyd is a republican, and fraternally he is connected with the Odd Fellows lodge of Toulon, while his wife is identified with the Rebekah degree. Mrs. Lloyd is a member of the Congregational church of Toulon, and he is a generous contributor to its support and equally liberal in his assistance to benevolent projects. The family occupy a pleasant residence which is justly celebrated for its warm-hearted hospitality, and Mr. Lloyd has made for himself

a most creditable position in business circles. His life has been passed in the routine of business and there have been no spectacular phases in his career, but faithful performance of duty and loyalty to every trust have brought him to a creditable place in business circles.

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### P. W. McMANUS.

P. W. McManus is a senior partner in the firm of McManus & Swearingen, proprietors of a general store at Bradford. He has long been connected with this business, and capable management, enterprise and initiative are bringing to him well deserved success. He was born in Marshall, Illinois, November 8, 1864, a son of Peter and Mary (Lynch) McManus. The father was born in County Fermanagh, Ireland, and the mother in County Clare, that country, but in early life they came to the new world and were married in Fulton county, Illinois. It was in 1851 that Peter McManus crossed the Atlantic and settled in Peoria county, Illinois, where he carried on farming. Afterward he removed to Marshall county, devoting his remaining days to general agricultural pursuits until his life's labors were ended in death in 1879. His widow long survived him and passed away in 1914.

P. W. McManus was a lad of fifteen years at the time of his father's death. He pursued his education in the schools of his native county, completing his studies in the old brick seminary near Henry. He was reared to farm life, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops, and he remained upon the farm until thirty-two years of age, when, hoping to find commercial pursuits more congenial, he removed to Bradford and bought out the business of Mr. Pilgrim, who was a partner of W. A. Washburn. He then became a partner of the latter and their relationship was maintained until the death of Mr. Washburn. Mr. McManus then remained alone in business for three years, at the end of which time he admitted H. A. Swearingen to a partnership in the ownership and conduct of a general store which is one of the leading mercantile establishments of the town. They occupy two floors and basement of a building forty by one hundred and twenty feet, having a millinery department on the second floor. Their trade is large and is constantly growing, for they carry a large stock and put forth every effort to meet the wants of their customers. In addition to their mercantile interests in Bradford they own three hundred

and twenty acres of land in Nelson county, North Dakota, and Mr. McManus also has eighty acres of land in Stark county. He has likewise been active in looking after estates and has in his control one of the largest of the county.

In 1890 Mr. McManus was united in marriage to Miss Nora M. Hickey, and they became the parents of four children: James P., who resides in Illinois; and Margaret, William and Mary, all at home. The wife and mother passed away in 1906, in the faith of the Catholic church, and in 1911 Mr. McManus married Miss Julia Driscoll.

In religious faith he is a Catholic and he is likewise connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Fraternal Reserves, the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Order of Foresters. In politics he is a democrat and has been called to some local offices, serving as mayor of the city for one term and as a member of the city council for ten years, ever exercising his official prerogatives in support of plans and measures for the general good. He has made an excellent record both as a business man and citizen and at all times is characterized by the spirit of enterprise which accomplishes results.

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#### WILLIAM COMBS BOCOCK.

William Combs Bocoek has resided in Stark county during practically his entire life and as he is prominently identified with business interests as a stockman, he has a wide acquaintanceship not only in Wyoming, where he makes his home, but also throughout the entire county. He is now living retired, enjoying a well deserved period of leisure.

Mr. Bocoek was born in Fulton county, Illinois, May 4, 1854, a son of Robert McBoeock. The family removed to this county when our subject was a year old and he was reared upon the home farm in Penn township and attended the country schools in the acquirement of an education. For two years he rented land from his father, but at the end of that time purchased eighty acres, on which he resided until 1890, when he came to Wyoming and turned his attention to the buying and shipping of stock. He engaged in that business until 1914, when he retired from active life. He was an excellent judge of stock, watched the markets carefully and derived a good profit from his transactions. He owns two hundred and

twenty acres of land in Bureau county and was for ten years president of the National Bank of Wyoming. He also holds title to his comfortable residence in Wyoming and is quite well-to-do.

Mr. Bocoek was married in January, 1879, to Miss Maria A. Holmes, who was also born in Fulton county, and they have a daughter, Mina A., now the wife of Phil Lucius, of Galesburg, Illinois, and the mother of a daughter, Margaret.

Mr. Bocoek believes in the policies of the republican party and loyally supports its candidates at the polls, although he has never desired official preferment. He has always taken a keen interest in the general welfare and is recognized as a public-spirited citizen as well as a man of sound judgment, good business ability and sterling integrity. His friends are many and all who have come in contact with him respect him highly.

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#### A. D. TURNBULL.

A. D. Turnbull is a representative of one of the old pioneer families of Stark county and is now engaged in general farming on section 19, Elmira township. He was born in that township on the 17th of January, 1858, his parents being Robert and Elizabeth (Jackson) Turnbull, who were natives of Roxburyshire, Scotland, where the days of their childhood were passed and their marriage was celebrated. In 1849 they left that country for the United States as passengers on a sailing vessel which was six weeks in reaching the American coast. They proceeded by way of the Great Lakes and the river route to La Salle, or Peru, Illinois, and thence drove across the country with ox teams to Stark county. After living here for a time the father purchased a farm in Bureau county and there passed away forty-five years ago. His widow long survived him, her death occurring in July, 1905.

A. D. Turnbull, spending his youthful days under the parental roof, is indebted to the district school system of Illinois for the educational opportunities which he enjoyed. He early became familiar with all of the tasks which devolve upon the farm bred boy and as the years passed on he acquainted himself with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. About thirty years ago he purchased his present home place on section 19, Elmira township—a tract of one hundred and sixty acres—on which he has placed many modern improvements, making his one of the valuable and attractive



A. D. TURNBULL





farms of that part of the county. For a considerable period he engaged extensively in feeding cattle but is now engaged only in feeding hogs, which branch of his business adds not a little to his income.

In 1885 Mr. Turnbull was united in marriage to Miss Margaret McClellan and they have three children: Abby S., the wife of Raymond Spencer, a son of I. M. Spencer of Osceola, Illinois; Martha E., the wife of J. R. Winslow, a resident farmer of Toulon township; and Harvey L., who died in 1913. The wife and mother passed away in 1905, and in 1913 Mr. Turnbull wedded Mrs. Cora Johnson.

They attend the Presbyterian church, and Mr. Turnbull is a member of the Modern Woodmen camp at Elmira. His political indorsement is given through his ballot to the principles of the republican party, but he has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. For six years he has been school trustee and is still the incumbent in that position. For more than a half century he has been a witness of the changes which have occurred in this section of the state as the work of development and improvement has been carried forward, and throughout his entire life he has been closely and helpfully associated with its agricultural interests and progress.

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### ROBERT J. HUNTER.

Robert J. Hunter is a native son of Elmira township and lives on section 23. He was born May 29, 1871, his parents being Robert and Isabella (Lowrey) Hunter, who were natives of Ireland and came to America in 1850. In this country they became acquainted and were married in Philadelphia, December 18, 1864. In 1867 they came to Stark county, Illinois, settling upon the Davis farm in Elmira township. Later a removal was made to a farm near the Armstrong place, where they continued for seven years, and on the expiration of that period Mr. Hunter purchased the farm upon which his sons, Robert and George, now reside. He bent his energies to the development and improvement of that place up to the time of his demise and was numbered among the representative agriculturists of the district. He was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1836, and from 1867 until his demise was a resident of Elmira township, this county. He was an earnest Christian, guiding his life by high religious principles, and when he passed away his funeral services were conducted by the Rev. W. H. Foulks, of the Presbyterian church, assisted by W. J. Drew. His widow is now living on

a farm adjoining that of her son Robert. In the family were six children: Mrs. Mary J. Screeton, now deceased; Mrs. Letitis Dunlap, living in Toulon, Illinois; Robert J.; George L., who resides with his mother; Elizabeth, and Isabella M., both deceased.

At the usual age Robert J. Hunter entered the district schools and when not busy with his textbooks, assisted in the work of the home farm. At the time of his marriage he began operating a part of the old home farm independently and he is now conducting the farm in connection with his brother George. The place consists of two hundred and forty-five acres, on which are two residences, in which the brothers live. Robert J. Hunter leads a busy life, and the result of his industry and perseverance is manifest in the success which is attending his efforts.

In 1896 he was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Osborn, who was born in Minnesota and came to Stark county with her parents when but four years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter are members of the Presbyterian church of Elmira. In politics he is a republican but not an office seeker. At one time he belonged to the Modern Woodmen of America, and is interested in the educational development of his community, as is shown by his service as school director. His entire life has been passed in the township in which he still makes his home, and that he possesses many sterling traits of character is recognized by those who have been his associates throughout the entire period.

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### THOMAS HOADLEY.

Among Stark county's well known business men is Thomas Hoadley, who is engaged in the grain and lumber trade at La Fayette. He has been connected with this line of business activity for a longer period than any other grain merchant of Stark county, for he began dealing in grain thirty-seven years ago and for twenty-seven years has been thus engaged in the county in which he now makes his home. He is honored and respected by all, not alone by reason of the success he has achieved but also owing to the straightforward business policy which he has ever followed, his course measuring up to the highest commercial standards.

Mr. Hoadley is a native of New York, his birth having occurred at Tuckahoe, Westchester county, December 27, 1854. His father, Richard Hoadley, was a native of the same county and was a son of

Thomas Hoadley, a native of England, who was there reared and learned the blacksmith's trade. After working at the forge for a few years in England he determined to try his fortune in the new world and crossed the Atlantic to the United States, settling at White Plains, New York. There he largely devoted his time and energies to the business of tool making. His son, Richard Hoadley, was reared in the Empire state, where he learned the trades of blacksmithing and tool making, devoting a number of years to that kind of work. Before leaving New York he was married to Miss Hannah Mort, a native of New York and of English lineage. They afterward removed westward to Ohio and for a year Mr. Hoadley worked at his trade in Cleveland, after which he came to Illinois, settling at Long Ridge, Stark county, about 1850. There he built a shop and carried on business. He was a natural mechanic, possessing marked ingenuity along mechanical lines, and for some years he successfully continued in business at Long Ridge, but later disposed of his interests there and removed to Sparland, where he again engaged in business in the line of his trade. He was afterward employed in a shop in Toulon and then opened an establishment for the manufacture of carriages and buggies, in addition to which he maintained a blacksmith shop. He did very fine work as a carriage and buggy builder and his exhibits at state fairs won various premiums. He never lowered the standard of workmanship, which was of superior quality and finish. He carried on business at Toulon for a number of years and became widely known, the products of his factory finding favor among those who cared for the best that is to be obtained. While living in Sparland he lost his first wife and later he married again. He is now living retired in Toulon, where he has a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

Thomas Hoadley was reared in Toulon and at the usual age became a public school pupil. When his textbooks were put aside he obtained a clerkship in a store at Dumeau and later had charge of the business, which was owned by A. J. Scott, whom he represented as manager for some time. Subsequently, however, he turned his attention to the grain trade, taking charge of an elevator. He was next sent to Nebraska and was connected with Mr. Brockway at Burchard, Pawnee county, where for more than a year he bought and shipped grain. He afterward returned to Illinois and took charge of an elevator in Peoria county, where he continued for two years. He then again went to Nebraska and represented a Chicago company in the grain trade at Ord.

It was while he was residing in Castleton, Illinois, that Mr.

Hoadley was married, on the 22d of June, 1898, to Miss Agnes B. Ruhl, a native of Illinois, who was born at Topeka. Her father, Dr. A. N. Ruhl, was a native of Ohio and was married in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Miss Elizabeth Dickey. He has engaged in the drug business at various places, but is now devoting his attention alone to the practice of medicine in Oklahoma. He served his country as a soldier of the Civil war and has always been loyal in his citizenship.

Following his marriage, Mr. Hoadley engaged in the grain business at Castleton for ten years, and in 1903 came to La Fayette, where he purchased an elevator and grain business and also a residence. He has likewise invested in good land in Kansas, where he owns an improved farm. His business affairs are capably managed and in their control he has displayed sound judgment and keen discrimination. He has ever based his advancement upon industry, and his life record indicates what may be accomplished through resolute and determined purpose.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hoadley have been born two daughters, Grace and Dorothy, who are now students in the La Fayette school. The family home is an attractive one and its warm-hearted hospitality is greatly enjoyed by their many friends. Mrs. Hoadley is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and she and the elder daughter are active workers and teachers in the Sunday school. Mr. Hoadley supports the republican party but has never sought nor desired office. He is loyal in matters of citizenship, however, and works for those interests which he believes will be of value and benefit to the community.

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### J. RANDALL BLACK.

J. Randall Black, one of the active, energetic and prominent business men of Toulon, has for years operated extensively in the field of real estate, during which period he has negotiated many important realty transfers and thereby has contributed much to the development and upbuilding of the district. Toulon numbers him among her native sons, his birth having here occurred October 12, 1873. His father, John Black, was born in County Cavan, Ireland, May 14, 1827, and there spent the period of his boyhood and youth. In 1851 he came to the new world and made his way direct to Stark county, where he joined some friends. He was for a time engaged

in carpenter work in Toulon, and in this city he married Miss Elizabeth Mason, a native of Ohio, who was born in Ashland county. Her father, William Mason, removed from Ohio to Illinois and took up his abode on a farm near Toulon, on which Mrs. Black was reared. Following their marriage the young couple began their domestic life in Toulon, where Mr. Black worked at his trade, and for a number of years he also carried on general farming, but eventually he put aside business interests and activities and lived retired in Toulon until called to the home beyond, his death occurring December 31, 1898. He was a valued and consistent member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges of Toulon and was an earnest Christian gentleman. He had been reared in the Episcopal faith, but afterward became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and its teachings guided him in all of his life's relations, making him a man whom to know was to respect and honor. To him and his wife were born but two children, the daughter being Miss Mattie Black, who resides with her mother in Toulon. She is identified with the Eastern Star, the ladies' auxiliary of Masonry, and both she and her mother are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

At the usual age J. Randall Black became a pupil in the public schools and passed through consecutive grades to his graduation from the high school. Later he attended the Michigan University at Ann Arbor, where he pursued the literary course and also did work in the engineering department. At the close of his junior year, however, he left the university and later learned the trade of a jeweler and engraver. Subsequently he turned his attention to the real estate business, opening an office in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, about 1902. He is extensively engaged in the sale of Alberta lands and has maintained an office there for thirteen years. He helped lay out an addition to the city of a one hundred acre tract, known as the Englewood addition, and now one of the best populated and most attractive residence sections of that city. Mr. Black covered the whole of Alberta province by horseback, by stage, on bicycle and on foot. He has sold large tracts of Canadian lands, and in 1910 he also opened an office in Toulon, where he now spends about half of his time, devoting his attention to his real estate business here and also handling city property in Edmonton. Recently he has further extended the scope of his business to include the sale of Florida lands. He is a most enterprising and energetic real estate man, ready for any emergency and ever alert to an opportunity.

Like his mother and sister, Mr. Black holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church of Toulon and is also identified with the

Odd Fellows lodge. He has attractive social qualities and many admirable characteristics which have won for him the good will, confidence and esteem of all with whom he has been associated.

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### ROBERT THOMPSON.

Robert Thompson has made an excellent record as cashier of the Exchange Bank of Bradford and is recognized as a man of business acumen and sound judgment. His wife, Rosa L. Thompson, is president of the institution and owns all of the stock. Mr. Thompson was born in Bolton, Lancashire, England, on the 18th of June, 1855, but when a child was brought by his parents to the United States, the family locating at Altoona, Pennsylvania. The father, who was an expert mechanic and engineer, died in 1875 when sixty-four years old. The mother passed away when sixty-eight years of age, in 1881.

Robert Thompson was educated in Altoona, and on beginning his independent career went to Newark, New Jersey, where he worked as a decorator, in which connection he did considerable frescoing. In 1876 he decided to try his fortune in the middle west and came to Stark county, Illinois, where he followed his trade for some time. Not long after his marriage to Miss Rosa L. Leet, in 1881, he accepted the cashiership of the Exchange Bank of Bradford, which position he has since held. He has given careful thought and study to the problems of banking and to local conditions, and as he is also thoroughly familiar with the routine of banking practice he is well qualified to discharge his responsible duties. The bank was formerly owned by his father-in-law, William Leet, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work, and Mrs. Thompson now owns all the stock of the institution and is serving as its president. Following the death of her father, the heirs at law formed a co-partnership and Mrs. Thompson was given the control and supervision of the Bradford Exchange Bank, and in the management of its affairs has displayed the hard-headed business sense and the firmness of her father, and at the same time has sought to make the bank of the greatest possible service to the community. She takes a keen interest in the advancement of the public welfare, is broad-minded in her views and, moreover, possesses a personality that gains her the warm friendship of those closely associated with her. She owns other property and is one of the wealthiest women of the county.

Mr. Thompson and Rosa L. Leet were married on the 29th of December, 1881, and became the parents of two children: Claude R., who died on the 2d of November, 1915; and William Leet.

Mr. Thompson has taken an active part in public affairs and has been especially interested in the cause of education. He was serving on the school board at the time the new school building was erected: was made president of the building committee, and takes justifiable pride in the splendid building, which is conceded to be one of the best in the state, considering the size of Bradford. Both he and his wife are active and influential members of the Methodist church, whose work they further in every way possible. He also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he is popular, and is a member of Bradford Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; the Royal Arch chapter of Wyoming; the commandery of Kewanee; and the consistory and Mystic Shrine of Peoria. He has made many friends in all relations of life and is held in high respect by those who have come in contact with him.

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#### B. F. GRAVES.

B. F. Graves, who is engaged in farming in Essex township, in partnership with his son, Simeon Arthur, was born in that township, within a mile of his present farm, on the 4th of October, 1847. His father, James Graves, was a native of North Carolina, but was taken by his parents as a boy to Ross county, Ohio, whence he removed in 1847 to Stark county, Illinois. He became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Essex township and was identified with agricultural pursuits throughout his active life. He passed away in 1883, when he had reached the age of seventy-eight years. He was married in Ohio to Miss Maria Francis, a native of that state, who died in 1901, when she was eighty years old. They were the parents of seven children: Mary Elizabeth, the deceased wife of Simeon Cox, of Essex township; B. F.; Matilda Jane, the wife of G. A. Thomas, of Chicago; Frances L., the wife of Myron Cox, of Essex township; Melinda Ann, who married Henry Crone, of Wyoming; and two who died in childhood.

B. F. Graves was reared upon the home farm and attended the same school that his grandchildren are now attending. He was early trained in agricultural work and for many years after attaining his majority farmed in partnership with his father. He inherited eighty

acres of land and has since acquired title with his sons to all of the Graves homestead, which comprises two hundred and seventy acres. He is still active in the operation of his farm, although he soon expects to retire and leave the cultivation of his land entirely to his son Simeon Arthur. He has always been enterprising in his work, doing everything at the time when it could be most efficiently done and adopting new methods when they have been proven better than the old, and he has also further facilitated his work by the use of up-to-date machinery. He has gained a gratifying measure of prosperity and well deserves a period of leisure.

Mr. Graves was married about 1869 to Miss Mary E. Weber, who was born in Indiana on the 1st of December, 1847. Her father, Philip Weber, removed to Essex township, Stark county, about 1851 and passed away in Vermilion county, this state, but her mother, who was in her maidenhood Miss Mary Jane Williams, died in the Hoosier state. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Graves. Simeon Arthur, who is farming in partnership with his father, married Susan Cornell and has four children, Mary Geneva, William Benjamin, James Henry and Emma May. Quincy I. is in business in Wyoming and a sketch of his life appears elsewhere in this work. Lena Maria married William Cornell, a farmer of Essex township, and they have three children, Howard M., Mary Edna and Anna. Adda Matilda, who married Fred Dawson, a farmer of Essex township, is the mother of six children, John, Mary Lois, Benjamin G., Carl, Clyde and Donald Philip.

Mr. Graves is a loyal supporter of the democratic party but has never desired to hold office. He has seen much of the development of Stark county, as it was still largely a frontier district at the time of his early boyhood and he has had a part in the advancement of its agricultural interests for many years.

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#### IRA CRANDALL REED.

One day in the spring of 1838 a youth of nineteen knocked at the door of "Uncle" John White in the settlement of La Fayette and asked for board and lodging. This young man, with visions of a bright future in the fertile west, had left a comfortable home in the Nutmeg state and by stage, canal, lake and river had at last reached Peoria. But now he was weary and footsore, for he had walked the





MR. AND MRS. IRA C. REED

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forty miles across the prairie to his journey's end. His sole material possessions, which later followed him by wagon, consisted of a shoemaker's kit and a brass-nailed leather trunk containing an ample wardrobe. His father, too, had given him his time, which in those early days was thought a handsome thing to do. To these he added an active brain coupled with energy and industry. He came of stern New England stock and among his ancestors were those who suffered the privations of the Continental soldier as well as those who endured the hardships of the patriot at home. He was born November 11, 1818, at Groton, Connecticut, and was christened Ira Crandall Reed. His grandmother, Mary Allen, was related to Ethan Allen of Ticonderoga fame. His father was a soldier in the War of 1812.

Established in his new home, the young tradesman soon had more work than he could do and was known for miles around, for shoemaking was a fine business and the Reeds were masters of their craft. Today the "cobbler" makes us smile, but then everything was made by hand from the cowhide boot of the woodsman to the white satin pump of the bride. Many a needy woman earned her living by doing fine stitching and binding shoes for the shoemaker. In later days the subject of this sketch often spoke of Connecticut's famous men who had risen from the last to the judge's bench, the governor's chair and the senate, among them being Roger Sherman. On Sundays the young folks of the community would gather at some settler's home, often at "The North Pole," as the Cummins cabin, some two miles north of town, was called. From there they sometimes walked to the schoolhouse in Fraker's Grove about four miles away, to meeting, and here the young man met Maria Charles, a girl of English parentage, though she was born in Wales. She was his match in courage, brain and skill. On the 5th of September, 1840, they joined their lives and for just fifty years they toiled together. Material success could hardly fail to come to such a pair. In 1843 a son, Robert Charles, was born, and he grew into a bright, genial, fun-loving boy beloved by young and old.

As his business grew, Mr. Reed employed more and more workmen in the shop, who became his firm friends, for he was a just employer as well as a friendly social man. One of these was the late Dr. Warne of Independence, Iowa. Another lawyer, J. W. Olson, of Galva, Illinois, still recalls his home life in the family as an apprentice and his friendship with Charlie as among the pleasantest days of his youth. While active in the material development of the town, Mr. Reed was not unmindful of its spiritual welfare and was a worthy member of the Methodist Protestant branch of the

old South church, built in common by the Methodist Protestants and Congregationalists. The words of his daily morning prayer still linger in his daughter's memory. Preachers of whatever creed found a most cordial welcome in his home. In 1850 lumber was hauled from Chicago for a substantial residence and the boundless hospitality for which the old house was noted was not diminished in the new. A friend once said of its mistress: "She makes each guest 'at home,' whether rich or poor, whether child, day laborer or senator."

About this time congress and the state legislature greatly encouraged the building of railroads throughout the state. Among others the "Air Line" was surveyed directly north and south from Savanna to Alton. This went through La Fayette and hopes were high as eager citizens saw visions of a busy little city in the near future, for the prairie grass still waved where Galva and Kewanee stand. Railroad stock was bought by thousands and soon hundreds of workmen grading the railroad made the village a veritable beehive. Town lots sold as high as one thousand dollars. The Hurd and Reed addition was platted but it was never added, for a mile south of town the "railroad" suddenly stopped, and La Fayette as well as all of little Stark was doomed to wait for many years for the shriek of the iron horse. Prominent citizens, among them Mr. Reed, looked in each other's faces and at the ditch where lay their buried gold. Now the remains of the old "Air Line," a long, green, sloping ravine, form an ideal coasting place for the school children in winter, who little dream of its tragedy of disappointment.

In 1853 this country held its first "World's Fair"—the Crystal Palace in New York. Mr. Reed visited this with his wife and son. On the way they stopped with relatives in Canada and at Niagara and in the village of Skaneateles, on the banks of its beautiful lake, the home of "David Harum," who was an old horse trader in the place. This was Maria Charles' first home in the new country and here the widowed mother had many friends. Before returning they visited the old New England home, where relatives and friends listened incredulous to the tales of vast prairies and wide fields of Indian corn.

In 1861 the war cloud darkened every home. The son, not yet eighteen, like thousands of his age, said, "I must go." He joined the La Fayette Rifles, Company B, Thirty-seventh Regiment, known as the Fremont Rifles. Ten weeks later Lieutenant Jackson brought home his silent form wrapped in the stars and stripes. Though bowed with grief, the parents did not falter but worked with all their strength to help preserve the Union. The Soldiers' Aid met often

in their home, scraping lint from every scrap of linen, winding bandages, packing boxes and doing everything that could be done to aid the boys in blue. Another sorrow came and Ellen, a thoughtful child of seven years, followed her soldier brother. A second son came to the saddened home and brought a gleam of cheer, but still their cup of sorrow was not full, for after two bright, sunny years death claimed the little Edward Sellon. A child of five alone was left of all the four, the daughter Amy, now Mrs. Alva Janes, the writer of this sketch. In 1864 the family moved to a farm adjacent to the town, though the home was a half mile away, across the line in Knox, which they named Maple Grove. Each spring they made the maple sugar, in those days boiling the sap in great iron kettles in the open. Maple Grove Farm still retains its name and fame for sugar, although the grove now has a fair ground in its borders. In the late '60s they took a boy of three, one of the motherless children of Captain Peyton of Galva. This foster son, Anthony Jay, they cherished almost as their own and bequeathed him two hundred acres of land in Iowa.

Having acquired land in Clarke and Decatur counties of Iowa, Mr. Reed spent much time there in later years and engaged extensively in cattle raising. Centennial year he again made a tour of the eastern states, taking with him his wife and daughter and a niece, Kate Driscoll. At last in 1887 failing strength caused him to retire and the farms were rented, though the home at Maple Grove was still retained. In the summer of 1890 he and his wife went to the western coast in hopes of regaining strength. The trip was much enjoyed but health was not improved. On their return plans were made to celebrate their golden wedding, but the celebration was not to be, for on the morning of his golden wedding day, September 5, 1890, Mr. Reed very quietly fell asleep. Perhaps no man in the community was better known or more respected, for he had lived a generous, upright Christian life.

His widow trod life's path alone for more than sixteen years. Her sympathies were broad. Her zeal in any cause she loved was great. She entered heart and soul into the temperance work and loved to entertain white ribbon women. In 1895 she, with her daughter, attended the world's convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in London and gratified a long desire to see once more her native Wales. In 1897 she built and equipped the I. C. Reed library, which she donated to the village. She was a woman of great business ability, frugal yet public-spirited and generous. Strong in will and character, her influence was felt by all who came

in touch with her. On the 20th of December, 1906, at the age of eighty-three, she crossed the silent stream and another pioneer had reached the great beyond.

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### MARION L. HAY.

Marion L. Hay is one of the well known citizens of Stark county, filling the office of master in chancery and also that of city attorney in Toulon. He was born on the old family homestead in Bureau county, Illinois, June 28, 1884, and it was upon the same farm, a short distance east of Bradford, that his father's birth occurred, September 22, 1863. The latter, Leroy S. Hay, was a son of Robert Hay, who was born in Indiana and was of Scotch parentage, his father having come from Scotland to America in 1812. Robert Hay became a pioneer settler of Illinois, casting in his lot with the early residents of Bureau county. He there owned a large tract of land of three hundred and twenty acres, whereon he resided for many years. He likewise had land in Henry county. His son, Leroy S. Hay, was reared on the old homestead property in Bureau county, was married in that locality and afterward followed farming but subsequently turned his attention to business interests in Princeton.

Marion L. Hay, whose name introduces this review, is indebted to the public schools of Bureau county for the early educational opportunities which he received. He attended school for a time in Bradford and afterward entered Eureka College at Eureka, Illinois, where he completed the work of the sophomore year. Eventually he became a student in the Chicago Law School, and in 1910 was admitted to the bar, after which he began practice in Bradford, remaining there until March, 1914. He was appointed master in chancery of Stark county in February, 1913, and took charge of the office. He was also made city attorney and in addition to his work in those capacities he keeps a set of abstracts and does other business. He has made a notable record for a young man as one of marked energy, laudable ambition and notably strong executive force.

Mr. Hay was married in Rock Island, June 28, 1907, to Miss Catherine Giles, who was there born and reared and is a graduate of the Rock Island high school. Mr. Hay erected an attractive residence at Maplewood, built in modern style of architecture, and there they are rearing their family, consisting of four children: Leroy Giles, Wilton Shriver, Doris Rowena and Margaret Catherine.

In his political views Mr. Hay is an earnest republican who has served as a delegate to county and state conventions and has taken an active part in campaign work. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which he is most actively interested, and in the Sunday school he is teacher of a class of boys. He holds membership in Toulon Lodge, F. & A. M., and while in Bradford served as master of his lodge. He was a delegate to the grand lodge in 1913. He is also identified with the Odd Fellows lodge of Toulon. He displays many of the sterling traits of his Scotch ancestry and is regarded as one of the representative young business men of his city—a man who recognizes and utilizes opportunities that others pass heedlessly by and who in the conduct of his business affairs so directs his efforts as to produce the best possible results.

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#### J. F. FINNEGAN.

J. F. Finnegan is a member of the firm of Meehan & Finnegan, who are engaged in the implement business, and in connection Mr. Meehan also conducts a blacksmith and repair shop. Because of their recognized ability in this line heavy demands are made upon their time and energies by a business which is steadily growing.

Mr. Finnegan is a native of Bureau county, Illinois, born December 8, 1886, his parents being John and Mary Anne (Hearn) Finnegan. The father, a native of Ireland, was brought to the United States when but four years of age, the family home being established in Wheatland township, Bureau county, Illinois, in which county he remained for many years but is now living in Bradford. His wife was born in this state.

J. F. Finnegan began his education in the schools of Milo, Bureau county, and afterward continued his studies in the public schools of Bradford and in the Peru (Ill.) College, from which he was graduated with the class of 1902. He was reared to the occupation of farming and continued to follow that pursuit until about five years ago, when he joined P. J. Meehan and organized the business now conducted under the firm name of Meehan & Finnegan. They carry a large line of implements of standard manufacture, also shelf and heavy hardware, and Mr. Meehan conducts a blacksmith and repair shop. They deal in buggies and wagons and handle the Allen automobile. Their business utilizes a floor space of one

hundred by twenty feet on the first floor and seventy by twenty feet on the second floor. Their trade has grown along substantial lines and Mr. Finnegan has shown his ability in the control of commercial interests. He is a member of St. John's Catholic church and also of the Knights of Columbus. He is now well known in Bradford, where his uniform courtesy, geniality and affability have won him popularity in social circles.

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### ROBERT McBOCOCK.

In the history of the agricultural development of Stark county it is imperative that mention be made of Robert McBoeck, long well known as a prominent farmer, valued citizen and a loyal friend to the community in which he made his home. He passed away here, January 19, 1886, being at that time sixty-one years of age, his birth having occurred in Ohio, December 19, 1825. He was a lad of eleven years when his parents, Elijah and Barbara (McKinney) Boeck, removed to Fulton county, Illinois, settling on a farm about five miles from Canton, in which locality their son Robert was reared. He was named Robert McKinney Boeck, but always wrote his name McBoeck, although others of the family used just Boeck. After attending common schools he learned the cooper's trade, which he continued to follow for three years after his marriage.

It was on the 10th of January, 1848, that he wedded Miss Elizabeth R. Culton, who was born in Fulton county, Illinois, December 13, 1831, of the marriage of John J. and Abigail H. (Mitchell) Culton. Her father, a native of Tennessee, was reared in Kentucky, where Mrs. Culton was born, but her girlhood days were passed in Indiana, where she became the wife of John J. Culton. They removed westward to Illinois, casting in their lot with the pioneer settlers of Fulton county, and later they went to Bradford, Stark county, where the father died in 1890. His widow lived to be more than a nonagenarian. Their family numbered eleven children, of whom Mrs. McBoeck was the second in order of birth.

Following their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. McBoeck resided in Fulton county, upon a rented farm for two years, at the end of which time they made investment in eighty acres of partially improved land in Penn township, Stark county. With characteristic energy Mr. McBoeck began the development of the property and as his financial resources increased extended the boundaries of his farm



until he owned a large and valuable tract of land and became one of the prosperous agriculturists of Penn township. In business affairs he displayed sound judgment and unfaltering enterprise and was never known to take advantage of the necessities of another in a trade transaction.

Mr. and Mrs. McBocock became the parents of ten children, of whom six are yet living: Thomas Jasper, a resident of Omaha, is married and has four children; William C., a stock dealer of Wyoming, Illinois, is married and has one child; Abigail J., of Wyoming, is the widow of Jefferson Frances and has two children; Sarah M. is the wife of Frederick Ditewig and they have three children; James S., of Wyoming, is married and has one child; and Alva E., a resident of Peoria, is married and has one child.

In politics Mr. McBocock was an earnest and stalwart republican and filled a number of local offices, the duties of which he discharged in a capable and satisfactory manner. For sixteen years he ruled fairly and impartially as a justice of the peace in Penn township, and on retiring from that office was elected supervisor, which position he filled to the time of his death. He was also for a long period a member of the school board and the cause of education found in him a stalwart champion. While his own educational privileges were somewhat limited, he added continuously to his knowledge by reading, observation and study and was a well informed man. His life was upright and honorable, winning for him confidence and warm regard, so that his death was the occasion of widespread regret. About 1890 his widow removed to Wyoming, where she still makes her home. She has long been a devoted member of the Congregational church, and her life has been characterized by kindly purpose, high ideals and many good deeds. The long residence of the family in Stark county well entitles them to representation in this volume.

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#### JAMES R. HOLGATE, M. D.

Dr. James R. Holgate, who has gained a creditable place for himself in professional circles of Stark county, is a native of the county, his birth having occurred in Penn township on the 24th of September, 1841. A sketch of his father, James Holgate, appears elsewhere in this work. As a boy and youth he divided his time between assisting his father with the farm work and attending the district schools and later he continued his education in the schools of Henry, Toulon and

Cherry Grove and in Rush Medical College of Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1869 with the degree of M. D. He first opened an office for practice in Castleton and remained there for many years but in 1892 went to Alabama, where he purchased land and engaged in farming for five years. He did not find conditions there as much to his liking as in this county and so returned to Wyoming, where he has since practiced his profession with gratifying success. He has always studied his cases carefully and his long experience has supplemented the training which he received in school and the knowledge which he has gained through wide reading along professional lines. He has been very successful in the treatment of disease and is accorded a large and representative patronage.

Dr. Holgate was married April 26, 1873, to Miss Emma Stimson, who was born in New York state and was engaged in teaching school previous to her marriage. She passed away in Castleton, in the faith of the Congregational church. She was the mother of four children, as follows: Winsor R., who is in the employ of the Bell Telephone Company in Montana; Leslie M., who is also a resident of Montana and is working for the Bell Telephone Company; June Rhea, who died when nine years of age; and Bliss B. who is living in Great Bend, Kansas, and is in the service of the Arkansas Valley Telephone Company.

Dr. Holgate is independent in politics and although he has always kept well informed as to the questions before the people has never been an office seeker as his professional work has required his undivided attention. He holds membership in the Masonic lodge at Wyoming, an association which indicates the principles that govern his conduct. Not only is his ability as a physician recognized but all who know him testify to his genuine worth and his loyalty in friendship.

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#### E. B. PACKER, M. D.

Dr. E. B. Packer is one of the prominent representatives of the medical profession in Stark county. For fifteen years he has been actively engaged in practice in Toulon, where his ability is recognized in a growing patronage. He was born near this city June 9, 1864, a son of Benjamin Paeker, a native of New York, born in 1818. The father was reared in the Empire state and there wedded Miss Hannah Lyon, who was also born and reared in New York. In 1851 they removed westward to Illinois, settling in Toulon township, Stark

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DR. E. B. PACKER



MRS. E. B. PACKER

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county, where the father secured a tract of wild land which he developed and cultivated, ultimately becoming the owner of a splendidly improved farm of eight hundred acres. He was very successful both in the cultivation of grain and in the raising of stock and was long numbered among the prominent agriculturists of his community. Upon his farm he reared his family and later removed to Toulon, retiring from active business life. There he spent his remaining days, his death occurring May 13, 1905, while his wife passed away in 1900. When death called them Stark county lost two of its most valuable, worthy and respected pioneer citizens. In their family were ten children: the Rev. Eli Packer, now living on a Michigan farm; Rev. Mortimer Packer, located at Longbeach, California; Ezra L., a retired farmer and capitalist living in Toulon; Charles L., who makes his home in Oklahoma City; Camilla M., who became the wife of Miller Patterson but both are now deceased; Frances, the wife of Thomas Hartley, living at Princeton, Illinois; E. B., of this review; Burton and Jennie, who died in early life; and Maggie, who completes the family.

Dr. Packer is the only one of this large family that has turned to medical practice as a life work. He attended the public schools of Toulon until graduated from the high school and afterward became a student in Doane Academy at Granville, Ohio, where he completed a course, and next entered Denison University at Granville, from which institution he was graduated in 1895 with the Bachelor of Arts degree. With broad literary training to serve as the foundation upon which to rear the superstructure of professional knowledge, he entered the Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia and completed a four years' course there by graduation with the class of 1899. He later had the benefit of practical experience for three months in Jefferson Hospital, after which he returned to this state, settling at Viola in 1899. There he entered upon the practice of his chosen profession and in 1900 he came to Toulon, where he has since devoted his time and energies to medical and surgical practice. He has built up a good business and at all times he keeps in touch with the advanced thought and methods of the profession. He has also made some profitable investments and now owns valuable land in Florida.

At Mansfield, Ohio, on the 11th of April, 1900, Dr. Packer was married to Miss Artie E. Colby, who was born and reared in that place. She completed her education at Denison University, Granville, Ohio, and for two years was a teacher. To Dr. and Mrs. Packer have been born eight children: Mary Hannah; Florence, who died at the age of nine months; Henry Colby; Frances; Elizabeth; William

Harvey; Mortimer and Martha. Dr. and Mrs. Packer began their domestic life in Toulon, where he purchased his father's old home. He now owns not only a nice residence property but also a two-story brick office building and in addition has the Florida interests previously mentioned.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Packer are consistent and active members of the Baptist church and are workers in both church and Sunday school. Mrs. Packer is also identified with the ladies' auxiliary societies of the church and is a member of the Woman's Club of Toulon. Dr. Packer belongs to the Stark County Medical Society, of which he is now the vice president, and is also a member of the State and American Medical Associations. He ever keeps in touch with the latest scientific investigations and researches and his broad knowledge is evidenced in the success which has attended his professional labors.

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### J. M. LIGGETT.

J. M. Liggett, living on section 21, Osceola township, is the owner of a very valuable tract of land of three hundred and fifty-six acres, in the midst of which stands a palatial residence with all of the buildings and equipments which are accessories to a model farm of the twentieth century. He is a representative of one of the old time families of the county that in early days experienced many of the hardships and privations incident to frontier life.

Mr. Liggett has now passed the seventieth milestone on life's journey, his birth having occurred in Salem township, Warren county, Ohio, on the 2d of May, 1846, his parents being William and Anne (Medaris) Liggett. The father was born in 1806, and the mother's birth occurred near Sidney, Ohio, in 1822. They were married in Warren county, that state, in 1842, and in the fall of 1854 came to the middle west, reaching Elmira township on the 9th of November. There they established their home and Mr. Liggett at once began the development and cultivation of the land. Their first residence was a log cabin, but he replaced that by a more modern dwelling in 1857. Year after year he carefully and systematically tilled the soil, continuing the work of the farm up to the time of his death, which occurred on the 23d of April, 1875. To his original purchase he had added more land until within the borders of his farm were embraced about two hundred acres. He was a self-made man who deserved much credit for what he accomplished. In community affairs he was inter-





BENJAMIN PACKER



MRS. BENJAMIN PACKER

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ested and held some of the minor offices. His widow survived him for some time and passed away in 1904.

J. M. Liggett began his education in one of the old-time log school-houses. He was a lad of but eight years when the family came to Illinois, and he remained upon the old homestead until 1871, when he went to Iowa. Later he returned and continued on the home farm until 1875, when he purchased land on section 21, Osceola township. Upon this farm he has since resided and has wrought a marked transformation in its appearance, owing to the excellent improvements which he has put upon it. He has erected a large and attractive residence, has built commodious barns and outbuildings, giving ample shelter for grain and stock, and has divided his place into fields of convenient size by well kept fences. Within the borders of his farm are three hundred and fifty-six acres situated on sections 21 and 28, Osceola township, and the land is devoted to general agricultural pursuits, for he raises all of the crops best adapted to soil and climatic conditions.

In 1878 Mr. Liggett was married to Miss Nettie A. Damon, and they have five children: Earl, a farmer living in Osceola township; Blanche, the wife of Joseph Scott, occupying a farm near her father's; Thomas, who makes his home near Bradford; Hazel, the wife of Albert Copp, living in Bureau county, Illinois; and one who died in infancy.

For one term Mr. Liggett filled the office of supervisor, and he has been road boss, while for a quarter of a century he served as school director. He maintains an independent course in regard to politics and religion, feeling that he has the right to determine these things for himself. Nor is he connected with any lodges. He has ever concentrated his efforts upon his business interests, and his close application has been one of the salient features in his growing prosperity.

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### GEORGE S. WALKER.

George S. Walker, member of the firm of Walker Brothers, of Toulon, is one of the active business men of the city to whom opportunity has ever been the open door to success. Early in life he recognized the fact that industry wins and he has therefore lived a most industrious life, determined that success should be his if it could be won through earnest, persistent and honorable effort. He was born in Toulon, May 2, 1868, a son of D. J. Walker, a native

of Philadelphia, born in 1840. The paternal grandfather came to the new world from Ireland after his marriage and settled in Philadelphia, where some of his children were born. He removed westward to Illinois and afterward to Iowa, where his death occurred.

D. J. Walker was brought to the middle west during his childhood days and afterward settled in Toulon, where he became identified with the banking business as a cashier. Subsequently he was elected county clerk and after serving for one term was reelected and again and again was chosen for the office until he had occupied that position for sixteen consecutive years. He was still the incumbent in the position when death claimed him on the 18th of December, 1889. He was one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of the county, enjoying the entire confidence and esteem of all with whom he came in contact, for his life measured up to the highest standards of manhood and of citizenship. He belonged to the Congregational church and was one of its most active and helpful workers and liberal supporters. He was also identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and worked his way upward through its various offices until he became a past grand. In Toulon he married Estella Rhodes, a native of Ohio, where she was reared and who still survives her husband.

The youthful days of George S. Walker were spent in the usual manner of the town-bred boy and when he had completed his education with a course in the Toulon high school he took up the work of clerking in 1884, entering the establishment in which he and his brother now carry on business. He was employed as a salesman until 1893 and in the meantime thoroughly acquainted himself with every phase of the business. He then purchased a half interest, becoming a partner of Mr. Swank, with whom he was associated until 1907, at which time his brother, H. W. Walker, purchased the interest of Mr. Swank. The firm of Walker Brothers now have a large general mercantile store, carrying an attractive line of goods, which includes groceries, dry goods and many other commodities. Their trade is very extensive and their patronage is growing year by year.

On the 26th of November, 1890, Mr. Walker was married in Toulon to Miss Mary L. Morrison, a native of this city, her birth having occurred on the property adjacent to the Walker home. Her father, John W. Morrison, was one of the early settlers of the county and for some years served as superintendent of the county farm. To Mr. and Mrs. Walker have been born five children who are yet living:

Harry Leroy and John M., who are clerking in their father's store; Mary; Donovan G.; and Dorothy.

The family are all members of the Congregational church, and for many years Mr. Walker has been connected with the choir, while in other departments of church work he takes an active and helpful interest. He belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge, in which he has filled all of the offices and is now past grand. He is likewise identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Court of Honor. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he has served in various positions of honor and trust in the city and has also been a delegate to county and state conventions. His life has been well spent. Industry, close application and honesty have brought him success in business and many sterling traits have gained him the high regard of those among whom his entire life has been passed. Almost every one in Toulon knows George S. Walker and all speak of him in terms of warm regard.

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### HARRY W. WALKER.

Harry W. Walker, a son of D. J. Walker, the junior partner of the general mercantile firm of Walker Brothers in Toulon, was born June 12, 1871, in the city in which he still makes his home, and in the acquirement of his education he passed through consecutive grades in the public schools and supplemented his high school training by further study in an academy. His initial step in business was made as a clerk in the employ of C. M. Swank, with whom he remained for fifteen years. In the meantime his brother had become a partner in the business and at length H. W. Walker purchased Mr. Swank's interest and the present firm of Walker Brothers was thus established in 1907. They carry a large line of dry goods, clothing, men's furnishings, groceries, boots and shoes and have built up a trade of very gratifying proportions, their business exceeding in volume and importance that of any other store in the county. Their establishment is neat and tastefully arranged and the business is conducted with the strictest regard to a high standard of commercial ethics.

On the 24th of July, 1901, in Toulon, Mr. Walker wedded Miss Lora Fuller, a daughter of W. W. Fuller, of Toulon. She was born and reared in Elmira, this county, and received her education in the Toulon Academy, graduating in the class of 1897. This marriage has been blessed with two sons, Philip F. and Paul H.

Mr. Walker served as school treasurer for a number of years and the cause of education has always found in him a stalwart champion. He has likewise been alderman of his ward and he stands for all those things which are a matter of civic virtue and of civic pride. In politics he is a staunch republican. He is prominently known in the Odd Fellows lodge, in which he has three times passed all of the chairs, being the present treasurer, and he is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He has been a delegate to the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows, and his wife is connected with the Rebekahs. Both are members of the Congregational church, in which he and his brother have been choir members for years. Both are deeply interested in all those forces which work for the uplift of the individual and the betterment of the community, and their lives have conformed to high standards of manhood and citizenship, winning for them the confidence and goodwill of all with whom they have been brought in contact.

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#### ROBERT M. KING, M. D.

Dr. Robert M. King, who has engaged in the practice of medicine in Wyoming for eighteen years and who ranks high in his profession, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on the 15th of April, 1864. His father, John King, was also a native of that country and held the position of pit boss there when in 1864 he resigned to come to the United States. At the time that the family sailed for America our subject was but six weeks old, so that practically his entire life has been spent in this country. After landing at New York on the 14th of June, 1864, the family continued their way westward to Sparland, Marshall county, Illinois, and subsequently they removed to Camp Grove, Saratoga township, where the father purchased land. He was successful in agricultural pursuits and became the owner of two hundred and fifty acres of excellent land, all of which was under cultivation. Both he and his wife were Presbyterians, and their religious faith was the motive force of their daily lives. She died in 1878 and he passed away many years later, his demise occurring in 1911. Eight of their eleven children are still living.

Robert M. King passed his boyhood and youth upon the home farm and gave much of his time to assisting his father. However, his education was not neglected and after attending the district schools he became a student in the old Northwestern Normal School at Geneseo, Illinois, and later entered Highland Park College at Des Moines.

Iowa. He did his professional work at the Louisville Medical College in Louisville, Kentucky, from which he was graduated in 1898 with the degree of M. D. He located for practice in Wyoming, Illinois, and has met with such a gratifying measure of success that he has since remained here. He is careful in making a diagnosis to take into consideration all possible factors in the case, and in his method of treatment utilizes the latest discoveries of medical science. He not only has the confidence of the people as is evidenced by his large and representative practice, but he is also held in high esteem by his professional colleagues. He is in comfortable circumstances and owns a good two hundred and forty acre farm in Minnesota and eighty acres in Stark county.

Dr. King was married December 6, 1905, to Miss Nellie Wrigley, a native of this county and a daughter of Samuel Wrigley, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Dr. and Mrs. King have a daughter, Margaret Joan, who is named for her two grandmothers.

Dr. King is a democrat in politics but has been too busy with his professional duties to take an active part in public affairs. He belongs to the Masonic lodge at Wyoming and the beneficent spirit of that organization finds expression in his daily life. He is recognized as one of the leading citizens of Wyoming, and his genuine worth has gained him the warm regard of those who have been closely associated with him.

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### CHARLES N. GOOD.

Charles N. Good, who carries on general farming on section 8, Elmira township, was born in Weathersfield township, Henry county, Illinois, February 22, 1859, a son of Samuel W. and Mary Ann (Northrop) Good. The father was a native of Zanesville, Ohio, and the mother of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but in early life they removed to Illinois and were married in Henry county. The Good family established their home in that county in 1856, the grandfather of our subject becoming one of the pioneer settlers of the district. Following their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel W. Good lived in Henry county until called to their final rest, the former passing away on the 1st of September, 1885, and the latter February 27, 1897.

Charles N. Good had the advantage of a good school education. His father was a school director and believed in the employment of competent teachers. During the summer vacations he worked in

the fields and continued at home until he attained his majority, after which he was employed as a farm hand for two years. He then began farming on his own account and in 1884 removed to Stark county, settling on a farm on sections 8 and 9, Elmira township. Here he owns two hundred and forty acres of land, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, and to the farm has added many improvements so that it is now a well equipped farm property, lacking in none of the accessories and conveniences found upon the model farms of Illinois in the twentieth century. In addition to this property he has eighty acres in Weathersfield township, Henry county. In 1888 he established a herd of shorthorn cattle upon his farm and is now extensively and successfully engaged in breeding and raising polled shorthorns and also breeds Poland China hogs. His stock raising interests constitute an important feature of his business and have brought to him well deserved success.

On the 11th of January, 1883, Mr. Good was united in marriage to Miss Clara E. Hatch, a sister of Oran L. Hatch, mentioned elsewhere in this work. They now have two children: Charles Maxwell, who is a graduate of the high school of Kewanee and is now with the Central Savings & Trust Bank at Denver, Colorado; and Martha Alice, who is a graduate of Knox College of Galesburg and is now extension secretary of the Young Women's Christian Association work at Quincy, Illinois.

The family are all members of the Presbyterian church, and Mr. Good is serving as one of its elders. In politics he is a republican and has served as road commissioner. The cause of education has ever found in him a stalwart champion and for twenty years he has been school director, while at the present time he is school trustee. He holds membership in the American Protective Association, and his interests and activities number him among the leading and valued citizens of his part of the county.

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### JOSEPH CHASE.

Joseph Chase, who for a number of years has figured prominently in connection with the public affairs of Stark county, having served both as county clerk and circuit clerk, was born near Toulon on the 28th of October, 1854, and is therefore a representative of one of the pioneer families of this district. He, too, has long been a





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witness of the changes which have occurred here and has borne an active and helpful part in the work of general progress and improvement. His father, Peleg Chase, was a native of Saratoga county, New York, and a son of John Chase, who was numbered among the early settlers of Saratoga county and was of English descent. Peleg Chase was reared in his native county and there married Fanny M. Taber, who was born in that county. In 1853 they removed westward to Illinois and established their home in Toulon township, Stark county, where Mr. Chase purchased land on which only slight improvements had been made. He immediately began the active work of the farm and carried on agricultural pursuits there with good success until 1865, when he disposed of his property and removed to Toulon, where he spent his last years, his death here occurring in 1871. His wife long survived him, passing away about 1910. Their family numbered but two children, one of whom, John Chase, is now a contractor and builder of Toulon.

Joseph Chase was reared in Stark county and in the pursuit of his education attended Westfield College and also Hedding College at Abingdon, Illinois. He taught for seven winter terms in the home schools and also for one fall term but later concentrated his attention upon agricultural pursuits, owning and cultivating a tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres in Toulon township. He lived upon that place for a few years, after which he sold the property and bought a farm in the southern part of the county, continuing to devote his time and energies there to the tilling of the soil for seven years. He then removed to Toulon and sold his farm in 1903. In 1890 he was nominated and elected to the office of county clerk, entering upon the duties of the position in 1890 for a four years' term. He then retired from office but after two years, or in 1896, was elected by the republican party to the office of circuit clerk, in which position he served for four years and was then re-elected for another term. He has been a member of the town board, has acted as its president and is still a member of the city council of Toulon. His public duties have been discharged in a notably prompt, efficient and creditable manner, his services proving of value to the community. He has at different times bought and owned farms and he and his wife are now owners of four hundred acres of land all in one body and all well improved, constituting a valuable and productive property.

On the 23d of February, 1876, near Toulon, Mr. Chase was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Rist, who was born and reared in this county and is a daughter of Martin Rist, one of its early set-

thers. Mr. and Mrs. Chase have become the parents of eleven children, of whom nine are yet living, namely: Fanny A., the wife of James M. Stiekney; Jennie E., the wife of S. Clyde White, a farmer of Toulon; Nettie M., the wife of Ray D. Nicholson, who follows farming in Goshen township; Martin R., who is engaged in medical practice in Chicago; Helen M., at home; Pauline, who is a student in the Jacksonville College at Jacksonville, Illinois; Joseph H., who is a freshman in the State University at Urbana, Illinois; Sarah; and Carolyn. They lost their eldest child, Bertha L., who became the wife of John Dewey and died in January, 1903. A son, Wilbur P., was a junior in Northwestern University when death claimed him in August, 1912.

Mr. Chase is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge and both he and his wife are connected with the Rebekah degree. He has served through the chairs of the lodge, is a past grand and has been lodge treasurer for years. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and in the ladies' societies of the church his wife takes an active part. The family occupy an attractive home which Mr. Chase erected thirteen years ago. They are well known in the city, occupying an enviable position in social circles, and high regard is entertained for them because of their sterling worth and many admirable traits of character.

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### CILANCY R. MINER.

Nature seems to have intended that in the evening of life man should enjoy a period of rest. In youth he is energetic and ambitious. The future looks bright and he puts forth earnest effort to achieve success. Later this effort is guided by mature judgment and directed by experience and if he is honest and earnest in his purpose, his labors win for him substantial prosperity, so that the evening of his days may be spent in the enjoyment of well earned rest. Such is the record of Mr. Miner, who for a long period was an active and prosperous farmer of Goshen township, but he now lives retired in La Fayette. He is, moreover, entitled to mention in this volume as one of the few surviving veterans of the Civil war now living in Stark county.

It was in this county that he was born, March 11, 1843, being a representative of one of its honored pioneer families. His father, Peter F. Miner, was born in New York and when a young man came

west, establishing his home among the first settlers of Goshen township, Stark county, where he preempted eighty acres of land. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon his place and he performed the arduous task of breaking the sod and splitting rails with which to fence his land. His first home was a primitive log cabin, in which he lived for several years while improving his farm. While he met hardships and privations these in turn were replaced by an advanced civilization and he took a helpful part in promoting the development and upbuilding of the district in which he lived. He was married here to Miss Matilda F. Smith, who was born in New England and came to Illinois with her parents, who were among the earliest settlers of the state. After farming for a time Mr. Miner purchased another eighty acre tract, making his farm one of a hundred and sixty acres. As the years passed on he was numbered among the prosperous farmers of his part of the county. He erected a good residence, also built substantial barns and outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock and developed a valuable place, the further improvement of which claimed his time and energies until he was called to his final rest about 1852. His wife survived him for several years, dying in 1856.

Chaney R. Miner was thus left an orphan when but a little lad of thirteen years. He later spent a summer with an uncle on Spoon river in Illinois and he acquired his education in the district schools and in La Fayette. He was a youth of eighteen years when the country became involved in civil war and in August, 1861, aroused by a spirit of patriotism, he enlisted and joined Company B of the Thirty-seventh Illinois Infantry. This company was raised in Stark county and was mustered in at Chicago. After some drilling and preparation the regiment went south through Missouri and into Arkansas, where they participated in the battles of Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove and later crossed the river, taking part in the siege and capture of Vicksburg. Mr. Miner was subsequently placed on detached duty and drove a team of three span of mules through Missouri and Arkansas in connection with the commissary department. Afterward he was on the sick list for a time and later was sent to New Orleans, where he did guard duty. There he remained until he was detailed for service on a gunboat as a sharpshooter. While thus engaged he was taken prisoner by the Confederates and was sent to Hempstead, Texas, where he was held in a stockade for seven months and fourteen days, suffering many hardships of southern prison life. He was afterward paroled and taken to Galveston and thence sent within the Union lines. At New Orleans he was mustered out and honorably discharged in

February, 1865, after serving for three years and six months in defense of the nation's starry banner.

With the close of the war Mr. Miner returned home. He had inherited eighty acres of and which he afterward sold and then purchased an improved farm of sixty-five acres at the head of Indian creek. He located thereon and concentrated his efforts upon the work of tilling the soil and producing good crops. He further completed his arrangements for having a home of his own by his marriage in Goshen township, on the 19th of October, 1865, to Miss Chloe R. Parish, who was born and reared in Stark county and is a daughter of Ruloff Parish, one of the early settlers of this district. Some time after his marriage Mr. Miner sold his farm and purchased a tract of one hundred and forty acres on section 22, Goshen township. This was an old farm on which were dilapidated buildings, while the soil was in poor condition. However, he at once began the work of repairing buildings and fences, and he improved the condition of the soil by fertilizers and by the rotation of crops, thus bringing it again into a state of rich fertility. He afterward erected a modern residence, commodious and attractive in its style of architecture. He also built a good barn and there he carried on farming for twenty years. He likewise extended the boundaries of his place by a further purchase of eighty acres, so that his farm included two hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land. After two decades he sold this property to his daughter and about 1884 removed to La Fayette, where he purchased a hotel property and engaged in the hotel business for eighteen years. He then retired from that field of activity and about 1900 became owner of the residence in La Fayette which he now occupies. This is a neat and attractive home and he is pleasantly situated in life, his former toil having brought him a sufficient sum to enable him to enjoy many of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

While living upon the farm Mr. Miner lost his first wife, who left two daughters: Effie May, now the wife of P. Frank Royce, of La Fayette, by whom she has three sons and two daughters; and Neva E., the wife of W. O. Church, a farmer of Stark county, by whom she has one son and two daughters. Mr. Miner was again married December 11, 1896, in La Fayette, Miss Anna Frail becoming his wife. She was born and reared in this county and is a daughter of John Frail, also a native of Stark county, where the Frail family was established at a very early day upon a farm near Wyoming.

Politically Mr. Miner has been an earnest republican since he cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1864 and since

that time he has voted for every presidential nominee on the ticket. He has served as a delegate to county conventions and as a member of the town board. He belongs to W. W. Wright Post, G. A. R., of Toulon, and has ever manifested the same spirit of loyalty in citizenship that he displayed when he followed the stars and stripes upon the battlefields of the south. He did not hesitate to respond to his country's call when the tocsin of war sounded and he has never hesitated to do his best for the interests of the community in which he lives, regarding this as the expression of true and loyal citizenship.

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### R. M. SCOTT.

While engaged in general farming R. M. Scott also raises a good grade of stock, specializing in milch cows. His place embraces two hundred and fifteen acres of land on section 19, Osceola township, in addition to which he cultivates a rented tract of land. He is one of the worthy citizens that Scotland has furnished to Illinois, his birth having occurred in Roxburghshire on the 9th of September, 1849, his parents being Thomas and Jane Mitchell (Hill) Scott, who spent their entire lives in the land of hills and heather. R. M. Scott crossed the Atlantic to Canada with his grandparents in 1857 and there remained for two years, after which he returned to Scotland, continuing with his parents until 1868, in which year he secured work as a farm hand in that country.

Once more Mr. Scott left his native land in 1873, at which time he made the voyage to the United States and, continuing his journey into the interior of the country, settled in Stark county, Illinois. After working as a farm hand for about four months, he went to Toronto, Canada, where he spent nine months, and then returned to this country. Renting land he lived thereon for a year, after which he settled on section 19, Osceola township, and purchased eighty acres of land. He has since added all of the improvements to the place and now has a well kept farm, the boundaries of which he has extended from time to time until he now has two hundred and fifteen acres, all of which he carefully cultivates in the raising of grain, wheat and other cereals. He also operates eighty acres of land which he rents, and in addition to general farming, he is engaged in the raising of a good grade of stock.

On the 2d of March, 1877, Mr. Scott was married to Miss Mary M. Turnbull, and they have seven children: Maggie Mitchell, who is

teaching school in the home district; Anna Jane, the wife of Earl Liggett, residing in Osceola township; J. W., living near the old home farm; Agnes, the wife of Fred Ferris, also in the same locality; Thomas, whose home is near Bradford; Julia Isabel, the wife of Floyd Dunn of Elmira township and John Henry, at home.

Mr. Scott votes with the republican party upon national questions and issues, but at local elections considers the capability of a candidate without regard to his party affiliations. He has served as road commissioner and school director but has had little ambition along the line of office holding. He and his wife are members of the United Presbyterian church of Elmira, and their influence is always on the side of right, progress and improvement. Three times since coming to the United States Mr. Scott has returned on a visit to his native country, renewing the acquaintances of his boyhood. He returns willingly, however, to America, for in this land he has found the opportunities which he sought and in their utilization has steadily advanced. He brought with him no false ideas concerning chances here offered but realized the fact that industry and perseverance are here unhampered by caste or class. Upon the foundation of diligence and determination, therefore, he built his success, and he is now justly accounted one of the representative and prosperous farmers of his community.

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### JAMES L. GERARD.

James L. Gerard, operating a farm of eighty acres on section 36, Elmira township, whereon he is engaged in the raising of full blooded Duroc Jersey hogs, has been a lifelong resident of Stark county. He was born December 19, 1873, on the farm on which he now resides, his parents being Charles L. and Henriette (Lesan) Gerard, the former a native of New York and the latter of New Hampshire. They were married, however, in Wisconsin, having gone to that state in early life, the father having lived for a time in Ohio before his removal to Wisconsin. They removed later to Illinois, becoming early residents of Stark county, and Mr. Gerard was among those who sought wealth in the gold fields at Pike's Peak, being absent on that trip for a year. He afterward lived in Stark county and it was about sixty years ago that he purchased the farm upon which he continued to reside until his death January 13, 1914. For a decade and a half he had survived his wife, who passed away September 19, 1899.



James L. Gerard was educated in the common schools and also spent one term in study at Dixon, Illinois, but is largely self-educated and in the school of experience has learned many valuable lessons. He remained at home until twenty-one years of age, after which he engaged in clerking in a store at Castleton for a year. He next went to Bradford, where he conducted a grocery store for a year and subsequently removed to Lombardville, where he also spent one year. He then resumed farm work and has since given his attention to general agricultural pursuits. He now operates eighty acres of land that is naturally rich and productive, and the care and labor which he bestows upon the fields results in the harvesting of good crops. He also devotes considerable time to the raising of full blooded Duroc Jersey hogs and is meeting with good success in that undertaking.

On the 28th of May, 1902, Mr. Gerard was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Tracy, a highly educated woman, who was graduated from the State University of Kansas and taught in the high school at Larned, Kansas, for some time. To Mr. and Mrs. Gerard have been born four children, namely: James Frank, Charles Nathan, Paul Tracy and Verna Florence. The parents have been members of the United Presbyterian church since 1892. Mr. Gerard has given his political allegiance to the prohibition party and is a staunch advocate of the cause of temperance but now votes with the republican party. He belongs to the Fraternal Reserve Life Association but does not seek to figure prominently in lodge, club or political circles. He concentrates his time upon his business affairs and occupies the old homestead upon which his father settled sixty years ago. It was a tract of timber land from which he had to clear away the trees in order to plant the fields.

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### FRED E. FERRIS.

About 1900 Fred E. Ferris purchased the farm on section 29, Osceola township, on which he now resides, having here a tract of land of one hundred and sixty-five and a half acres devoted to general farming. This is the visible evidence of his life of well directed energy and thrift for he is a self-made man, who started in business life with nothing. Diligence and determination, however, have overcome the obstacles and difficulties in his path, and he has worked his way steadily upward. He was born about three-quarters of a mile south of his present home, on the same section, his natal day being February 2,

1879. His father, George M. Ferris, was born at Wethersfield, Henry county, Illinois, and after attaining his majority he married Orethusa Stephens, whose birth occurred near Peoria, Illinois. They were residing in Stark county at the time of their marriage and settled three-quarters of a mile south of the present home of Fred E. Ferris, continuing residents of this county until called to their final rest.

The father died when his son, Fred, was a lad of but fourteen years. The latter was educated in the common schools and was reared upon the old home farm. Early undertaking the task of plowing and cultivating the land and producing the crops, there soon came to him a knowledge of the value of industry and perseverance, and he used these qualities to enable him to gain a financial start. Fifteen years ago he purchased his land on section 29, Osceola township, and is today owner of an excellent farm property of one hundred and sixty-five and a half acres, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation. He carries on general agricultural pursuits, and from the time of early spring planting until crops are harvested in the late autumn he is busy in the fields, doing everything possible to advance his work and secure good harvests.

In 1906 Mr. Ferris was married to Miss Agnes E. Scott, a daughter of Robert Scott of Osceola township, and their children are now five in number; Glenn S., Mary A., Floyd J., Leslie A., and Ross E., all at home. Mrs. Ferris is a member of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Ferris gives his political indorsement to the democratic party and its principles, and, while he does not seek nor desire political office, he has served for seven years as school director, doing all in his power to further the interests of public education in his neighborhood. He has always lived in the locality where he now resides, and his life record is familiar to his fellow townsmen. That his has been an upright and honorable course is indicated in the fact that among his staunchest friends are those who have known him from his boyhood days to the present.

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### HARRY F. ADAMS

Harry F. Adams, living on section 16, Penn township, was born on an adjoining farm February 15, 1873, a son of Robert A. and Mary E. (Earhart) Adams, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. They were married, however, in Stark county, Illinois, the father having accompanied his parents on their removal



HARRY F. ADAMS

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to this state, where the family developed a farm, the grandparents there spending their remaining days. The father, reared to the occupation of farming, continued to follow that pursuit and was for a long period numbered among the representative agriculturists of his district. He passed away four years ago and his widow died early in the year 1916. They were both consistent members of the Methodist Protestant church and assisted in building the first house of worship for that denomination in their locality.

Harry F. Adams was educated in the common schools of Penn township and afterward went to Davenport, Iowa, where he pursued a business course. He then returned home and took up the occupation of farming and also began the breeding of a large type of Poland China hogs about eleven years ago. He is today one of the two most extensive breeders in the county and places upon the market about one hundred and fifty breeders a year. He holds two semi-annual sales besides selling through mail orders and to private parties. The culls go to the Chicago market. Mr. Adams has long maintained a prominent position among the stockmen of Stark county, and in addition to handling Poland China hogs is well known as a breeder of the Holstein Friesian cattle and Percheron horses and he also feeds cattle, hogs and sheep. His is an excellent farm property splendidly equipped. He has four hundred acres of land and cultivates the entire tract. He has put up all the improvements upon the place and these are modern in construction, design and equipment. He has recently erected a wet mix concrete garage which is his own idea and is the only one in the county. It is a solid concrete with no breaks outside of the windows and doors, and the latter are of steel. This is an especially fine building and is a credit to the enterprise and ingenuity of the owner. There are three sets of improvements on the farm, which he calls the Penn Center Farm and which has become widely known through reputation owing to the fine stock which are shipped therefrom.

In 1896 Mr. Adams was united in marriage to Miss Clara Gleason, by whom he had five children, namely: Miriam, at home; Chester, who passed away at the age of seven years; Ardis, Audrey and Merlin, all at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Adams are members of the Methodist Protestant church at Castleton and Mr. Adams is one of the trustees having in charge the church property. Politically he exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party and is interested in its growth and success. He has served for four years as assessor and for a number of years has been a member of the town-

ship central committee, while at the present time he is serving on the county central committee. In fraternal circles he is very prominent, being recognized as one of the leading members of the Odd Fellows lodge at Castleton, in which he has passed through all of the chairs, while for twenty-one years he has been secretary. He is also identified with the encampment at Wyoming, and he and his wife have taken the Rebekah degree at Wyoming. He is likewise a member of the Modern Woodmen camp at Castleton, the Masonic lodge at Wyoming, the Royal Arch chapter at Wyoming, the Knights Templar commandery at Kewanee and the Mystic Shrine at Peoria, while both he and his wife are identified with the Eastern Star chapter at Wyoming. His life exemplifies the beneficent spirit of the craft and the high purposes of all the fraternal orders with which he is connected. His entire career has been actuated by honorable principles, and those who know him recognize in him the sterling traits of character which in every land and clime awaken confidence and regard. In business circles he occupies a most prominent and commendable position, for he has at all times been actuated by the spirit of progress and improvement. He has equipped his buildings with electric light, bringing his circuit from Wyoming, seven miles distant. This is indicative of the spirit which actuates him in all his undertakings, and in his vocabulary there is no such word as fail, for he never stops short of successful fulfillment of a purpose.

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#### WILLIAM LEET.

William Leet, who formerly owned what is now the Exchange Bank of Bradford and also had other important business interests, was recognized as a leading factor in the development of Stark county and one of its most prominent citizens. A native of Connecticut, his birth occurred in Chester on the 20th of October, 1827, and his parents were Samuel W. and Anna Leet, both natives of that state. The ancestry has been traced back to one William Leete, who removed from England to America in 1639, settling in the New Haven colony, of which he subsequently became governor. Following the union of that colony with the colony of Connecticut he was again chosen governor and was filling that high office at the time of his death in 1683. Charles Leet, a brother of our subject was the first inventor of the first successful cartridge, his factory being in Connecticut.

As the family was in very limited circumstances, William Leet

of this review went to live with a Mr. Jones, of Chester, Connecticut, working for his board and lodging. In 1841 he accompanied his employer to Illinois and remained with him upon a farm near Elmwood, Trivoli township, Peoria county, for four or five years, but at the end of that time, not being treated kindly, he left and began working for others. As soon as he had saved enough money he returned to the east, but found himself dissatisfied with New England and in a comparatively short time again came to Illinois. For some time he worked for a farmer in Bureau county for a wage of ten dollars per month. He lived very economically and at length was able to purchase his first land, an eighty acre tract in Milo township, that county. Subsequently he sold that property and bought three hundred and twenty acres on section 33, on which he took up his residence. He was very successful in his farming operations and soon extended his activities to other lines and at the time of his marriage in 1854 was worth about twenty thousand dollars and was considered wealthy. He saw still greater opportunities before him, however, and continued in the development of his various interests. He possessed a great deal of mental and physical energy and was a very hard worker. He recognized, however, that inefficient effort was effort wasted and therefore planned all of his work carefully so as to secure the greatest possible results. He was quick to recognize a business opportunity and prompt in carrying out his plans. A number of years before the Civil war he erected an elevator in Henry, Marshall county, and for a considerable period bought and shipped grain. His farm was twenty miles distant, but in order to give personal attention to the elevator business he drove back and forth each day. Following the close of the war he transferred his grain interests to Bradford and in 1873 he took up his residence in the town, where he continued to live until his demise. For a considerable period he not only controlled the grain market at Bradford but also at Castleton, Duncan and Lombardville, all on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. He was endowed with unusual keenness of insight and sagacity; possessed an unusually retentive memory and was able to hold in mind the details of every one of his almost countless business transactions.

In 1872 Mr. Leet became a factor in local banking circles, purchasing what is now the Bradford Exchange Bank, which was then conducted by A. B. Miner. Mr. Leet proved as successful in the management of that institution as he had in the conduct of his other business affairs and its patronage grew steadily. He gave his first care to safeguarding the interests of depositors but was willing to extend credit when satisfied that the security offered was good. In

time his interests were extended to other states, especially to Iowa, and he established a bank at Audubon, which also proved a profitable venture. He secured his start in business from his farming operations and never ceased to believe in the value of real estate as an investment and at one time owned nearly five thousand acres of land in Stark county besides valuable holdings elsewhere. He bought and sold land throughout his business career and was recognized as an authority on real estate values. In his dealings with others he was not only upright and above board, but he was even liberal, never being known to foreclose a mortgage if he could avoid doing so and being at all times willing to give time to his debtors as long as he believed that they were trying to pay. There are many in the county who owe much to him and a wealthy man in Osceola township recently remarked that all that he had was due to William Leet, as he came to this county a poor man and could not have purchased his first farm if Mr. Leet had not loaned him money.

At quite an early stage in his career Mr. Leet began to operate on the Chicago Board of Trade and in 1888 removed to Chicago, where he lived for two years. He then took up his residence in Aurora but continued a member of the Board of Trade, going to Chicago each day. He passed away in Aurora on the 5th of September, 1896.

On the 29th of August, 1854, Mr. Leet was united in marriage to Miss Helen Spear, who was a native of England but was brought to the United States in infancy by her parents. Her mother dying a few months after the arrival of the family in the United States, she was adopted by a Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox, who reared her to womanhood and who removed to Stark County in the spring of 1854, taking up their residence upon rented land belonging to Mr. Leet. To this union were born eight children, of whom three died in infancy. Mary J. gave her hand in marriage to Rev. J. C. Stoughton and is now living in Bradford. Her husband, who is deceased, was a prominent minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church and was instrumental in the establishment of the State University at Champaign and also of the Jennings Seminary of Aurora. Frank M. is deceased. Rosa, the wife of Robert Thompson, of Bradford, is the president of the Bradford Exchange Bank. Further mention of her husband is made elsewhere in this work. Anna L. became the wife of Asmus Boyson but is now deceased. George Keller is residing in Aurora, Illinois.

Mr. Leet was a republican but was never active in politics, his business interests requiring his undivided attention. He was in sympathy with the Methodist Episcopal church, although not a member, and his influence was given on the side of right and justice. Although



it may not have been generally recognized, he did much to maintain a high standard of business honor in the communities in which he was active and in all of his dealings he was scrupulously honest. Fraternally he belonged to the Masonic order for a number of years but at length demitted. He had practically no educational opportunities, but his native intelligence was so keen, his judgment of human nature so sound, and his force of character so great that in spite of obstacles he became one of the dominant factors in business circles in this part of the state. He left a considerable fortune, which, in accordance with his wish, remained intact until after his widow's death, when it was divided among the several heirs. His position in a matter was never an equivocal one, as he was positive in his opinions and also in his personal likes and dislikes. He held friendship inviolable and was willing to do much in behalf of a friend, but to an enemy he gave only the severest justice. Those to whom he gave his friendship knew him as a man of warm heart and deep loyalty, and all who came in contact with him held him in the highest respect.

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#### CHESTER B. CLAYBAUGH.

There are few residents of Toulon better known than Chester B. Claybaugh, and wherever he is known he is spoken of in terms of high regard, for he has those sterling traits of character which in every land and clime awaken confidence and respect. He has made his home in Toulon continuously since 1870 and for four consecutive terms or for sixteen years has filled the position of postmaster. He was born in McDonough county, Illinois, January 31, 1859, a son of Nicholas Claybaugh, a native of Ohio, who on removing westward to Illinois settled in McDonough county, where he followed farming. He was there married to Miss Rhoda Belle Marr, a native of Tennessee, from which state she came to Illinois. Mr. Claybaugh followed farming in Henry county for twenty years and afterward in Stark county but spent his last days in honorable retirement from business as a resident of Toulon, where his death occurred in 1900. His widow still survives and yet makes her home in Toulon.

Chester B. Claybaugh was reared in Stark county and was educated in Wethersfield and Kewanee, Illinois. Taking up the occupation of farming, he devoted fifteen years to tilling the soil in Goshen township, Stark county, and afterward turned his attention to the painting business in Toulon, following that pursuit for several years.

Subsequently he bought a restaurant and confectionery store, which he conducted successfully for a number of years, after which he was appointed postmaster by President McKinley and by reappointment continued in that office for sixteen years. He discharged the duties of the position in a most capable, prompt and systematic manner, his work receiving the unqualified indorsement of his fellow townsmen. He was also a member of the village council for one term. His political allegiance has always been given to the republican party and he is one of its recognized leaders in this county, his opinions carrying weight in its local councils. He has frequently been a delegate to the county, congressional and state conventions.

In 1891, in Toulon, Mr. Claybaugh was married to Miss May C. Smith, who was here born and reared and who by her marriage has become the mother of four children: Irene, the wife of Clarence L. Mahaney, a farmer of West Jersey township; Leslie D. and Philip C., who for more than a year have been conducting the moving picture house of Toulon, which is owned by their father; and Polly, who is a student in the high school.

After his retirement from the office of postmaster Mr. Claybaugh established a grocery and meat market in Toulon and is still carrying on the business with gratifying success. In his store is always to be found an excellent line of staple and fancy groceries and fresh and salt meats. He has built up a very gratifying trade and is regarded as one of the successful business men of the county. It is characteristic of him that he carries forward to profitable completion whatever he undertakes. His business methods are straightforward and his enterprise has enabled him to overcome all difficulties and obstacles and work his way steadily upward. He is pleasant and genial in manner and the good things said of him by his fellow townsmen indicate that he has a very extensive circle of warm friends.

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#### FRANK C. McCLENAHAN, D. D. S.

In professional circles in Toulon, Dr. Frank C. McClenahan occupies an enviable position, having been here engaged in the practice of dentistry for eleven years. He utilizes the most improved scientific methods in his work and the results which he has accomplished have been most satisfactory. He is a native son of the county, his birth having occurred in Goshen township, near La Fayette, in December, 1879. His paternal grandfather, Henry McClenahan, a

native of Pendleton county, Kentucky, was born in 1798 and removed thence to Indiana, while in the early '30s he became a resident of Stark county, Illinois, where he joined his father, Elijah McClenahan, Sr., who was among the first settlers to penetrate into the wild western wilderness that is now the thickly populated and prosperous district of Stark county. The first election held in the county was held at his residence in Goshen township.

His grandson and namesake, Elijah McClenahan, Jr., the father of Dr. McClenahan, was born in Rush county, Indiana, July 10, 1827, and came to Stark county in 1834, when a lad of seven years, with his father, Henry McClenahan. Here he was reared amid the usual pioneer conditions, meeting all of the hardships and experiences of frontier life. In 1873 he married Miss Margaret Thomas, a daughter of William M. Thomas, of Knox county, Illinois. He began farming in Goshen township, about two miles south of La Fayette, and there he reared his family and spent his remaining days. He was a very active and became a very prosperous agriculturist and at the time of his death owned five hundred acres of very valuable land in two farms. Perseverance and indefatigable effort were the basic elements of his growing success, while in all of his business dealings he was strictly reliable. He belonged to La Fayette Lodge, No. 501, F. & A. M., and consistently exemplified in his life the beneficent spirit of the craft. He died February 2, 1909, at the age of eighty-two years, and is still survived by his widow. In their family were five children: Edna D., who is living with her mother in Toulon; Daniel H., who for some years has been an active member of the bar at Lincoln, Nebraska; Carl D., who is a druggist of Toulon; Frank C.; and Bert C., who is living on the old homestead farm near La Fayette.

Dr. Frank C. McClenahan was reared in this county and completed his public school education in the high school of La Fayette, while his professional training was received in the Northwestern Dental College at Chicago, in which he completed a three years' course. He was there graduated with the class of 1904. On the 5th of May of that year he opened an office in Toulon, where he has since engaged in practice. He has the marked mechanical skill and ingenuity so necessary to the dentist, combined with the business ability which must always prove a factor in the successful management of one's own affairs. His office is thoroughly equipped with the modern appliances of dentistry and his work is an embodiment of scientific knowledge and investigation.

On the 22d of December, 1903, Dr. McClenahan was married in Toulon to Miss Lucile Blanche Cary, a native of Ionia, Michigan,

and a daughter of the Rev. E. A. Cary, a minister of the Christian church. They occupy a pleasant and attractive residence in Toulon and both are active members in the Christian church, which was founded by Elijah McClenahan and his wife, the former a brother of Henry McClenahan and an uncle of Alec McClenahan, Jr. The family have always been prominent in the church work here and their labors have been an important element in bringing about moral progress in the community.

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### DANIEL B. PHENIX.

Daniel B. Phenix was a pioneer of Stark county and his demise on the 28th of January, 1913, was deeply regretted throughout the county. He passed his last years at the home of his son, Bardwell D. Phenix, in Bradford, and enjoyed a period of leisure made possible by his former well directed industry. He was vice president of the Phenix Banking Company and was also connected with other phases of the development of his locality. His birth occurred on the 28th of June, 1820, and his parents were John T. and Lydia (Daniels) Phenix, who are mentioned more fully in the sketch of his brother, Harmon Phenix. In the spring of 1834 he came to Stark county with his mother and brothers and sisters, the father having previously removed to this county. For some time Daniel B. Phenix concentrated his energies upon the work of the home farm. Following his marriage he purchased eighty acres of raw land and at once began its cultivation and improvement. For four or five years he engaged in farming and stockraising there but at the end of that time purchased a farm in Penn township, on which he resided for about sixty years, remaining there until two years before his death, when he took up his residence with his son Bardwell in Bradford. He met with gratifying success in all that he undertook, and he and his wife at one time owned about fourteen hundred acres of fine land. He and his brother Abram were extensively engaged in the threshing business for about nineteen years, owning in that time twenty-one different machines. They operated not only in this county but in adjoining counties and found this venture very profitable. In addition to these extensive interests Daniel B. Phenix was vice president and a large stockholder in the Phenix Banking Company, one of the well known financial institutions of the county.

Mr. Phenix was married in February, 1853, to Miss Jane A.

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DANIEL B. PHENIX



MRS. JANE A. PHOENIX

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Moore, who was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, and removed to Stark county, Illinois, when about thirteen years of age. She passed away in 1907, in the faith of the Baptist church, when she had reached the advanced age of eighty-one years. To them were born four children: Bardwell D., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; William H., of Bradford; and two who died in infancy.

Mr. Phenix indorsed the principles of the republican party and took an active part in promoting its success. He contributed financially to campaign funds and did all in his power to promote the interests of his party. His public spirit was also shown by his presenting the town of Bradford with a flagpole and when that became unsightly he erected a new one. He possessed a vigorous constitution and a strong mind and was active until a very short time before his death, doing some carpenter work in the summer and fall of 1912. He went up town to talk with his friends within three weeks of his death, which occurred on the 28th of January, 1913, when he had reached the advanced age of ninety-three years. Practically all of those who had a part in reclaiming this county from the wilderness have now passed to their reward but their names are still remembered and they are held in the high honor which is their due.

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#### F. T. GELVIN.

F. T. Gelvin has for a decade been engaged in the grain trade at La Fayette and the close application and energy which he displays in the conduct of his business affairs are bringing him deserved success. That Stark County offers many opportunities to its citizens is indicated in the fact that many of her native sons have remained within her borders after attaining adult age. Among this number is Mr. Gelvin, who was born in Essex Township, December 5, 1877.

His father, James R. Gelvin, was born near Erie, Pennsylvania, November 4, 1836, and was there reared, being a young man of nineteen years when in 1855 he left the Keystone state and made his way westward to Illinois. He remained a resident of Stark County until 1861, when he felt that his duty to his country was paramount to all else and offered his services to the government in defense of the Union, joining Company F, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until finally discharged at the close of the war, being mustered out at Springfield, in September, 1865. He was a brave and loyal soldier, never faltering in the performance

of any duty and participating in a number of very important engagements, including the battles of Nashville, Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain. He returned to his home with a most creditable military record, characterized by loyalty to the old flag and by the prompt and faithful performance of every task, no matter how arduous, that devolved upon him in connection with his military service. Following his return home he was married in Stark County, in the fall of 1865, to Miss Martha Trickle, who was born and reared in this county. Mr. Gelvin purchased land in Essex Township and transformed the wild sod into productive fields. He fenced his place, crected buildings thereon and converted the land into a very productive and valuable farm. He also extended the boundaries of his place from time to time until he became the owner of two hundred and forty acres, from which he derived a substantial annual income in the shape of large crops. Upon that place he resided until his death, which occurred in August, 1905, and his widow still makes her home upon the farm. He was a devoted member of W. W. Wright Post, G. A. R., and thus maintained pleasant relations with his old army comrades.

F. T. Gelvin is one of a family of two sons, his brother being Merle Gelvin, who is married and follows farming in Essex Township. F. T. Gelvin was reared on the old homestead and had the usual experiences of the farm bred boy who divides his time between work in the fields and the acquirement of an education in the district schools. When his textbooks were put aside he continued to assist his father in the development of the home place until he reached his majority. In 1906 he turned his attention to the grain trade, purchasing an elevator in La Fayette, and since that time he has been well known among the grain merchants of this part of the county. He also handles tile and has built up a good trade in that connection. He ships grain almost daily throughout the year, handling many carloads annually. Diligence and determination have been the basic elements of his success, and in all his business relations he is found reliable as well as progressive.

On the 28th of February, 1900, in Atkinson, Illinois, Mr. Gelvin was married to Miss Lola M. Green, who was born and reared in Atkinson and was there educated. Of this marriage there is one daughter, Velmya Irene, who is now a student in the public schools. The family home is an attractive residence in La Fayette, which Mr. Gelvin purchased.

In politics he is identified with the republican party, and in Essex Township he served as collector for one term. Since 1909 he has served as secretary of the La Fayette Fair Association. He was

school treasurer of Goshen Township for four years and township clerk for two years. He has never been neglectful of his duties of citizenship and in a private capacity has manifested the same spirit of loyalty to his country and her best interests that his father displayed when on southern battlefields. Mr. Gelvin belongs to the Masonic Lodge at La Fayette, of which he has served as secretary for some years, and he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star. Both are loyal to the high teachings and purposes of the order, and they are ever ready to extend a helping hand where aid is needed. Those who know them entertain for them warm regard, and they have an extensive circle of friends in their part of the county.

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### WILLIAM U. SICKLES.

No history of the commercial development and activity of Toulon would be complete were there failure to make reference to the record of William U. Sickles, who for thirty-eight years has been engaged in merchandising here and who enjoys in full measure the warm regard and confidence of his fellow townsmen. He was born in Marshall county, Illinois, September 24, 1861, a son of William Sickles, a native of New York. The father was there reared but in early manhood removed westward and settled in Marshall county, Illinois, accompany his father, Christopher Sickles, who was one of the pioneers of that region. William Sickles was married in that county to Abigail Freeman, a native of Dutchess county, New York, born near Poughkeepsic. Her father was a native of England, while her mother came of Scotch lineage. Following his marriage Mr. Sickles was actively engaged in farming in Marshall county and became the owner of two excellent tracts of land there. Upon the old homestead he reared his family but afterward removed to Wyoming, where he engaged in the grocery business for a short time. He met an accidental death, being struck by lightning in 1893. His wife survived him for more than two decades, passing away in the spring of 1914.

William U. Sickles was reared in this state, largely acquiring his education in the schools of Wyoming, although his opportunities in that direction were somewhat limited. When a youth of sixteen years he began providing for his own support by clerking in a store in Toulon and was employed in that manner for several years. In 1881 he removed to Peoria, where he became clerk in a wholesale dry goods

house, but after a year he removed to Toulon and for about twelve months was a clerk in the grocery house of William F. Cox. Subsequently he spent several years in the employ of Starrett Brothers and in 1907 he embarked in business on his own account, opening a general store in which he carries dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes. He has built up a very gratifying trade and is regarded as one of the progressive merchants of the city.

On the 13th of December, 1883, Mr. Sickles was married to Miss Julianette Rhodes, a daughter of Charles Rhodes, who was one of the first settlers of this county and is now a well preserved man of eighty-two years yet living in Toulon. In the family are four children: Gertrude E., the wife of George Fell, a farmer living near Lamonte, in Pettis county, Missouri; Edith, the wife of Ray Sweat, a farmer of Peoria county; Charles R., who is opening up a new farm at Walker, Minnesota; Frank L., who is his father's assistant in business and who in April, 1915, married Miss Mabel Stanley, who was born and reared in the town of Wyoming.

Politically Mr. Sickles is an earnest republican and has filled the offices of alderman and city treasurer. He served as a delegate to county conventions and is recognized as one of the party leaders in this section of the state. In Masonic circles he has taken the degrees of blue lodge and chapter and is in thorough sympathy with the teachings of the order, which has as its basic principle a recognition of the brotherhood of mankind. He is one of the active and helpful members of the Congregational Church, as is his wife, who is also an earnest Sunday school worker. Both are widely esteemed in the community and Mr. Sickles, both as a business man and citizen, enjoys the confidence and goodwill of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

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#### WALTER B. BALLENTINE.

Walter B. Ballentine, one of the active and progressive business men of Stark county, is engaged in dealing in coal and ice in Toulon, having there been connected with this line of trade for three years. He was born in Peoria county, Illinois, February 16, 1863, and is a son of James D. Ballentine, who was born in Guilford county, North Carolina, and was reared in the south. When a young man he came to Illinois, settling first in Peoria. He was three times married, his first wife being Lucinda Edwards, who died leaving six children.

For his second wife he chose Mrs. Margaret Johnson, who by her former marriage had three children and by this union there were born two sons and two daughters. For his third wife Mr. Ballantine chose Mrs. Rhoda (Walters) Reed, a native of Connecticut, whose father was one of the pioneer settlers of Illinois, coming to this state from Connecticut. By her first marriage the third wife had one child and after becoming Mrs. Ballentine she had two sons and a daughter, the daughter being Mrs. W. F. Templeton, of Minneapolis. Mr. Ballentine purchased land in Stark county, near Wyoming, and built upon and improved his farm, making it a valuable property. He lost his last wife while living upon the farm and afterward spent two or three years at the home of a daughter in Iowa, reaching the very venerable age of ninety-seven.

Walter B. Ballentine was reared upon the home farm and attended the district schools and also the schools of Wyoming. He was the youngest child and remained with his father, whom he assisted in his youth, while later he took charge of the old home place, which he still owns. It comprises three hundred and thirty-four acres of good land, over half of which is under cultivation. There is a splendid vein of coal eighty feet below the surface and Mr. Ballentine opened up this vein, finding the coal running from four and one-half to five and one-half feet in thickness and of good quality. He has a steam hoist for the coal, and has been operating his mines for eleven years. On removing to Toulon, however, he leased the mines and here he purchased an established coal business. Later he built coal sheds and an ice house, thoroughly equipped, motor power being used in unloading. He can unload an entire car in from one to two hours. Next to the coal house he put up an ice house, and built a spur of railroad track to facilitate shipping. He ships in Rock River ice, and he finds an excellent sale for the product. In fact both branches of his business are proving profitable because of his excellent management and the honesty with which he conducts all business transactions.

While upon the farm Mr. Ballentine was married October 29, 1901, to Mrs. M. E. Butler nee Templeton, whose first husband was the owner and editor of the News. By that marriage she had a daughter, Edna B., the wife of Frank Caverly.

In politics Mr. Ballentine is a republican and has served as supervisor of Toulon township for two terms, also as township collector and as a delegate to county conventions. However, he concentrates his energies upon his business, which is capably managed and controlled and is bringing to him gratifying success. His determination and even-paced energy have carried him into important business relations

and he has ever recognized the fact that success is not a matter of genius, as held by some, but is rather the outcome of clear judgment and experience.

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### BYRON SMITH.

Byron Smith was born July 28, 1851, on the farm on which he now resides on section 31, Osceola township. He has lived in the county for sixty-five years, and is a representative of one of its old and respected pioneer families. His parents, Asher M. and Phœbe (Stark) Smith, were natives of Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, where they were reared and married. In the year 1835 they came west to Illinois, settling at Wyoming, this state, where they spent the winter, after which they took up their abode upon the tract of land on which their son Byron now resides. The father homesteaded this farm, and Byron Smith still has the original sheep skin deed, which shows the father's title to the property. He arrived in Illinois only three years after the Black Hawk war, which established the supremacy of the white man as rulers of these broad prairies. There were no railroads in the state, and the work of improvement and progress seemed scarcely begun. Chicago had not then been incorporated as a city, and many of the now thriving and populous towns, cities and villages had not then been founded. For a third of a century Asher M. Smith continued to reside upon his farm, there passing away in 1869, when he was laid to rest in the Smith cemetery, established on land which he had given for that purpose. He was a tanner by trade, following that pursuit in the east, and after his removal to the west he started a tannery but on account of the water which he had to use the work did not prove successful, and he then turned his attention to general farming, which he continued up to the time his life's labors were ended. His fellow townsmen appreciated his worth and ability, and frequently called him to serve in public positions. He occupied a number of township offices, including that of collector, while for seven terms he was assessor. His widow continued her residence on the old homestead until 1881, when she was laid by the side of her husband in Smith cemetery.

At the usual age Byron Smith began his education in the district schools, and later he spent one term as a student in the Michigan University at Ann Arbor, but he is largely a self-educated as well as a self-made man. He took over the business of his father when the latter

died, being at that time a young man of eighteen years, and he has since given his attention to general agricultural pursuits, his labors being attended with excellent results. He has made all of the improvements upon the farm, save the building of the house. Here he has erected fine barns and a large silo, and he has the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields. He also raises high grade stock, and its sale brings to him a gratifying financial income. His place comprises three hundred and eight acres of land, and is one of the valuable properties of the county.

Politically Mr. Smith is a republican. For twenty years he has served as school director and for two terms was school trustee. He has no lodge connections, but he attends and supports the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is interested in all those forces which work for the development and improvement of the county along material, political and moral lines.

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### WILLIAM HOLGATE.

William Holgate was formerly active in various lines of business, and as all of his undertakings proved profitable he gained financial independence and is now living retired in Wyoming. His birth occurred in Penn township, Stark county, April 15, 1844, and he is a son of James Holgate, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Our subject was reared upon the family homestead and entered the district schools at the usual age, attending for six months a year until he was twelve years old and for three months a year until he was seventeen years of age.

On the 12th of August, 1862, when little more than eighteen years old, Mr. Holgate enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Colonel T. J. Henderson, and went to the front with that command. He was wounded in the shoulder at Atlanta and was in a hospital for four months. He was also held a prisoner at Belle Island for five months, but during the rest of the time was with his company and participated in the battles in which his regiment engaged. He was mustered out on the 15th of July, 1865, and was honorably discharged at Chicago and then returned to Stark county, where he engaged in farming on his own account, owning two hundred and seventy-five acres in Penn township. In 1876 he bought out a private bank in old Wyoming, nationalized the institution and served as its president until the charter was

given up. He has been president of five different banks and has never held any other position in any of them. For seventeen years he conducted a furniture and undertaking business in Wyoming and proved as successful as a merchant as he had as a farmer and financier. Although he has now retired from active life he still owns nine hundred and sixty acres of land in Kansas and derives a handsome income from that investment.

Mr. Holgate was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte A. Kissinger, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1845 and is a daughter of Alexander and Nancy (Snare) Kissinger, natives of Martinsburg, Pennsylvania.

Her father followed the tailor's trade in early manhood, but in 1847 came to Stark county, Illinois, and acquired title to two hundred and forty acres of land in Penn township, which he cultivated until called by death. His wife is also deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Holgate have two daughters: Carrie, the wife of Charles A. Smith, a merchant of Wyoming; and Cora, who married Lyman Graves, also a resident of Wyoming. There was a third daughter, Katie, who married M. A. Sparr, but who has passed away.

Mr. Holgate has always been a stalwart republican and has done all in his power to advance the interests of that party although all the rest of the family have been democrats and he was reared in that political belief. He is well known throughout the county, and all who have had dealings with him recognize his ability and sound judgment. He is one of the leading citizens of Wyoming, and his home is one of the fine residences of the town.

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#### PETHUEL PARISH.

Pethuel Parish, a retired farmer and stockman of Toulon, has resided in Stark county since 1836, or for a period of eighty years, and there are few indeed who have been connected with the county for so long a period. He was four years old when his parents removed here with their family, his birth having occurred on the 5th of September, 1832, in Canada. His father, Squire Parish, and his mother, Sophia (Althouse) Parish, were both also born in that country, the former on the 12th of June, 1802, and the latter on the 12th of June, 1815. On his removal to this county Squire Parish entered land from the government in what is now Goshen township and the pioneer conditions that then prevailed are indicated by the



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PETHUEL PARISH



MRS. PETHUEL PARISH

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fact that the family lived in a log house for five years. Later a more commodious residence was erected and the farm was brought to a high state of development. The father died in Toulon on the 21st of December, 1862, but the mother survived for many years, passing away in Toulon in 1887. Both were sincere Christian people but were identified with different churches, the father being a Quaker and the mother a Methodist. To them were born ten children: Pethuel; Sarah, the deceased wife of James Stimson; Hiram, deceased, who was a soldier in the One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry in the Civil war; Peter, deceased; Cynthia, who first married George Maxfield, a Union soldier, and following his demise married Joseph Burns, a resident of Fairmont, Nebraska; Happy, who became the wife of George Dugan and is living at Bedford, Iowa; Lucy, the deceased wife of Jonathan Cooley; Sophia, who married Dexter Maxfield, of Fairmont; Squire, deceased; and Rulof.

Pethuel Parish grew to manhood upon the home farm in this county and received a limited education in an old log schoolhouse. His father was a cripple and not able to do the heavy farm work, and, the family being in moderate circumstances, our subject had to go to work when but a boy. He remained with his parents, giving them the benefit of his labors, until he was twenty-three years of age, when he was married and rented the homestead, his parents removing to Toulon. Subsequently he bought the place, which comprised eighty acres, and not long afterward purchased another eighty-acre tract. His long and thorough training in farm work as a boy well qualified him to follow agricultural pursuits independently and he seldom failed to receive a good income from his land. As time passed he increased his holdings and today owns eight hundred and forty acres in Goshen township. For many years he dealt extensively in cattle, hogs and horses, and he found stock raising a very profitable phase of farming. About 1900 he retired from the active work of the fields, and removed to Toulon, where he has a comfortable, modern home. He still supervises the operation of his farm and when the weather is suitable spends much of his time upon his land. He is one of the wealthy men of the county, and his record shows what may be accomplished by industry and good management, as he has made everything that he has himself.

Mr. Parish was married in 1854 to Miss Elizabeth Strayer, a native of Stephenson county, Illinois, who passed away, leaving a son, William H. He was born on the 16th of February, 1858, and is now a prosperous farmer of this county. Mr. Parish was married

a second time, Miss Celestia Ferris becoming his wife on the 4th of February, 1862. She was born in Canada in 1842, a daughter of Elijah and Lydia Ferris, who removed to Stark county in 1855 but subsequently went to Iowa, where both passed away. Mrs. Parish has become the mother of ten children, namely: Lillie May, who was born on the 14th of December, 1862, and died on the 17th of August, 1872; George F., who was born October 7, 1864, and died August 16, 1882; Bertha Ann, whose birth occurred on the 28th of September, 1866, and who married Otis Goodale, a resident of Chicago, and passed away on the 10th of March, 1893; Herman Everett, who was born on the 22d of August, 1868, and is living in California; Blanch Sophia, who was born on the 11th of August, 1873, and gave her hand in marriage to John Leech, a farmer of Goshen township; Lizzie Ethelyn, who was born on the 18th of September, 1877, and married William Nelson, of La Fayette, Illinois; Luey Maude, who is a twin of Lizzie, and gave her hand in marriage to George Wallace and is residing on her father's farm in Goshen township; Sarah Pearl, who was born on the 9th of November, 1878, and died in May, 1892; Jessie Lenora, who was born on the 16th of October, 1882, and died on the 10th of December, 1894; and Bessie Laurena, who is a twin of Jessie and is at home.

Mr. Parish supports the republican party at the polls but has never aspired to office. Throughout his life he has been a temperate man and has never used either alcoholic liquors or tobacco. He has witnessed practically the entire development of the county from a frontier region to its present prosperous condition and has many interesting recollections of the early days. About 1840 Toulon was but a tiny settlement, the only building being a log blacksmith shop, one residence and a log building in which a man named Abel kept a saloon. The first settlers of the county cut grain with a cradle and threshed it with a flail or tramped it out on frozen ground and the nearest mill was many miles distant at a place called Utica. Moreover, the smut was at times so bad in the wheat that the bread would be black. Frequently wheat was so scarce that they had to use corn for making bread, and instead of taking it to the mill to be ground they often crushed it in homemade mortars. The moldboard of the first plow owned by our subject's father was made of black walnut, which was at that time very plentiful throughout the county. For five seasons Mr. Parish of this review broke prairie with five yoke of oxen and a plow with a ribbed moldboard, that is, one made of iron rods instead of a solid piece of metal, this method of construction being better adapted to breaking the tough sod.

From boyhood until he retired at the age of sixty-eight years, he was actively connected with agricultural interests and he may well take pride in the part which he has played in the development of his township. The leisure which he has enjoyed for the past fifteen years is well deserved, and he is honored as one of the oldest residents and leading citizens of the county.

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### PETER TERNNIS.

Peter Ternnis, who for twelve years has been engaged in the buying and shipping of live stock at Bradford, is a self-made man who had a very limited capital when he came to this city but in the interim, through his close application, his energy, determination and persistency, has built up a business of substantial and gratifying proportions. He was born in Prussia, Germany, December 10, 1846, a son of John and Anna (Wegner) Ternnis, who spent their entire lives in the fatherland.

It was in that country during his boyhood days that Peter Ternnis acquired a good education and in 1867, when twenty years of age, he started for America, bidding adieu to friends and native country with the hope of finding better business conditions in the new world. For a year he resided on Long Island and then made his way into the interior of the country, settling in Marshall County, Illinois, where he resided from 1868 until 1894. During that period he lived upon a farm in La Prairie Township, concentrating his energies upon general agricultural pursuits, his labors resulting in the harvesting of good crops owing to the provident care with which he prepared and cultivated the fields. In the year mentioned, however, he removed to Milo Township, Bureau County, where in addition to general farming he carried on stock feeding quite extensively. Thirteen years ago he came to Bradford and a year later began buying and shipping live stock, in which business he is still engaged, handling a large amount of stock annually. He is still the owner of two hundred and ninety-five acres of land in Milo Township and also has one hundred and twenty acres in Marshall County beside a quarter section in Norman County, Minnesota. His property interests also include a fine home in Bradford. All this is the visible evidence of his life of well directed energy and thrift, for he came to the United States empty-handed and has worked his way upward through energy, perseverance and determination.

In 1872 Mr. Terns was united in marriage to Miss Katie Schmitt, who was born in Peoria County, Illinois, and they have become the parents of nine children: John, living at Coleman, South Dakota; Joseph, whose home is in Texas; Peter, living in Mayfield, Kansas; Maggie, the wife of Martin Stembly of Stark County; Julia, the wife of Jess Hopkins, living in Milo Township, Bureau County; Anna, who is a trained nurse located in Rock Island, Illinois; Lizzie, at home; Amanda, who is engaged in teaching school; and Clarence, at home.

Mr. Terns gives his political support to the democratic party, and for eight years he filled the office of village commissioner in Bradford, while for seven years he was assessor of Osceola Township, discharging his public duties with promptness and fidelity. Both he and his wife are communicants of St. John's Catholic Church, to the support of which they contribute generously. Mr. Terns has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he has found the opportunities which he sought—opportunities which are open to all ambitious and energetic young men. Step by step he has advanced financially, and his position is now a most gratifying one.

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### GEORGE W. SPRINGER.

George W. Springer is now living retired in Toulon but for years was one of the active, progressive and successful farmers of the county. He was born in this county May 3, 1845, a son of George Springer, a native of Ohio, who in that state married Christina Fantz, a native of Germany, who was reared, however, in Ohio. After his marriage Mr. Springer followed farming in the Buckeye state for several years, but in 1841 left his old home and drove across the country with a team to Stark county, also bringing with him a cow, which seemed in such a hurry to reach this county that she jumped off the ferry at Peoria and swam across the Illinois river, reaching the opposite bank before the ferry. Mr. Springer settled in Essex township, where he purchased some land, becoming owner of a raw tract of one hundred and sixty acres, but with characteristic energy he undertook the task of breaking the sod and tilling the fields. He split rails and fenced the entire place, brought his land under cultivation and erected thereon a good residence and substantial barns and outbuildings for the shelter of his stock. Upon that place he reared his family and spent his remaining days, his wife surviving him for ten years. He



was one of the original members of the United Brethren church, of which he served as a trustee. His life was ever upright and honorable, and he left to his family not only a comfortable competence but also the priceless heritage of an untarnished name. His son, George W. Springer, was the fourth in a family of six sons and a daughter, of whom one died in infancy, the others being Noah, now of Toulon; Michael, who in 1862 joined Company E of the One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry and was captured, his death occurring in Andersonville prison; Henry, who is now living retired in Princeville, Illinois; Elizabeth, the wife of James Estep, also of Princeville; and David, a farmer residing near Marshalltown, Iowa.

George W. Springer spent his youthful days in the usual manner of farm lads, early becoming familiar with the work of the fields, to which he devoted the summer months. He is largely a self-educated as well as a self-made man, for his opportunities of attending school were limited. He was married in Stark county, February 14, 1869, to Miss Sarah J. Eckley, who was born and reared in this county and is a daughter of Joseph Eckley, one of the pioneer settlers who came to this state from Ohio. Mr. Springer had up to that time remained upon his father's farm but following his marriage began farming on his own account in Peoria county, his father assisting him to purchase eighty acres of improved land upon which he lived for fourteen years. He made further improvements there, building a barn and otherwise adding to the value of the place. Subsequently he disposed of that property and invested in eighty-four acres of land in Essex township, Stark county, built a barn there and otherwise carried on the work of general improvement and development. He carefully tilled his fields, producing large crops, and his work was successfully carried on until 1905, when he rented the place and purchased a residence in Toulon, where he has since lived retired, enjoying a rest that he has truly earned and richly deserves.

While living upon the farm Mr. Springer lost his first wife, who passed away in 1902. Of the three children born of that marriage Charles died at the age of twenty-one years, and the youngest, Mary E., died at the age of seventeen months. The surviving daughter is Edith Jane, the wife of C. W. Sherman, of Peoria. Mr. Springer was married in Burlington Junction, Missouri, September 14, 1905, to Mrs. Barbara Barton, who was reared in this county, a daughter of John Barr, who after living in Stark county for some time removed to Nodaway county, Missouri, his home being near Burlington Junction. His daughter Barbara there became the wife of Nathan Barton, who followed farming in that locality.

In politics Mr. Springer is independent and for one term served as supervisor, while for a number of years he has been a member of the school board. Both he and his wife are members of the Baptist church, in which he is serving as a trustee. Diligence has characterized his career at every point. He has worked earnestly and persistently to win his success and he knows what hard labor means, but his efforts were crowned with prosperity and he is now the possessor of a handsome competence which he has justly earned and richly deserves. Those who know him entertain for him warm respect, and he has a large circle of friends in the county.

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### NELSON GRANT.

Among the native sons of Goshen township who served in the war of the Rebellion is Nelson Grant, who for years was an active and prosperous farmer of the township but is now living retired in La Fayette. His birth occurred November 18, 1841, his father being Nelson Grant, Sr., who was born in Cortland, Cortland county, New York, and was there reared to manhood. He married Polly Chatfield on the 12th of October, 1834, and she, too, was a native of New York, her birth having occurred in Broome county. In the year 1835 they removed westward to Illinois, casting in their lot with the pioneer settlers of Stark county at a period when the work of development and progress seemed scarcely begun. Only three years before the Black Hawk war had occurred, thus terminating Indian supremacy within the borders of Illinois. There were vast sections of land into which white men had not penetrated and much of the territory of Illinois was yet in possession of the government. The father pre-empted land in Goshen township, split rails, fenced his place, built a log cabin and occupied that primitive home for several years while developing his farm. Upon that place he reared his family and spent the years of his active life there. His widow survived him for a few years and made her home with her son Nelson.

It was upon the old homestead farm that Nelson Grant, Jr., spent the days of his boyhood and youth, while in the public schools he pursued his education. He was not quite twenty years of age when, in September, 1861, he enlisted for service as a soldier of the Civil war, joining Company B of the Thirty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which company was raised in Stark county and was commanded by Captain C. V. Dickinson. The regiment was mustered in at

Chicago and was sent south to Missouri. The first engagement in which they participated was Pea Ridge, Arkansas, and later they were in the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas. They also took part in the siege of Vicksburg until its surrender and in the Red River expedition. In 1863 Mr. Grant was sent home to recruit men for the regiment, which he afterward rejoined, and served with his command until the expiration of his term of enlistment, when he was honorably discharged and again came to Stark county.

For a few years thereafter he remained with his father on the farm and on the 10th of November, 1877, made arrangements for having a home of his own through his marriage to Miss Mary A. Howell, who was born near Rochester, New York. She was there reared and educated in Ingham University. The young couple began their domestic life upon a farm which Mr. Grant rented and which he cultivated for a few years, during which time they most carefully managed their expenditures, so that the most of their income was saved, which enabled them to purchase a farm in Knox county, Illinois. This, however, Mr. Grant rented, while he personally gave his supervision to the cultivation of the old home farm until the death of his father. A year later he removed to La Fayette, where he purchased a residence and has since lived retired. He has added to and remodeled his home and now has one of the attractive dwellings of the town.

In January, 1912, Mr. Grant was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife and his daughter, Ida May, a young lady of twenty years, who died within twenty-four hours of each other, and were laid to rest in the same grave in La Fayette cemetery. To Mr. and Mrs. Grant were born three daughters, of whom the eldest, Edna May, died at the age of twelve years. The surviving daughter, Ethel E., was a graduate of the La Fayette high school and pursued a business and stenographic course. She later occupied a business position in Chicago for eight years but returned home upon the death of her mother and sister and has since acted as her father's housekeeper, devoting her life to his happiness.

Politically Mr. Grant has been a life long republican, having cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. He has served as a delegate to numerous county and congressional conventions and has also been a member of the county central committee from Goshen township. He was elected township assessor and afterward was re-elected to the office, and later served for two terms as township collector. He has also been a member of the village board and is now serving as treasurer of La Fayette, discharging his duties with marked promptness, fidelity and ability. He holds membership with W. W.

Wright Post, G. A. R., of Toulon, thus maintaining pleasant relations with his old army comrades. He is likewise a member of the Masonic lodge at La Fayette and filled many of its chairs. His daughter Ethel is connected with the Eastern Star, in which she is now Worthy Matron. Mr. Grant has led a busy, useful and active life, honorable in all its relations and straightforward in its purposes, and in matters of citizenship he has been as true and loyal to the country as when he followed the old flag upon the battlefields of the south.

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### ROBERT L. McCLELLAN.

Robert L. McClellan is one of the popular citizens of Toulon, where he has many friends by whom he is familiarly called Bob. No one addresses another by a first name unless there is a spirit of comradeship and warm regard such as every one entertains for Mr. McClellan, who is recognized as a wide-awake business man of the city, where for the past ten years he has conducted a livery stable. His residence in Stark county dates from 1898. He is a native of Washington county, Virginia, born December 3, 1878.

His father, William McClellan, was also born and reared in that state and was a son of Samuel McClellan, likewise a native of Virginia and a representative of one of its old pioneer families. Samuel McClellan served as a soldier in the War of 1812 and also in the Civil war. William McClellan has devoted his life to farming and stock raising and still resides on the old family homestead. To him and his wife were born five children: Etta, the wife of Harvey Fuqua, of Richmond, Virginia; R. L., of Toulon; Georgia, the wife of Thomas Hutton, of Washington county, Virginia; Nannie, the wife of Buck McCloud, also of that county; and Walter.

In the place of his nativity R. L. McClellan was reared and educated, although his privileges of attending school were somewhat limited and his knowledge has largely been acquired since he has attained his majority. He came to this county when a young man of twenty years and here secured work as a farm hand by the month, being thus employed for six years. He afterward removed to Toulon and with the capital which he had saved from his earnings he embarked in the livery business. From the beginning he enjoyed success in that undertaking and after a time he built a large cement block barn and has excellent equipment for the conduct of his business. He also does some freighting and delivers coal. He



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT L. McCLELLAN AND FAMILY

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started out a poor young man, empty-handed but possessed of resolute courage and determination, and as the years have passed on he has built up a profitable and well established business. The public has come to know that in all of his dealings he is reliable as well as enterprising, and that in no business transaction does he ever attempt to take advantage of the necessities of another.

In Toulon on the 19th of October, 1909, Mr. McClellan was married to Miss Agnes L. Fell, who was reared and educated in this county and is a daughter of Robert Fell, one of the pioneer settlers of this part of the state. Mr. and Mrs. McClellan have two children, Dorothy Margaret and William Robert.

Mr. McClellan belongs to the Masonic lodge of Toulon and his wife is connected with the Eastern Star. They are both well known in this city, where they have an extensive circle of warm friends. Mr. McClellan is always courteous and obliging, possesses a genial nature and a social disposition, and his sterling qualities have gained for him the popularity which he enjoys.

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### FRANK COLGAN.

Frank Colgan, living on section 36, Osceola township, has become well known as a breeder of Durham cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs as well as full-blooded Percheron horses. He was born in Valley township, this county, May 22, 1869, a son of Bernard and Anne (Sloan) Colgan, who were natives of County Down, Ireland, but were married in this state. The father was a farmer by occupation and developed and improved a farm in Valley township, which he converted from raw prairie into richly cultivated fields. Both he and his wife are still living, their home being in Wyoming, Illinois.

Frank Colgan attended the district school in Valley township and remained at home until he reached the age of twenty-four years, becoming familiar with all of the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He then purchased a farm in Valley township, on the line of Marshall county, becoming the owner of one hundred and twenty acres, upon which he lived for eight years. He then sold that property and made an investment in one hundred and sixty acres of land in Wheatland township, Bureau county, which he owned and cultivated for five years, although he resided thereon for but four years. In the spring of 1907 he removed to his present farm on section 36, Osceola township, and has occupied it for nine years, during

which period he has added many modern improvements and equipments. He has three hundred and seventeen acres of very valuable land, the work of which is facilitated by modern machinery and farm implements. He produces excellent crops and in addition he has been extensively engaged in breeding Percheron horses. Five years ago he began to breed full-blooded Percherons and in the interim has owned some fine stock. He has also been the breeder of full-blooded Durham cattle, and for six years he has bred Duroc-Jersey hogs. He has likewise been an extensive feeder of stock, but at the present time is feeding only his own stock and using only the crops which he raises.

In 1894 Mr. Colgan was married to Miss Margaret A. Cartney, and they became the parents of seven children. The mother died four years ago, or in 1912, and was laid to rest in St. John's cemetery. Of the children Effie, Ellen, Fred, Francis, Jane and Anna are all yet at home, while one died in infancy.

Mr. Colgan is a communicant of St. John's Catholic church of Bradford, as was his wife, and he is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters. For ten years he served as school director, and he has usually given his political support to the democratic party. A self-made man, his advancement has been continuous since he started out for himself, for in early life he recognized the eternal principle that industry wins, and he has therefore worked earnestly and persistently to attain success. What he has undertaken he has accomplished, utilizing his time and opportunities to good advantage, and today an extensive and valuable farm, splendidly equipped, proves the worth of the methods which he has followed.

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### M. J. JACKSON.

M. J. Jackson is a representative of one of the old families of Stark county and the name has ever been synonymous of business enterprise and integrity through all the connection of the family with the agricultural development of this part of the state. It was upon the farm where he now resides that M. J. Jackson was born January 13, 1871, his parents being John H. and Abbie S. (Stewart) Jackson. The father was a native of Scotland, while the mother was born in Vermont and was of Scotch and German extraction. The son was reared upon the old homestead farm and after attending the district schools continued his education in the schools of Toulon, Illinois. He has spent his entire life upon the old homestead save for a period of



about four or five years and now owns one hundred and sixty acres of land which is well named the Maple Holm Farm. He carries on general agricultural pursuits and has also engaged quite largely in raising stock. His diligence, close application and energy are the salient features in his growing success, which has placed him among the substantial farmers of the community.

In January, 1911, Mr. Jackson was married to Miss Winnie Gardener, who was born in Osceola and, like her husband, is widely and favorably known in this part of the state. They are consistent members of the Presbyterian church and enjoy the warm regard of all with whom they have been brought in contact. In politics Mr. Jackson is a republican and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but does not seek nor desire public office. He bends his energies to the development of his farm and his practical and progressive methods are bringing substantial results.

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### GEORGE A. MARSH.

George A. Marsh, who is engaged in the furniture and undertaking business in Bradford and is one of the most successful of the younger business men of the town, was born there on the 7th of July, 1883, and he is a son of Harry A. and Carrie (Searl) Marsh. The father was born and reared in Maine, and in his youth learned the confectioner's trade. When about sixteen years of age he came west and for several years engaged in setting up portable sawmills, but in 1876 he came to Bradford, where he carried on the flour and feed business. Subsequently he added a line of home-made candies to his stock but at length sold his feed store and established a furniture store. He continued active in business until twenty-four hours before his death, which occurred in 1910, when he was sixty-three years of age. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and served as noble grand of his lodge. In religious faith he was a Methodist and took an active part in the work of the church. He gained a fair measure of financial success, all of which was due entirely to his own efforts. His wife was born in Stark county and was a daughter of Squire Wheeler Searl, who removed here from Pennsylvania at an early day. He was a farmer and also devoted considerable time to carpentering. She passed her entire life in this county and died when about fifty-five years of age. She was also a member of the Methodist Episcopal

church and was the mother of two sons: Wheeler Searl, who is head designer for the Green Duck Company of Chicago; and George A.

The latter was born in the building in which his store is now located and has always resided in Bradford. He received his education in the public schools, and while still a youth gained valuable training in mercantile methods through assisting his father in the conduct of his store. For four years in addition to helping his father he carried the mail over a rural route and in the evenings taught music, thus securing enough money to buy an interest in the store. At length he became sole owner of the establishment, and has since concentrated his energies upon its conduct and the development of its trade. He completed a course in embalming at Chicago and is also engaged in the undertaking business in addition to managing his furniture store, and has gained an enviable reputation for giving excellent and unobtrusive service.

Mr. Marsh was married on the 30th of September, 1908, to Miss Nellie Blaisdell, also a native of Bradford and a daughter of J. C. Blaisdell, now assistant editor of the *Henry Republican* of Henry, Illinois. Mrs. Marsh was reared and educated here and has many warm friends. Her religious faith is that of the Baptist church.

Mr. Marsh is an adherent of the republican party and is now serving for the second year as city clerk, in which capacity he has made an excellent record. He has also been quite active as a temperance worker, as he believes that the liquor evil is responsible for many of the bad conditions of the present day. He holds membership in the Methodist church and is also connected with the Masonic blue lodge, the Eastern Star and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is a past grand. He is progressive and far-sighted in the conduct of his business interests and is accorded a large and representative patronage. He is also very popular personally, his salient characteristics being such as never fail to win and retain respect.

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### CHARLES MYERS.

Charles Myers, although not one of the earliest of Stark county's pioneers, has yet been a resident of the county for more than sixty years, arriving here on the 10th of May, 1855. He was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, October 25, 1827, his parents being John and Sarah (Stark) Myers. From youth to manhood his principal employment was that of the farm and his education was acquired

through close application to his studies, pursued during the winter seasons in ungraded schools and in the Wyoming Seminary. His ancestors were of sturdy stock. His grandfather, Philip Myers, a soldier of Washington's army in the Revolutionary war, participated in the battles of Trenton and Princeton and endured the privations and sufferings at Valley Forge through the memorably severe winter of 1777. His grandmother, at the age of sixteen years, was in Fort Forty, near the field of battle, while the dreadful massacre of Wyoming was being carried on. This was on the 3d day of July, 1778, and she and her mother had a most narrow escape from death at the hands of the savages, whose tomabawk struck down many a settler of that region. In his early life Mr. Myers had frequent conversations with soldiers of the Revolutionary war, whose reminiscences and stories of battles and of their escapes from death were very interesting and instructive. He had the misfortune to lose one brother in the Mexican war in 1848 and another in the Civil war at the battle before Richmond, Virginia.

On the 29th of March, 1853, Mr. Myers was united in marriage to Miss Martha A. Pettebone, of Kingston, Pennsylvania, and to them were born four children: Clara M., the wife of Z. T. Brown; Jane E., who became the wife of William B. Reed; Charles Albert, who is in the automobile business with the Peoria Auto Company; and Edwin L., an electrical engineer now with the Willard Storage Battery Company.

Within the past eighty years Mr. Myers has observed many wonderful changes in everything that man utilizes as material factors in his life. In his early days science had not obtained control of electricity and there were therefore no telegraphs, telephones, electric lights nor electric vehicles. He learned to write at a night school, using a goose quill pen and home-made ink on foolscap paper, sitting by the light of a tallow candle which often burned his fingers when he was snuffing it. Changes of every kind have occurred.

In recounting some of the incidents of the early days, Mr. Myers says: "I took a trip in the spring of 1852, three years previous to settling here permanently, mostly for observation. My journey was made by railroad to Buffalo, by lake to Cleveland, by railroad to Cincinnati, by steamboat down the Ohio and up the Mississippi rivers to Muscatine and thence on horseback for several days over the prairies of Iowa. I had never before seen a prairie and could not help exclaiming, 'How grand! How glorious!' Those thousands plus thousands of acres of rich alluvial soil were waiting the coming of the farmer. Nobody wanted it even at seventy-five cents per acre, at

which price I bought a few hundred acres near Iowa City with government script. In returning I rode in a lumber wagon from the Mississippi to the Illinois river, took steamboat to La Salle and thence traveled by packet boat on the Illinois and Michigan canal into Chicago and by railroad to Pennsylvania. There was not a railroad anywhere west of Ohio that I could see or hear of except the Southern Michigan, extending eastward from Chicago. As to that wagon ride: I desired to go to Chicago by way of Wyoming, Illinois, and being at New Boston, I fortunately found John Atherton, who was living just south of Toulon and was going my way. His wife and daughter were with him, but they readily consented that I go with them. Mr. and Mrs. Atherton sat on straight-back, splint-seated chairs, while the daughter and I sat upon a board seat a few feet from them. We all enjoyed the ride, and I mention this to say that those same two chairs may now be seen among the relics of the long ago, deposited in the old log cabin that stands upon the courthouse grounds in Toulon. I found Chicago a city built in the mud. The surface was level and I was told that it was seven feet above the lake, but it didn't look so high. There were no paved streets except in the central part of the city, and these were made of planks just loose enough to spurt the liquid mud over everything that ran over them. The population was thirty-two thousand seven hundred and forty, being less than half that of Peoria at this time." In business life Mr. Myers has had varied experience. He taught school in Pennsylvania in 1848 and still has in his possession the teacher's certificate granted him at the time. After removing to Illinois in 1855 he also taught winter months in Toulon and in neighboring districts. It affords him great pleasure when he occasionally meets his old students and, in some cases, his students' children and grown up grandchildren. For twelve years Mr. Myers engaged in the nursery business near Toulon, raising fruit and ornamental trees. In 1871, when the Peoria & Rock Island Railroad was built, he began the grain business and on the 1st of August shipped out the first car load. He erected an elevator with a storage capacity of ten thousand bushels and for shipping five thousand bushels, which fully supplied requirements at that time. This business was conducted for fourteen years, after which Mr. Myers spent four years as an employe in the government internal revenue service at Peoria, in which city he resided for eighteen years. There he was engaged in the produce commission business and in other lines, and in 1903 he resumed his residence in Toulon.

Mrs. Myers died January 23, 1884, and on the 1st of July, 1886, Mr. Myers was married to Miss Iantha Brace, of Elmira, Illinois.

Financially Mr. Myers has never been burdened with wealth, neither has he been stricken with poverty. Politically he is a democrat. On the 6th day of November, 1848, twelve days after he became of legal age, he cast his first vote at a presidential election. He has voted seventeen times for president of the United States, which is one more than half the total number of those elections held since the formation of the government. Mr. Myers regards good health as the greatest of life's blessings. With temperate habits, good appetite, daily physical and mental exercise he has maintained his health and is now enjoying the passing days of his eighty-ninth year.

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### R. Y. LACKIE.

The student of history cannot carry his investigations far into the records of Stark county without learning of the close and prominent connection of the Lackie family with those activities and interests which have led to the development and upbuilding of this section of the state. For fifty years R. Y. Lackie has made his home here and there is no important chapter in the history of the county with which he is not familiar. It was on section 7, Osceola township, that Mr. Lackie was born on the 10th of May, 1866, his parents being John and Sarah (Fall) Lackie. The father was born in West Barnet, Vermont, and the mother's birth occurred in Marietta, Ohio. They were married, however, in this county and spent their remaining days on their farm on section 7, Osceola township, Mr. Lackie here passing away in 1894, while his wife died in 1904. He was a prominent and influential citizen of the community not only because of his successful activity as a farmer but also by reason of his public-spirited interest in the welfare of the district and state. That his fellow townsmen had the utmost confidence in his ability and in his devotion to the public good is shown by the fact that for twenty-five or thirty years he filled the office of county supervisor and for two terms he represented his district in the state legislature, having been elected to the office on the republican ticket. He was also a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, in which he attained high rank.

R. Y. Lackie obtained his education in the district schools near his father's home, in the public schools of Bradford and also in Geneseo, Illinois. He continued to assist his father in the cultivation of the home farm until the latter's death and then took over the business. He now owns one hundred and sixty acres on section 7, Osceola town-

ship, together with forty acres in Elmira township, all of which he operates. For some time he engaged in the breeding of thoroughbred cattle and is now raising graded stock. This branch of his business is proving important and profitable. He confines his attention closely to his business, and his unfaltering enterprise and unabating energy have been strong elements in his growing success.

In March, 1890, Mr. Lackie was married to Miss Anna P. Buswell, and to them were born two children, Harry M. and Charles Burton. The elder son is a graduate of the Bradford high school and of the Iowa State Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa, while Cornell College of Iowa conferred upon him the Master's degree. He is now successfully engaged in teaching animal husbandry in the Iowa State Agricultural College. The younger son is assisting his father on the farm.

Mr. Lackie gives his political allegiance to the republican party and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, but does not seek nor desire public office. His life has been pre-eminently that of an active business man, for he finds that the cultivation and management of his farm require all of his time and attention, and in the control of his agricultural interests he is meeting with substantial success.

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### MRS. MARY R. REDFIELD.

In a history of La Fayette it is imperative that mention be made of Mrs. Mary R. Redfield, who from her early childhood has here resided and is numbered among the prominent pioneer women of Stark county. She was brought to this county in her infancy, her birth having occurred in Cleveland, Ohio, May 10, 1836. Her father, John White, was a native of Massachusetts, in which state he was reared to manhood. He was married in Providence, Rhode Island, to Miss Amelia Manning, a native of Pennsylvania, and in the year 1824 they left New England, removing westward to Ohio. They took up their abode upon a farm near Cleveland and while there residing two of their children were born. In 1836 they came to Illinois, making their way direct to Stark county, at which time they settled on a tract of land adjacent to the present town site of La Fayette. Mr. White built thereon a little log house, in which the family lived for a number of years, meeting all of the experiences, hardships and privations of pioneer life. There were also many pleasures to be enjoyed, for at



MRS. MARY R. REDFIELD

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that time there was a spirit of friendliness and helpfulness which is perhaps not as prevalent at the present time. Mr. White was the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land, which he developed and improved, and he also bought and owned other tracts, making judicious investments as his financial resources increased. He reared his children upon the home place and there spent his last days, passing away at the age of fifty-three years. His wife survived him for several years.

Mrs. Redfield was reared in La Fayette and is indebted to the public school system for her educational opportunities. In early life she took up the profession of teaching, which she followed for two terms, but her hand was sought in marriage by Benjamin F. Smith, and in 1855 she became his wife. For a number of years he carried on farming in Stark county, devoting his energies to general agricultural pursuits until 1865. Although in poor health, he was drafted into the army and sent to the east, but because of his physical condition was sent to the hospital in Philadelphia, where he died on the 22d of June of that year. He left four children: Frank, a railroad man now residing in St. Joseph, Missouri; Amelia, who died in 1910; Carrie May, the wife of Timothy Bailey, living in the state of Washington; and Jessie, the wife of John Tielow, a farmer of Goshen township.

On the 12th of September, 1867, Mrs. Smith became the wife of Gilbert Redfield, in La Fayette, and they established their home upon a farm near the town, Mr. Redfield being there engaged in the cultivation of the soil for several years. At length they lost their residence by fire, at which time they established their home in the village and Mr. Redfield afterward lived retired until his death, which occurred in 1905. He reached the very advanced age of eighty years and was one of the venerable citizens of the community, honored and respected by all who knew him.

To Mr. and Mrs. Redfield were born a son and daughter: Arthur, who is now an undertaker and funeral director of Spencer, Iowa; and Mary A., the wife of E. F. Jones, who is one of the public officials of the state of Washington and has an office in the capitol at Olympia.

Mrs. Redfield is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps and of the Universalist church and is identified with its various auxiliary societies. She is today one of the oldest residents of Goshen township and Stark county in years of continuous connection therewith. More than three-quarters of a century have passed since she was brought to this county and she is therefore familiar with almost its

entire history. She is still quite active and her hearing and eyesight are but slightly impaired. She possesses a very retentive memory and relates many interesting incidents of the early days when Stark county was a pioneer district, in which the work of settlement and improvement was thus being commenced. She has witnessed the many changes that have occurred as pioneer homes have been replaced by modern residences, as candles have given way to kerosene lamps, and these in turn to the gas and electric light. She has seen the building of railroads, the introduction of the telegraph and telephone throughout the state, and her long residence in this county has made her familiar with almost every point of its history.

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### JAMES HOLGATE.

James Holgate resided in Stark county from 1833 until his death in 1886 and became one of the leading farmers of Penn township. Through untiring industry and the practice of thrift he gained financial independence and passed his last years in Wyoming. He served for a considerable period as county judge and also represented his district in the legislature. His birth occurred in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the 26th of July, 1804, and he was a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Sheets) Holgate. His paternal grandfather was a native of England and established the family in the United States.

On reaching manhood James Holgate removed to Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, where he learned the miller's trade, but subsequently he turned his attention to the manufacture of woolen goods and still later, in 1829, established a store at Kingston, Pennsylvania. In 1833 he disposed of that business and removed westward to Stark county, Illinois, purchasing eighty acres three miles northeast of Wyoming, in Penn township. He at once began the improvement of his place and brought it to a high state of cultivation. He found farming profitable and as his resources increased invested in additional land, becoming in time the owner of five hundred and forty acres. He owed his success solely to his hard work and careful management and was very thorough and painstaking in all that he did. In 1875 he removed to Wyoming, where he resided until his death in 1886. He was chosen the first county judge and held that office for eight years, making a record of efficient and conscientious service in that capacity. He was also justice of the peace for some time, represented his district in the state legislature and was elected to other offices of trust. He dis-

charged his duties with such scrupulous regard for the public welfare that there was never the slightest doubt of his integrity.

Mr. Holgate was married in April, 1827, to Miss Sylvia Trux, of Troy, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, who passed away on the farm in Stark county in November, 1872. To them were born twelve children, namely: Jacob, who died in Oregon; Maria, who married John Snare and died in this county; George, who died in infancy; Elizabeth, the deceased wife of William P. Buswell; Erastus, who died in Oregon; Charles, a resident of Manhattan, Montana; Mary Ann, who married Calvin Hart and resides in Nebraska; Harriet, the deceased wife of E. Gharett; J. R., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; William, an account of whose life is given on another page of this work; Martha, who died in girlhood; and Reuben, deceased.

Mr. Holgate was a lifelong democrat and did everything in his power to promote the success of that party at the polls. At one time he belonged to the Methodist church, of which his wife was a member from girlhood until her death. They were among the early settlers of the county and their many sterling qualities gained them the sincere respect of all who knew them, while those who were closely associated with them held them in warm personal regard.

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### JOHN WESLEY RIST.

John Wesley Rist, who owns ten acres adjoining Toulon, gives some time to the cultivation of his land but devotes the greater part of his attention to weaving rugs and carpets and to the operation of his cleaning plant. He was born in Connellsville, Pennsylvania, on the 18th of October, 1853, a son of Martin and Elizabeth (Myers) Rist, both natives of Pennsylvania. In 1857 or 1858 the family removed to Stark county, Illinois, and located in Toulon township, where the father purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land. In a comparatively short time he had brought his place under cultivation and as the years passed he continued to improve it. He also purchased other land, and at the time of his death owned three hundred and sixty acres. His first wife, the mother of our subject, died many years ago, and he afterward married Mrs. Elizabeth Morris, who also preceeded him in death. He passed away in Toulon in 1909. He gave his political allegiance to the republican party for some time but later became identified with the prohibition party. He

never used liquor or tobacco in any form, and all of his sons have followed his excellent example. His religious faith, which was that of the Methodist church, guided his life, and he was one of the most influential members of the local church. Three sons and a daughter were born to his first marriage, and a daughter and a son to his second, namely: John Wesley; Ervin, who died in childhood; Franklin, who is a Methodist minister and is located in Kansas; Sarah Ann, the wife of Joseph Chase, of Toulon; Onetta, who married Mardo Leitch and resides in Iowa; and Benjamin, who is a Methodist minister stationed near Chicago, Illinois.

John W. Rist was reared upon the home farm and followed agricultural pursuits for a number of years although he never found farming very congenial. For five years he resided in Spring Hill, Warren county, Iowa, and subsequently returned to Stark county and operated the homestead for some time. In 1904 he purchased ten acres adjoining Toulon, where he has since lived. He does a little farming but devotes the greater part of his time to other pursuits. He is an expert weaver of rugs and carpets and has no difficulty in finding a sale for his work. He also has a plant for cleaning rugs and carpets and as he is much interested in mechanics and industrial processes of various kinds he finds this phase of his activity very congenial. Everything that he does is well done, and his work yields him a good income.

Mr. Rist was married in 1879 to Miss Alice M. Goodale, a native of this county and a daughter of Gustavus Goodale, an early settler here. To this union have been born eight children, namely: Charles, a farmer of Toulon township, who married a Miss Massie, by whom he has three children; Winfred James, a resident of Burt, Iowa, who married Miss Emma Winans, by whom he has two children; Martin G., a farmer of Alberta, Canada, who married Miss Lillian Claybaugh and had four children, but two died in infancy; Avery M., of Carthage, South Dakota, who wedded Miss Gertrude Jones, by whom he has two children; Elsie, the wife of Harley Rhodes, a farmer of Goshen township, by whom she has two children; Clara, who married Walter Knapp, of Toulon township, by whom she has four children; Frank, a resident of Galva, who married Miss Ada Greenwood, by whom he has four children; and Gelila, at home.

Mr. Rist is a supporter of the prohibition party as he is firmly convinced that many of the problems of the day have their origin in the liquor traffic. He is also much opposed to the use of tobacco, believing it injurious to health. He and his family are all members of the Methodist church, and he is serving on the official board. His

influence is always on the side of reform and righteousness, and there has never been the slightest question as to his integrity. He is well known and highly esteemed.

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### SAMUEL L. HANKS.

Samuel L. Hanks, one of the active and progressive men of Stark county, is engaged in the hardware and implement business at La Fayette, where for sixteen years he has conducted his store. There have been no spectacular phases in his career but the persistent purpose with which he has managed his interests and the sound judgment which he displays in the control of his agricultural affairs have brought him a gratifying measure of success. Numbered among Illinois' native sons, he was born in Albany, Whiteside county, July 16, 1864. His father, Samuel S. Hanks, was born in Kentucky and was a son of Thomas Hanks, also a native of that state and a brother of Nancy Hanks, who became the mother of Abraham Lincoln.

Samuel S. Hanks was reared in Kentucky and when a young man removed to Illinois, establishing his home in Whiteside county. He later followed boating on the Mississippi river and became a pilot, devoting many years to that life and being a well-known figure in connection with the navigation interests of the upper Mississippi. He was married in Henry county to Miss Hannah Stagg, a native of Ohio, who came to Illinois when a maiden of ten summers. Following his marriage Mr. Hanks continued to act as a pilot on the Mississippi during his active life but is now living retired in Princeton, Iowa, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves.

Samuel L. Hanks was reared in Scott county, Iowa, from the age of three years and was educated in the Princeton schools. When a young man he went upon the river with his father and there learned the business of piloting. To that work he devoted eighteen years, continuing active in that field of labor until he reached the age of thirty-four. The year 1900 witnessed his arrival in La Fayette, at which time he purchased a half interest in a hardware store and thus became identified with the business interests of the town. Success attended him in this venture, and in 1903 he became sole proprietor of the business by the purchase of his partner's interest. He carries a large and well selected line of shelf and heavy hardware and farm implements, building up a good trade, his patronage increasing year by year. He has ever recognized the fact that satisfied patrons are the

best advertisement, and he has always made it his aim and purpose to please his customers in the line of goods carried and in the reasonable prices offered. He was also one of the promoters of the La Fayette State Bank and is a stockholder of the La Fayette Fair Association, which he aided in organizing. He is likewise connected with the La Fayette Hotel Company, which erected an eight thousand dollar hotel in the town. In business affairs he displays keen discrimination and readily discriminates between the essential and the non-essential.

Mr. Hanks was married in Princeton, Iowa, October 26, 1898, to Miss Anna Schmalz, who was born and reared in that city, and by her marriage has become the mother of two children: Luian, who died in infancy; and Elinor Collette, who died in her second year.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanks are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he is serving on its board of trustees. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at La Fayette, of which he is the treasurer, and he and his wife are identified with the Eastern Star. He is likewise connected with La Fayette Lodge, I. O. O. F., in which he has filled all of the chairs and is now a past grand, while in the Grand Lodge of the state he has twice represented the local organization. He and his wife are identified with the Rebekah degree. Their influence is always a feature in public progress and improvement in the community in which they live. Mr. Hanks has served for three terms as a member of the village board, and his active support of every movement and plan for the general good has been of great benefit to the town. He possesses many sterling traits of character, including progressiveness and reliability in business, fidelity in citizenship and loyalty in friendship.

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## JOHN H. STURM.

John H. Sturm is numbered among the honored veterans of the Civil war who are now residing in Stark county and throughout the period of his connection with the Union army he made a most creditable military record in defense of the stars and stripes. He is now living in Bradford and is one of the native sons of Osceola township, his birth having occurred August 24, 1841. His parents were Samuel and Elizabeth (Phenix) Sturm. His paternal grandfather was Mathias Sturm, who was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, and in his boyhood removed to Kentucky and afterward to Ohio, where he remained until 1832, when he became a resident of Peoria county,

Illinois. It was in that year that the Black Hawk war was waging, determining the right of the white man to the land comprised within the borders of this fair state, but there were still many evidences of Indian occupancy throughout Illinois when in 1833 Mathias Sturm came to Stark county. He located in that section now comprised within Osceola township, becoming one of the first settlers of this district.

Samuel Sturm, the father of John H., was born in Shelby county, Ohio, and accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois. He was married in Stark county, October 4, 1838, to Elizabeth Phenix, a native of Luzerne county, Pennsylvania. Following their marriage they went with two other young couples to Peoria county to attend a camp meeting and all were converted, confessing their faith in Christianity. Mr. and Mrs. Sturm lived together for sixty years, their lives characterized by strict adherence to Christian principles. They settled on land in Osceola township and from the raw prairie he developed rich and productive fields, continuing to engage in active farming almost to the time of his death, which occurred when he was eighty-four years of age. His widow passed away at the age of eighty-eight, both dying in Bradford. Mr. Sturm served as school trustee and was greatly interested in the educational development of the county.

John H. Sturm attended the common schools near his father's home and worked upon the farm through the summer months, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. But with the outbreak of the Civil war he abandoned the plow in order to shoulder the musket and went to the front as a defender of the Union, having enlisted on the 12th of August, 1862, as a member of Company B, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He served with that command until honorably discharged in Chicago on the 20th of June, 1865, and took part in many hotly contested engagements. During the battle of Franklin, Tennessee, he participated with his command in the four charges which were made by the Union troops and in that battle there was also much hand to hand fighting.

When the war was over and the country no longer needed his aid Mr. Sturm returned to Stark County and assisted in building the railroad through this part of the state. In 1869 he removed to Oakdale, Shelby county, Missouri, where he began farming, and he is still the owner of his place of eighty acres there, upon which he lived for thirty-two years. At the end of that time he returned to Bradford, where he now makes his home, having a good residence in the town.

On the 28th of March, 1869, Mr. Sturm married Miss Lucy A. Libby, and they have two sons: Oliver Perry, who is engaged in the real estate and life insurance business at Tulsa, Oklahoma; and George Wesley, a wholesale and retail merchant of Billings, Montana. Both of the sons have been very successful in business and are now well-to-do.

In politics Mr. Sturm follows an independent course, save where national issues are involved, when he votes with the democratic party. He has frequently been solicited to become a candidate for public office but has always refused. He has been a lifelong member of the Methodist church, to which his wife also belonged to the time of her death, which occurred five years ago. On the 20th of June, 1867, he took the Master Mason's degree and became a charter member of Bradford Lodge. He also is identified with the Royal Arch chapter at Wyoming, and he and his wife became members of the Order of the Eastern Star. He maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades through his membership in the Grand Army post at Bradford and proudly wears the little bronze button that proclaims him to have been one of the defenders of the Union during the darkest hour in our country's history.

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### WILLIAM R. SANDHAM.

William R. Sandham, son of James and Sarah (Connelly) Sandham, was born in Northumberland county, Ontario, Canada, September 23, 1842. His father was born near Preston, England, and his mother at Loughrea, Ireland. The father died in 1847. In 1851 the mother and two children, William R. and John, moved to Herkimer county, New York. The sons were educated in the common schools of New York and at Fairfield Seminary, one of the leading educational institutions in that state, located at Fairfield, Herkimer county.

William R. Sandham taught school several terms in Herkimer county. He came to Illinois in March, 1866, and located in Henry county, where he was a teacher for four years. He came to Stark county in September, 1871, to take charge of the Bradford schools. In August, 1873, he applied for and received a state certificate which is good for life and entitles him to teach in any school district in the state of Illinois. In September, 1873, he assumed charge of the South Side school in Wyoming, which position he held until the end





MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM R. SANDHAM

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of the school year 1879. During the last named year he purchased the Wyoming Post and later he bought the Wyoming Herald. The two papers were united and called the Wyoming Post-Herald.

In September, 1882, Mr. Sandham was elected county superintendent of schools of Stark county and was reelected in 1886, 1889 and 1894, serving the people in that office from December 4, 1882, to December 4, 1898. By appointment of the board of supervisors he held the same office from December 1, 1891, to December 1, 1902. In recognition of his practical knowledge of school affairs he was appointed in the year 1885 by Governor Richard J. Oglesby a member of the state board of education, which position he held until March, 1893. He was reappointed in 1897 by Governor John R. Tanner and held the position until August, 1913.

Mr. Sandham was one of the organizers of the State Historical Society in 1899 and is still a member of that society. He has written numerous Illinois historical sketches for the Wyoming Post-Herald and a somewhat lengthy appreciation for the Illinois Historical Journal of the Hon. James H. Miller, of Stark county, who at the time of his death was speaker of the Illinois house of representatives and by whose efforts the Illinois Historical Library was established at Springfield.

After retiring from school work, Mr. Sandham was for six years assessor of the township of Toulon, one of the richest townships in central Illinois. He is a member of Wyoming Lodge, No. 479, A. F. & A. M., and was its secretary for six years. He was one of the principal workers in the establishment of the Wyoming public library and was the first president of the library board. He has also been secretary of the Stark County Telephone Company since 1905.

Mr. Sandham was married at Atkinson, Illinois, July 16, 1871, to Miss Rhoda S. Tuttle, who was born in Naugatuck, New Haven county, Connecticut, January 17, 1849. They have had one child, Arthur, who was born December 13, 1874, and died May 15, 1883. On her father's side Mrs. Sandham traces her ancestry back to William Tuttle, one of the first English settlers in Connecticut, who at one time owned a part of what later became the grounds of Yale University in New Haven. On her mother's side she traces her ancestry to Andrew Sanford, who came to Connecticut from England in 1636. She is eligible on both sides for membership in the society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was one of the organizers of the Tuesday Club in Wyoming and was its president for six years.

In 1861 Mr. Sandham's mother married Joseph Schlosser, who

in response to President Lincoln's call for volunteers to aid in putting down the rebellion, enlisted in the Fourteenth New York Heavy Artillery and was killed at the battle of Weldon Railroad. Mrs. Schlosser was a United States pensioner until the time of her death at Annawan, Illinois, January 31, 1901. Mr. Sandham's brother John lives in Harlan, Iowa. He has two sons: Josiah Dow, of Omaha, Nebraska; and Ralph R., of Harlan, Iowa. His only sister, Mrs. Margaret McCartney, died in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in January, 1913.

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### HYMEN DE WOLF.

Hymen De Wolf is now living a retired life in La Fayette but for a long period was actively engaged in general agricultural pursuits in West Jersey township, where he still owns a farm of one hundred and forty acres, from which he derives a substantial annual income. He followed the most practical and progressive methods of farming when living upon that place and the result of his labors was seen in the large crops which he annually gathered.

Stark county numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in West Jersey township, March 5, 1855. His father, Joseph De Wolf, was born in Canada and was there reared to adult age. Making his way to the United States he settled at once in Stark county, Illinois, and was here married on the 6th of April, 1841, to Miss Mary Ann Gibbs, a native of New Jersey and a daughter of Joseph Gibbs, who at an early day removed from New Jersey to Illinois and established a home in Stark county. In the early days of his residence here Joseph De Wolf purchased a small tract of land, split rails and fenced his farm. He also built a good house upon his place and carried on the work of development and improvement. However, he had worked as a farm hand by the month for several years before he was married. He led an active, busy and useful life, was careful and conservative in the management of his property and was industrious and energetic in carrying on the labors of the fields. Upon his farm he reared his family and spent his remaining days, there passing away at the age of sixty-four years, six months and nineteen days, his death occurring on the 3d of January, 1881. His wife survived him for a brief period, her death occurring January 19, 1884, when she had reached the age of sixty-two years, four months and fifteen days.

Hymen De Wolf was reared on the old homestead and assisted his father on the farm until he attained his majority, thus becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. On the 9th of February, 1876, he married Miss Arminda Kennedy, who was born in Knox county, Illinois, but was reared and educated in Stark County. Her father, George Kennedy, was a native of Tennessee, where he was reared, coming when a young man to Illinois. He cast in his lot with the pioneer settlers of Knox county and afterward removed to Bates county, Missouri, where he spent his remaining days upon a farm, his death occurring in 1884. His widow survived him for a number of years and returned to Illinois, making her home with her daughter, Mrs. De Wolf, for twenty-one years. She died on the home farm of the De Wolfs in 1907.

For two years after his marriage Hymen De Wolf lived upon his father's place and then rented another farm across the road, devoting his attention to the cultivation of both tracts of land until his father's death. Later he rented and cultivated the old homestead for several years and afterward purchased the farm. He also bought land adjoining and he now owns one hundred and forty acres, which he brought to a high state of cultivation. Most of it was covered with timber but he cleared away the trees, planted crops and made the farm a most productive one. He erected a good residence, also built good barns and sheds for the shelter of grain and stock, and divided his land into fields of convenient size by well kept fences. In fact he added all modern equipments and accessories to the place, including the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields.

In 1912 Mr. De Wolf removed to La Fayette, where he purchased a good residence and is now living practically retired. He was one of the promoters of the La Fayette Fair Association, of which he is still a stockholder, and he has been actively and helpfully interested in many movements which have resulted beneficially to the community. Mr. and Mrs. De Wolf are now alone. They have had but two children and both sons are married. Llewellyn, the elder, owns and operates a farm in West Jersey township, and to him and his wife have been born two children. Ray, the younger son, is farming the old homestead. He is married and has a son and daughter.

In his political views Mr. De Wolf is a democrat but has never been an aspirant for public office. His wife belongs to the Christian church. Throughout his entire life Hymen De Wolf has lived in this part of the state and has therefore witnessed the greater part of the growth and development of Stark county. He has seen the establishment of many of its leading industries, the growth of its towns and

the development of its farming district until Illinois claims no richer or more valuable land than the farms of Stark county. His own business affairs have been wisely and carefully managed, and his labors have brought him the substantial measure of success which is today his. He has a wide acquaintance in the county and wherever he is known he is spoken of in terms of warm regard.

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#### J. C. FLEMING.

J. C. Fleming, who carries on general farming on section 33, Elmira township, was born a half mile north of his present home on the 12th of February, 1858, his parents being Samuel C. and Rebecca (Bousell) Fleming, both of whom were natives of Clearfield county, Pennsylvania, where they were reared and married. They afterward removed to Illinois and the father purchased what became known as the old Fleming homestead, then a tract of raw land upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made. He had the land broken in 1865 and the work of developing the farm was begun. He was a carpenter by trade but lived upon the home farm up to the time of his retirement from active business, when he removed to Toulon, where his remaining days were passed. He died in 1907, at which time he lacked only six days of being ninety-five years of age. He had long survived his wife, who passed away upon the farm in 1867.

J. C. Fleming was educated in the common schools, which he attended through the winter seasons, while the summer months were devoted to work upon the home farm. After attaining his majority he was employed as a farm hand through the neighborhood up to the time of his marriage, which occurred when he was twenty-seven years of age. He then leased the farm from his father and cultivated it for five years, at the end of which time he purchased one hundred and six acres of the old home property and thereon has since given his attention to general agricultural pursuits, bringing his fields under a high state of cultivation and adding many modern improvements to the property.

In 1885 Mr. Fleming was united in marriage to Miss Annie J. Moffit and they became the parents of six children, namely: Esther, at home; Rebecca Jane, who is a school teacher; Emma, who is engaged in teaching music; Elsie, a student in Monmouth College; and Mary and Robert R., both at home.

In his political views Mr. Fleming has always been a democrat

and for two years he filled the office of tax collector. He belongs to the Masonic lodge at Toulon and the Modern Woodmen camp at Elmira and he and his family are members of the United Presbyterian church, in the work of which they are much interested, contributing generously to its support and taking a helpful part in promoting the growth and extending the influence of the church. Mr. Fleming has spent his entire life in this county and therefore through fifty-eight years has been a witness of its growth and development, so that there is little of concern in connection with its history with which he is not familiar. He has always been regarded as one of its substantial citizens, his worth being widely acknowledged by friends and neighbors.

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### D. HARRY WHISKER.

That Stark county offers excellent advantages to its citizens is indicated by the fact that many of its native sons have remained within its borders, never feeling the necessity of seeking opportunity elsewhere. Such is the record of D. Harry Whisker, whose home is on section 7, Osceola township. It was upon the farm where he now resides that he was born on the 31st of July, 1888, a son of Daniel Richardson Whisker, also a native of this county, and a grandson of Daniel Richardson Whisker, Sr., who was the first progenitor of the family in Stark county, arriving here in pioneer times. The father followed farming throughout the entire period of his active business career but is now living retired at No. 733 Morton avenue in Kewanee, Illinois. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Isabelle Brock, died four years ago.

D. Harry Whisker attended the public schools of this county and has spent his entire life here save one year which he passed in Minnesota. He was reared to the occupation of farming, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He worked in the fields through the summer months and attended school in the winter seasons and since his textbooks have been put aside he has concentrated his entire attention upon his farming interests. He now operates one hundred and eighty acres of rich and productive land and he has a well equipped farm supplied with all the latest improved machinery and farm implements, including a tractor. He is making a specialty of the feeding of hogs.

On the 11th of September, 1909, Mr. Whisker was married to

Miss Lillian Swearingen, a daughter of Thomas Swearingen and a native of Bureau county, Illinois. They have become parents of four children: James Earl, Ina Octavia and Helen Lorain, all at home; and Dorothy, who has passed away.

Mr. Whisker exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party. He does not seek nor desire office but concentrates his efforts upon his business affairs and is a progressive and enterprising young farmer who is meeting with excellent and well deserved success in his undertakings.

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### THOMAS HALL.

Among the highly esteemed residents of Bradford is Thomas Hall, a retired farmer, who was born in Derbyshire, England, on the 27th of September, 1840. His parents, John and Elizabeth (Smedley) Hall, were also natives of that county and were there reared and married. The father was in the employ of a gentleman of that locality for some time but in June, 1856, emigrated with his family to the United States. He at once made his way to Stark County, Illinois, where he had a brother and sister living. He rented a farm near Bradford and subsequently purchased eighty acres of land, to which he added from time to time until he owned two hundred and forty acres. He passed away when eighty-one years old but his wife died in the year that they emigrated to this country at the early age of forty years. They were the parents of seven children: John, who died in Missouri; Thomas; Isaac, who passed away in Bradford; Mary, the wife of Henry Grife, a resident of Iowa; Elizabeth, who married William Warwick and is living in Nebraska; Charlotte, the wife of Frank Brock, also a resident of Nebraska; and Martha, who gave her hand in marriage to John Camey, a resident of Colorado.

Thomas Hall remained in his native land until he was sixteen years of age, when he accompanied his parents to the United States. Following his mother's death the home was broken up and he began working for Josiah Deyo of Stark county, in whose employ he remained for four years. At the end of that time he purchased a team and rented eighty acres of land, which he cultivated until he was able to buy an eighty acre tract, paying therefor one thousand dollars. He had to borrow some of the money, but his industry and good management soon enabled him to pay off that debt and as the years passed his resources increased. He continued to invest in land and



at length acquired title to nine hundred acres in Stark and Marshall counties. He was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1906, when he rented his farms to his sons and removed to Bradford, where he has since lived retired. His investments return him a handsome income, and he is enjoying a period of leisure which is well deserved.

On the 5th of April, 1877, Mr. Hall was united in marriage to Miss Rosie M. Wilson, who was born in New York on the 22nd of September, 1854, but was brought to Stark county when nine months old by her father. Her mother passed away when she was but six weeks old. Mr. and Mrs. Hall have become the parents of five children: Nettie Elizabeth, who died when a young woman of twenty-five years; Richard T., who is farming land belonging to his father in this county; George H., who is operating his father's farm in Marshall county; and Albert R. and Frank C., both of whom are farming land belonging to their father in this county.

Mr. Hall is a staunch republican in politics and has served with credit as school director and has also held other minor offices. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is also a trustee, and they seek to extend its influence in every way possible. Their lives are guided by high principles and Mr. Hall is recognized as a man of great personal worth and as a public-spirited citizen as well as an efficient and progressive agriculturist.

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#### A. OLIVER TURNBULL.

A. Oliver Turnbull, a resident farmer of Elmira township, living on section 31, was born in Bureau county, Illinois, April 29, 1861, a son of John H. and Mary (Armstrong) Turnbull, both of whom were natives of Scotland, where they were reared. The former was a son of William Turnbull and with his father crossed the Atlantic to the new world in early life, the family home being established in Stark County, Illinois. When John H. Turnbull started out in life on his own account he removed to Bureau county but afterward returned to Stark county, where he passed away on the 8th of May, 1915. His wife died about eight years ago. They had long been well known farming people of this section of the state and their genuine personal worth endeared them to all with whom they came in contact.

A. Oliver Turnbull was for two years a pupil in the schools of Bureau County and continued his education in the common schools

of Stark county. He received ample training in farm work upon the old homestead, upon which he resided until about fourteen years ago, when he purchased his present farm, situated on section 31, Elmira township. This is an excellent tract of land of two hundred and thirty-four acres upon which he has placed good improvements, and he always keeps barns, buildings and fences in a state of good repair. He both raises and feeds stock quite extensively, making a specialty of hogs, and at the present time he has upon his place two hundred and forty-five young pigs for the spring market. His business affairs are systematically and wisely managed and he has met with a gratifying measure of success in his undertakings.

In 1893 Mr. Turnbull was united in marriage to Miss Mary McHoffey, who was born in Henry county, Illinois, and they have two children, Susie and Raymond, the latter assisting in the work of the farm. The parents are members of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Turnbull belongs also to the Masonic lodge at Toulon. In politics he has followed in his father's footsteps and is a stalwart republican. He has served as road boss but has never sought or desired other office. His time is fully occupied with the labors and duties of the farm and as the result of his careful management and close application his place has become one of the attractive farm properties of the neighborhood.

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### GEORGE ARMSTRONG.

George Armstrong, a representative of farming interests in Elmira township, living on section 32, was born in Roxburghshire, Scotland,—the land of the crag and glen, of mountain peak and mountain lake, of lowland heath and plain, of liberty, poetry and song, of religious and educational zeal, the home of Wallace and Bruce, of Scott and Burns, and the ancestral home of many of America's brightest, best and most distinguished men. George Armstrong continued his residence in that country to the age of seven years and was then brought to the United States, the family arriving in Kewanee, Illinois, June 4, 1855.

His parents were James and Sibella (Elliot) Armstrong, also natives of Scotland, and on coming to the United States the father secured a tract of land on section 32, Elmira township. It was then raw prairie covered with the native grasses, but with characteristic energy he began to break the sod and cultivate the fields, continuing

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his residence upon that place until his death, which occurred in 1876. He was interested in the welfare and progress of the district and held some local offices. His wife passed away in 1880. They had a family of eight children, as follows: Elizabeth, Abel, Adam, Jane and Robert, all of whom are deceased; John, who is a resident of Henry county, Illinois; James, who has passed away; and George, of this review.

The last named began his education in the schools of Scotland and continued his studies in the district schools near his father's home. He was early trained to the work of the fields and when his father passed away, in 1876, George Armstrong, in connection with his two brothers, Adam and Robert, took up the task which their father had laid down and he has since carried on general agricultural pursuits. He has won notable success, becoming one of the foremost agriculturists of his part of the state. From time to time he has added to his holdings until he is now the owner of eleven hundred and fifty acres and his place is without doubt the best improved farm of Elmira township, and probably of the county. He has always engaged in cultivating the crops best adapted to soil and climatic conditions here and has engaged quite extensively in feeding stock. The value of his judgment in business affairs has been recognized by his fellow citizens, who have sought his cooperation in other lines, and he is now vice president of the First National Bank of Kewanee and was one of the charter members of the Union National Bank, now the Union State Trust Bank of Kewanee, in which he is still interested.

On the 14th of October, 1884, Mr. Armstrong wedded Miss Mary T. Murray, a native of Scotland and a daughter of Dr. William Murray. It was when upon a visit to his native land that Mr. Armstrong formed her acquaintance and they were married there. They have a family of five children: Sibella Agnes, the wife of James E. Jackson, of Elmira township; James M., Robert E., and William M., all at home; and Victor, a student in Knox College of Galesburg.

Mr. Armstrong has long been a stalwart champion of the republican party and has also stood for prohibition, being ever an advocate of the cause of temperance. At the present time he is president of the County Prohibition League and he does everything in his power to hasten the day when the manufacture and sale of intoxicants will be abolished. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and the high principles which govern his conduct have made him a man honored and respected wherever known, and most of all where he is best known. His is a notably successful career, but more than that,

it has been notably honorable, for he has never taken advantage of the necessities of his fellowmen in business affairs, his prosperity being won through indefatigable effort, careful management and judicious investment.

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### THEODORE BACMEISTER, M. D.

In the death of Dr. Theodore Bacmeister, Stark county lost one of its valued and representative citizens and his demise was the occasion of deep and widespread regret. He passed away March 8, 1911, when eighty-one years of age, his birth having occurred at Esslingen, Wurtemberg, Germany, January 17, 1830. There he was reared to the age of eighteen years and obtained good educational opportunities. He crossed the Atlantic in 1848, landing in New York. His training had been in preparation for engineering and after coming to the United States he served as a draftsman for a few years but later turned his attention to the study of medicine and was graduated from the Homeopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1856, in which year he turned to the middle west in search of a location.

Dr. Bacmeister made his way to Toulon, Illinois, which was then a small village, and he became one of the pioneer practitioners of Stark county. He was thoroughly imbued with the principles of homeopathy and ever closely studied the profession that he might advance in accordance with the scientific researches which were carried on. He traveled over a large territory to meet the needs of suffering humanity, starting out early in the morning and driving all day. His ability was pronounced, for he was very careful in the diagnosis of cases and seldom, if ever, at fault in his judgment concerning the outcome of disease. He was a valued contributor to many homeopathic journals and he stood for many years as one of the foremost representatives of that branch of medical science in the middle west. In 1868 he accepted the chair of materia medica in the Hahnemann College of Chicago and for a year was a resident of that city, but in that time he became convinced that he much preferred practice in the country and in the spring of 1869 returned to Toulon, where he remained until his death.

On the 19th of April, 1864, Dr. Bacmeister was married to Miss Laura L. Ogle, a native of Stark County, born near Toulon, her parents being William and Lucretia Ogle, who were among the earliest settlers of this part of the state, arriving here in 1835. Her



father assisted in laying out Toulon and contributed in marked measure to the upbuilding of the county. Following his marriage Dr. Baemeister purchased a residence in Toulon, which he rebuilt in 1879, converting it into an attractive home. To him and his wife were born nine children, six of whom are yet living: Emily F., the wife of Dr. Johnson, of Peoria; W. O.; Charles A., of Chicago; Theodore, a well known physician and surgeon of Chicago; Louise, the wife of Benjamin Younger, of Bloomington; and Otto, who, after graduating from the high school and academy of Toulon and also from Williams College of Massachusetts, is now postmaster of Toulon. One daughter, Laura Pauline, reached young womanhood, married A. E. Sundquist, but died December 31, 1909.

Dr. and Mrs. Baemeister were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he served on the official board. He took an active part in both church and Sunday school work, acting as Sunday school superintendent for twelve years. In community affairs he was also helpfully interested and was president of the town board and also president of the board of education. In a word, he stood for all that proved of public benefit and his community numbered him among its most valued and worthy citizens. He was a consistent member of the Masonic fraternity and enjoyed the fullest regard of his brethren of the order. Along professional lines he was connected with the local medical society, the Illinois State Homeopathic Medical Society and the American Institute of Homeopathy. He regarded his professional duties seriously, recognizing the great obligation that devolved upon him, and he became the loved family physician in many a household. Wherever known he was held in high esteem and his memory is enshrined in the hearts of all with whom he came in contact.

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### ELTING ARGANBRIGHT.

Elting Arganbright, a prominent general merchant of Wyoming, owes his success largely to his determination and his self-reliance, which have enabled him to surmount all obstacles and prosper in his undertakings. He was born in Vinton county, Ohio, October 10, 1863, of the marriage of Abraham and Susanna (Tweed) Arganbright, also natives of Ohio. His paternal grandfather, Phillip Arganbright, was born in Germany. Abraham Arganbright devoted his life to farming and passed away in his native state as did his wife.

Elting Arganbright remained at home until he was sixteen years of age and attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education. He then began providing for his own support and, thinking to find better opportunities farther west, came to Stark county, Illinois. He had to spend all of his money for railroad fare but he had two sisters living in this county and found work on a farm almost immediately after his arrival here. As there was little farm work to be done during the cold season he attended school in the country during the first winter and during the two following winters was a student in the Wyoming schools, walking in every day from the country. He completed the course taught in Wyoming at that time, which was before the schools were graded, and he is an honorary member of the High School Alumni Association. He decided that business pursuits would be more congenial than farming and secured a position with King Brothers, merchants, as delivery boy at a wage of five dollars per month. He remained with that firm for thirteen years and during that time learned thoroughly the principles of successful merchandising in a small town. He carefully saved his wages, which were advanced from time to time, and on severing his connection with that firm purchased a bankrupt stock of goods for twenty-five hundred dollars. In order to do so he had to sell his house and lot and borrow nine hundred dollars. At the end of three months he sold out and purchased an interest in the store owned by H. A. Galbraith and A. G. Hammond, and the firm of Hammond & Arganbright was established. Eleven years later he bought out his partner and for nine years has been sole owner of the store. He carries a complete line of general merchandise, selected with a view to the especial needs of his community, and his liberal business policy, coupled with the high quality of his goods, has commended him to a large patronage. The volume of his trade has increased steadily and his enterprise has not only resulted in his attaining financial independence but has also been a factor in the commercial advancement of Wyoming. He also owns a third interest in the Scott & Hammond block and his residence, which is the old Hammond homestead, is one of the most attractive in the city. His motto has always been "I will" and he has succeeded in carrying it out, his enterprise and confidence in his ability enabling him to work out plans and projects which a less determined man would have hesitated to attempt.

Mr. Arganbright was married in 1894 to Miss Nellie Dunlap, a native of Canton, Illinois, and a daughter of T. C. Dunlap. They have become the parents of six children, namely: Ernest E., Julia L., Elting, Jr., Robert and Ruth, twins, and Myron.

Mr. Arganbright supports the republican party at the polls and has long been recognized as a leader in public affairs in Wyoming. His influence is due not only to his courage in standing firmly and openly for what he believes to be right but also to his insight into conditions and his sound judgment. He has served on the city council for two years and is now a member of the school board. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen, and he attends and contributes to the support of the Congregational church. His integrity and honesty have never been questioned and he has done much to promote the moral progress of his community. He has seen clearly the relation between the development of the agricultural resources of the county and the prosperity of the merchants of the county and has been a leader in movements to promote more scientific farming and served for a considerable period as secretary of the Central Agricultural Society, or, as it is sometimes known, the Wyoming Fair Association.

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#### W. F. PRICE.

W. F. Price, who is familiarly called Fred by his hosts of friends and is regarded as one of the active and progressive business men of Toulon, is the president and manager of the Stark County Telephone Company. He is numbered among the old settlers of this part of the state, dating his residence in Illinois from 1856 and in Stark county from 1869. He was born in Newark, New Jersey, February 11, 1853, and his father, W. H. Price, was also a native of that city, born on the 5th of July, 1828. Reared and educated in Newark, he there wedded Miss Mary Burns, who was also born in that city on the 11th of February, 1828. After his marriage Mr. Price engaged in business in Newark for a number of years and three of his children were born there. In 1857 he removed to the west, settling first on a farm near Canton, Illinois, where he remained until 1869, when he came to Stark county and purchased land whereon he continued his agricultural pursuits for a number of years. He was a successful farmer and well known citizen. In 1905 he purchased a lot in Toulon, erected thereon a neat and attractive residence and has since lived retired in this city. Here he and his wife have celebrated their golden wedding and also their sixty-sixth anniversary February 11, 1916. They are still a hale and hearty old couple, living by themselves and caring for their own household at the advanced age of

eighty-seven years. Both are members of the Toulon Methodist Episcopal church and their children have become active workers in church and Sunday school.

W. F. Price arrived in Stark county with his parents when a youth of sixteen years and assisted in carrying on the home farm, remaining with his father during the period of his minority. On the 27th of December, 1874, he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Quinn, a native of Preble county, Ohio, and a daughter of J. H. Quinn, who was one of the early settlers of this county. He took his bride to the old home farm and thereon continued the work of the fields for a number of years. While they were there residing Mrs. Price passed away on the 12th of September, 1902, leaving three children, two sons and a daughter. The eldest son, Frank L., is married and now owns and operates the old Quinn homestead. The daughter, Mary, is the wife of Minott Silliman, a resident farmer of Toulon township, and the younger son, William Henry, is married and resides upon one of the old Price farms, which belongs to his father. Each son is living on the same farm and in the house in which he was born.

After successfully carrying on general agricultural pursuits for many years W. F. Price removed to Toulon, where he erected a good residence. On the 15th of November, 1908, in Peoria, he was united in marriage to Miss Belle Cliff, who was born, reared and educated in that city. In 1900 Mr. Price became a stockholder in the Mutual Telephone Company of Toulon and later organized the Stark County Telephone Company, of which he became president and manager. This company has since erected a neat brick office building and business house and Mr. Price has extended the telephone line, which has its switchboards in Wyoming, Elmira, Castleton, Camp Grove and Duncan, with headquarters in Toulon. They now have about two thousand instruments installed in the county and connect with all other lines in Illinois and adjacent states. Mr. Price spends a goodly portion of his time on the road with his men, putting in new lines and instruments, and he gives most thorough supervision to the business. He is also still interested in agricultural pursuits, for in connection with his sons he owns a large tract of rich and well improved land near Toulon. He has ever been recognized as a progressive and enterprising business man whose plans are well formulated and are carried forward to successful completion.

Mr. Price is a member of the Toulon Baptist church, while his wife holds membership in the Congregational church. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Toulon. He has been a liberal contributor to various churches and to benevolent

projects and is a most public-spirited and progressive citizen, interested in all those things which pertain to the welfare of the individual and the betterment of the community. Those who know him esteem him highly and he has a very wide acquaintance throughout the county.

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### JACOB H. KOPP.

Jacob H. Kopp, actively and successfully engaged in general farming and stock feeding, was born May 7, 1870, on the farm on section 5, Osceola township, on which he now resides. He is a representative of one of the old German families of the county, his parents being Jacob and Elizabeth (Kopp) Kopp, who were natives of Germany. In early life the father crossed the Atlantic and made his way to Stark county, where he continued to engage in farming until his death, which occurred July 26, 1886. Securing a tract of land on section 5, Osceola township, he placed the first improvements thereon and bent his energies to the further development and cultivation of his land as the years passed by. His widow survives and is now living in Bradford.

In his youthful days Jacob H. Kopp was a pupil in the district school near his father's home and through the summer months he worked in the fields, becoming more and more actively the assistant of his father. Upon the latter's death he assumed the management of the home property and is now busily engaged in the cultivation of an excellent tract of land of two hundred and seventy-eight acres, in addition to which he has eighty acres in Bureau county. His land is very valuable and productive, bringing forth rich harvests annually as a reward for the care and labor which he bestows upon the fields. In addition to cultivating the crops best adapted to soil and climate he is engaged quite extensively in feeding stock and both branches of his business are proving profitable. Upon his farm are the latest improved farm implements and machinery. He has a threshing machine and corn sheller and everything that will facilitate his work.

When twenty-four years of age Mr. Kopp was married to Miss Anna Tilson and they have become the parents of four children, Jennie, Stella, Mollie and Dorothy, all four daughters being yet at home. The parents are members of the Catholic church at Bradford and Mr. Kopp is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America. His political allegiance is given to the republican party but he never seeks

nor desires political office. He has served, however, for three years as school director and he is interested in the welfare and progress of the district, cooperating in well defined plans and measures for the general good.

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### ELISHA B. BASS.

The Bass family has been represented in Stark county since pioneer times, Elisha B. Bass arriving in this county in 1854. He was a native of Fulton county, New York, born in 1812, and in his native state was reared to manhood, after which he married Miss Eunice Ferguson, who was also born in New York. He became a farmer of Fulton county and there carried on agricultural pursuits for a number of years, during which time four children were born to him and his wife.

At the end of that period Mr. Bass determined to try his fortune in the middle west. He had previously visited Illinois when a young man, making the trip in 1837, after which he spent two years in this state, mostly in Peoria county, although he was also in Stark county. He was employed at farm labor by the month, but upon the death of his mother he returned to his old home in New York and assumed the management of that place. There he remained until 1854, when he disposed of his property in Fulton county, New York, and removed westward to Illinois, making a permanent location in Stark county. It was still largely a frontier district, the work of improvement and cultivation being then in its initial stages. Mr. Bass purchased a tax title to a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and also purchased an adjoining tract of forty acres, of which farm twenty acres had been broken and was placed under cultivation. With characteristic energy he began the task of developing the place. He turned the first furrows in his fields, fenced his land and converted the farm into a very productive place. It comprised two hundred acres and through his efforts it became a very valuable property, his practical labors resulting in the harvesting of good crops annually. He also erected substantial buildings upon his place and made other improvements which added to the attractive appearance and to the worth of the land. Year by year he continued to engage actively in farming until 1877, when he leased his place to his son and removed to Toulon, retiring from active business life. He then purchased a good residence property and spent his remaining



ELISHA B. BASS AND FAMILY

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days there in the enjoyment of a rest which he had truly earned and richly deserved.

Mr. Bass was not only a progressive agriculturist, but was also a prominent and valued citizen in other connections. His fellow townsmen, appreciative of his ability and his worth, called him to various official positions, including that of member of the town board. In 1885 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife and it was not until almost a quarter of a century later that he passed away, his death occurring October 9, 1908, when he had reached the remarkably venerable age of ninety-six years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bass were born a son and three daughters. The son, Osear J. Bass, was reared on the home farm in Stark county, afterward leased the place and thus tilled it for a number of years. Later he purchased the property and continued its cultivation for some time thereafter, but eventually he sold the farm and removed to Henry, where he continued to make his home until his life's labors were ended in death October 28, 1915. He left a wife but no children. The three daughters of the family are: Elizabeth, the wife of Beason Lambert, a retired farmer living at Columbus Junction; Laura, who died in 1908; and Eliza J., to whom we are indebted for the material concerning her father and the family. She was reared and educated in Stark county and remained with her parents, caring for them and a crippled sister. She has resided in Toulon since 1877 and is here widely known and greatly respected, all speaking of her in terms of warmest regard.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Bass were consistent and faithful members of the Baptist church, guiding their lives according to its teachings. Their daughter, Eliza J., is also a member of the church and was formerly a teacher and worker in the Sunday school. For more than six decades the family has been represented in Stark county and throughout the entire period their influence has been found on the side of right, progress and improvement.

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### PROFESSOR GEORGE C. BAKER.

Professor George C. Baker is a well known educator, now serving his third term as superintendent of schools in Stark county, his incumbency in the office covering ten years. His residence in Illinois dates from 1892 and throughout this period he has been recognized as one whose efforts have been of marked value in connection with the de-

velopment of the school system. He is a native of Iowa, his birth having occurred at Council Bluffs, January 9, 1856. His father, Jacob Warren Baker, was a native of Virginia and was born in February, 1818, representing one of the old pioneer families of that state. When a young man he removed to the middle west, settling in Iowa, and in Farmington, that state, he married Miss Caroline Leavit, a native of Ohio, who went with her parents to Iowa. Mr. Baker was a saddler by trade and carried on that business in Farmington and in other Iowa towns. In 1849 he made an overland trip to California, where he was engaged in mining for a time, meeting with fair success. He then returned by way of the Isthmus of Panama to New York and later went to Pike's Peak. For some years he resided in Athens, Clark county, Missouri, where he lost his wife. He afterward came to Toulon and spent his last days in this city.

Professor Baker was reared in Iowa and Missouri and obtained his primary education in the common schools, but not content with the advantages thus far received, he continued his studies without a tutor and prepared for teaching, which he began in the country schools of Missouri when quite young. He was also engaged in merchandising for a time but afterward gave up that pursuit and again concentrated his energies upon educational work, following the profession of teaching in the country schools of Missouri and Iowa. He afterward secured the position of principal of the school at Hamilton, Illinois, and so satisfactory was his service there that he was retained in the position for nine consecutive years. He afterward became principal of the schools of Toulon, continuing as such for five years, and in 1906 he was nominated and elected superintendent of schools of Stark county. In 1910 he was reelected and again in 1914, so that he is now serving for the third term, his incumbency to continue until 1918. There are now seventy schools in the county, with one hundred and seven teachers, and when he entered upon his present position there were but ninety-two teachers in the county. There are also added school buildings and most of these are well equipped, while the teachers are efficient and well qualified for their work. Professor Baker devotes his entire time to his official duties and he maintains a county institute for the further training of the teachers.

On the 15th of January, 1882, in Clark County, Missouri, Professor Baker was united in marriage to Miss Emma Fenten, a native of Missouri, born in Montgomery county, as was her father, George Fenten, who was of English parentage. Mr. and Mrs. Baker became the parents of four children: Edgar, now living in Alberta, Canada; Margaret, a successful teacher of Stark county; Clarence, a business

man of Toulon; and Ralph, an electrician holding a position with the Electric Light & Power Company of Toulon.

Professor Baker holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is serving on the official board and also is Sunday school superintendent. He does everything in his power to promote the moral progress of the community and his active work in the church has done much to promote its growth and extend its influence. His entire life in fact has been given to the betterment of the individual. He believes that the object of education is to train each individual to reach the highest perfection possible for him and that the purpose of teaching is to develop capacity. He holds a life diploma which entitles him to teach in any school in Illinois and he is today regarded as one of the most successful educators of the state. His own advantages were very limited. He was never in a high school until after he was elected principal of the school at Hamilton, but when it was no longer possible for him to pursue his studies in a school-room he marked out a line of study for himself and throughout his entire life has been a student, until he is now recognized as a man of scholarly attainments with whom association means expansion and elevation.

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### P. B. COLWELL.

P. B. Colwell, the efficient and popular postmaster of Wyoming, was born in Essex township, Stark county, on the 15th of July, 1856, a son of Henry Colwell, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. He was reared upon the home farm and attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education. When seventeen years of age he became a school teacher and after teaching for one year in Valley township went to Peoria county, where he followed that profession for three years. He then spent one year in Chicago in the employ of the Deering Binder Company and then went on the road for that corporation as salesman. He was later in St. Louis for a year and for a similar period of time was at Helena, Montana, after which he returned to Stark county and began farming the homestead in Essex township. He devoted fourteen years to the operation of that place and then turned his attention to the grain business, being active in that connection for a year at La Fayette and for eight years at Wyoming. On the 24th of April, 1914, he was made postmaster of Wyoming and has since concentrated his energies upon the

discharge of his duties, proving a systematic, accurate and courteous official.

Mr. Colwell married Miss Cecelia Burns, a native of Peoria county, this state, and a daughter of Peter and Anna Burns, both of whom are deceased. Five children have been born to this marriage, namely: Henry, at home; Louise, who is teaching at St. Anthony; Idaho; Clara, a school teacher of Rupert, Idaho; Miles, at home; and Margaret, who is assistant postmaster.

Mr. Colwell has supported the democratic party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and for eight years represented Essex township on the board of county supervisors. Fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America at Wyoming. All of his various undertakings have proved successful as he possesses good business judgment, is enterprising and gives close attention to the matter in hand, and he is in comfortable circumstances.

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## H. D. D. MARTIN.

Among the well known public men of Stark county is H. D. D. Martin, who is the present county treasurer—an official capable and prompt in the discharge of his duties and loyal at all times to the trust reposed in him. He was born in Peoria county, Illinois, July 27, 1851. Henry Martin, his father, was a native of Canada and was a son of Squire Martin, who removed from that country to the United States with his family and settled in Peoria, Illinois, about the year 1829, being numbered among the earliest residents of that city, which in fact, was but a village at the time of his arrival there. He preempted land, broke the sod and tilled the fields, opening up and developing a fine farm. His son, Henry Martin, was reared in Peoria and Marshall counties, where the family home was maintained at different times, and after arriving at years of maturity was married in Peoria county to Miss Eliza Jane Sommers. He afterward made his home in Peoria and Marshall counties until 1861, when he removed to Henry, where he engaged in the manufacture of carriages and buggies, carrying on business there for a number of years. While there residing he lost his wife and later he joined a daughter in Saybrook, after which he lived retired from business there for a number of years. Subsequently he came to the home of his son, H. D. D. Martin, in Wyoming, and with him spent his last years.

He was long a respected and worthy citizen of this part of the state and enjoyed the merited regard for all with whom he came in contact.

H. D. D. Martin was reared upon the old home farm in Marshall county and completed his education by graduating from the high school of Henry, Illinois. He afterward learned the trade of carriage and buggy making with his father and subsequently removed to Castleton, this county, where he conducted a manufacturing and repair business, remaining there for twelve years. He then disposed of his shop and went to Wyoming, where he built another shop and began the manufacture of carriages, wagons and buggies, also doing general repair work of that character. For five years he remained at Wyoming and then sold out, after which he concentrated his efforts upon merchandising, in which field of business he continued active for fourteen years. In 1914 he was nominated and elected treasurer of Stark county and removed to Toulon, assuming the duties of his position in December of that year. He had previously served in a number of positions of public honor and trust, continuing for some years as township clerk and also as township collector for two terms. He has ever been prompt and faithful as a public official and over his record there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil.

Mr. Martin was united in marriage in Valley township, Stark county, in 1877, to Miss Mary E. Joh, who was born and reared in this county, where her father, David Joh, settled at a very early day. Mrs. Martin passed away in Castleton and in Wyoming Mr. Martin was married to Miss Mary Haywood, also a native daughter of Stark county and for a number of years a successful teacher, being connected with the schools of Wyoming in that capacity for eight years.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin are faithful members of the Congregational church of Toulon and he has been a very active church and Sunday school worker for many years, serving for twelve years as superintendent of the Sunday school at Castleton, also as superintendent of the Congregational Sunday school in Wyoming for some years. He still takes an active interest in the various branches of church work, particularly in the religious training of the young, believing in the wisdom of Solomon: "Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." He has accomplished much good in his Sunday school work and for fifteen years he has been president of the Sunday School Association which is maintained in Stark county. He is continually alert to improve upon methods of religious instruction that the young people may be fortified for life's temptations and its responsibilities, and the influence of his example as well as for his precept has been strongly and widely felt. There

are few residents of Stark county more widely known and none are held in higher esteem than H. D. D. Martin, for whom his fellow citizens entertain the warmest regard, for his life has ever measured up to the highest standards of manhood and citizenship. He never boasts of his own worth. In fact he is entirely free from ostentation and display, but whenever his fellowmen mention him, it is in terms of admiration and regard.

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### ALBERT DEYO.

Albert Deyo has long been active in business in Bradford, giving his attention to the work of well drilling. He represents one of the old families of Stark county, his birth having occurred in Osceola township on the 24th of May, 1869, his parents being Josiah and Julia (Hayden) Deyo. The father was born in New Paltz, New York, while the mother's birth occurred in Maine. They were married in Illinois, the father having come to Stark county in 1854. He secured a tract of land which he converted into an excellent farm, making his home thereon until his death. The family come of Huguenot ancestry.

Albert Deyo attended school in Bradford, supplementing his public school training by a commercial course. His early practical experience came to him through the work of the farm, on which he continued to reside until he reached the age of twenty-four years, when he removed to Bradford. For two years he was engaged in clerking in a store and since that time has been engaged in the well digging business. This has made heavy demands upon his time, keeping him constantly busy, and through his earnest and intelligently directed efforts he has won substantial success.

In 1894 Mr. Deyo was married to Miss Rena Bevier, who was born in Osceola township, this county, a daughter of Mordecai and Adelaide (Bradford) Bevier, who came from Binghamton, New York, to this county at an early period in its development, arriving about 1854. Securing a tract of land, the father bent his energies to the cultivation of a farm. He carried on general farming for a considerable period but later concentrated his energies upon the raising of vegetables and fruit. He was quite prominent in the community, holding some local offices, including that of supervisor, in which position he remained for a number of years. At the time of the Civil war he responded to the country's call for aid, enlisting as a member of

Company K, Sixty-third Illinois Infantry, with which he rendered valuable service to his country. He died in the spring of 1912, having for seven years survived his wife, who passed away in 1905. Their daughter, Mrs. Deyo, was reared and educated in Bradford and by her marriage has become the mother of five children: Doris, who was graduated from the high school of Bradford in the class of 1914 and is now attending the Nebraska State University at Lincoln; Marian, who is a senior in high school; Eleanor, Jeanette and Bradford, all in school.

Mr. Deyo exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party and is active in supporting its principles, having firm belief in their efficiency as factors in good government. For one year he filled the office of mayor of Bradford. He belongs to the Woodmen lodge and he and his wife are consistent and faithful members of the Methodist church, doing all in their power to promote its growth and extend its influence. Mr. Deyo has erected a fine residence in Bradford and the home is moreover very attractive by reason of its warm-hearted hospitality, which is greatly enjoyed by the many friends of the family.

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### WILLIAM E. GRIEVE.

For twenty-nine years William E. Grieve occupied a farm on section 30, Elmira township, having there a tract of four hundred and eighty acres of good land. In 1916, however, he put aside the more active work of the fields and took up his abode at his present place of residence. He is now living retired and the rest that has come to him is well merited. He was born in Toulon township, this county, September 8, 1859, his parents being Robert and Ellen (Scott) Grieve, both of whom were natives of Scotland, whence they came to the new world with their respective parents. Their marriage was celebrated in Stark county and throughout his remaining days the father was actively engaged in farming in Toulon township, where he passed away twelve or fifteen years ago.

The boyhood experiences of William E. Grieve were those which usually fall to the lot of the farm lad. He was educated in the common schools near his father's home and when not busy with his textbooks worked in the fields, being thus employed to the age of twenty-six years. After his marriage in the spring of 1886 he removed to a farm belonging to his father, there remaining for one year, after

which he took up his abode in Elmira township, near the village of Elmira. Extending the boundaries of his place by additional purchase, he became the owner of four hundred and eighty acres, constituting one of the excellent farms of the locality, and thereon he resided for twenty-nine years, being actively and successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits during that period. In 1916 he removed to his present place of residence on section 30, Elmira township, having put aside active business cares.

In 1886 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Grieve and Miss Esther A. Oliver, by whom he has four children, namely: Ellen Elizabeth, who is the wife of Chester Jackson and resides near her father's place; Andrew R., living on the home farm; Marion S., also at home; and Flavel, who is a student in Knox College of Galesburg.

Mr. Grieve votes with the republican party and is a trustee of the Presbyterian church, in which he and his wife hold membership. His has been a well spent life guided by honorable principles, and his upright manhood and sterling citizenship have gained for him the warm regard of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

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### JOHN W. FLING, JR.

John W. Fling, Jr., one of the leading attorneys at the Stark county bar, is the only representative of his profession in Wyoming. He was born in Cumberland, Marion county, Indiana, on the 22d of January, 1878, a son of John W. and Rebecca (Bolander) Fling, likewise natives of that place. The father engaged in farming in Indiana until 1885, when he came to Stark county, Illinois, and took up his residence at Wyoming. For many years he has served as a section hand for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, making an excellent record for efficiency in that connection.

John W. Fling, Jr., was graduated from the Wyoming high school in 1898 and for three years thereafter followed the profession of teaching. Having determined to make the practice of law his life work, he pursued his legal studies under the direction of F. A. Kerns and on the 13th of May, 1903, was admitted to practice by the supreme court of Illinois. On the 1st of July of that year he was taken into partnership by his former preceptor and this relation was maintained until May, 1912. In November of that year our subject was elected state's attorney for Stark county and his record in that connection reflects credit upon his legal knowledge, his aggressiveness and his





JOHN W. FLING, Jr.

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power of convincing argument. He has built up a large and representative private practice and his ability is recognized not only by the general public but also by his professional brethren.

Mr. Fling was married November 22, 1904, to Miss Mamie McClyment, also a native of this county and likewise a graduate of the Wyoming high school. They have a son, Richard A.

Mr. Fling has given careful study to the problems of government and is convinced that the policies of the republican party are best calculated to secure the permanent prosperity of the country. He is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church and fraternally he belongs to the local lodges of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He realizes the importance of good schools in a democracy and as president of the board of education has done much to bring about the advancement of the local schools. He is an ardent admirer of Abraham Lincoln and has collected what is probably the largest Lincoln library in the state. The gratifying success which he has gained is especially noteworthy in that he has depended entirely upon his own resources and upon well directed industry in the struggle for professional advancement.

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### CHARLES D. STURM.

An excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres situated on section 5, Osceola township, pays tribute to the care and labor bestowed upon it by its owner, Charles D. Sturm, who has devoted his entire life to general agricultural pursuits, meeting with very desirable success in his undertakings. He is a representative of one of the old pioneer families of the county, his birth having occurred on section 16, Osceola township, on the 18th of May, 1855, his parents being Isaac and Jane (Stedham) Sturm. The father was born in Shelby county, Ohio, November 11, 1824, and was a son of Henry and Kathrine (Dalrimple) Sturm, both of whom were of German descent. Henry Sturm was born October 17, 1791, in Kentucky, and was married in Shelby county, Ohio, in 1814 to Kathrine Dalrimple, who was born in South Carolina, February 5, 1799. It was on the 25th of September, 1836, that they became residents of Illinois. Here Isaac Sturm grew to manhood and was married March 11, 1849, to Miss Jane Stedham, the wedding ceremony being performed by Joshua Gillfillen, justice of the peace. Mrs. Sturm was born in Wilmington,

Delaware, February 7, 1830, and came to Illinois in 1839. Her parents were John and Maria (Robson) Stedham, both natives of Delaware, the former born in 1797 and the latter in 1806. They were married in New Jersey in 1825. Mr. Stedham was of Irish and Swedish descent. He came to Illinois in 1833.

After his marriage Isaac Sturm became a resident of Boyd's Grove, Illinois, but after two years removed to Oseeola township, Stark county, settling upon a farm on section 16 in 1851. Mrs. Sturm had come to Illinois with an uncle from Wilmington, Delaware, traveling in a wagon drawn by a single horse. She was then a girl of about nine or ten years and to lighten the load she walked about half of the way. Her father gave her uncle a quarter section of land near the present home of Charles D. Sturm in payment for her rearing until she was fourteen years of age, after which she kept house for her father at the place where Charles D. Sturm now resides. In 1851 Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Sturm located on the farm where their son Charles was born. There they resided for a long period but eventually removed to the town of Bradford, where Mr. Sturm passed away December 11, 1901, at the age of seventy-seven years and one month. For sixty-five years he was a resident of Illinois, and for almost fifty-three years he and his wife traveled life's journey together. He was a democrat in his political views and was called upon to serve in many local offices, the duties of which he discharged with promptness, fidelity and capability. In his business affairs he displayed excellent management, keen discernment and unfaltering enterprise, and was a self-made man whose labors were attended with substantial success. Fraternally he was connected with the Masons, having membership in the lodge at Bradford.

Charles D. Sturm was educated in the common schools of Oseeola township and remained upon the home farm until he reached the age of twenty-seven years, during which time his experience in all departments of farm work well prepared him for the conduct of farming interests on his own account. On leaving home he first settled on section 17, Oseeola township, where he remained for nine years and then came to his present location on section 5. During the intervening period he has made excellent improvements upon the land, has remodeled the house and has built good barns and other outbuildings, personally doing the work of construction. He owns in the home farm one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land, all of which he has brought under a high state of cultivation, and he also has one hundred and sixty acres in Neponset township, Bureau county.

Mr. Sturm was married when twenty-six years of age to Miss

Minerva J. Ames, a daughter of Major Andre and Maria (Barber) Ames. Her father was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, in 1809, and came to La Salle county, Illinois, in 1831. He owned and operated a farm near Bradford, Stark county, and in the early days was well acquainted with the old Indian chief Shabbona, who was a great friend of the white people. To Mr. and Mrs. Ames were born seven children who reached man and womanhood and all are still living. The mother died when the children were small, but Mr. Ames reached an advanced age, passing away in 1888.

Mr. and Mrs. Sturm have a hospitable home whose good cheer is greatly enjoyed by their many friends. In politics Mr. Sturm is a republican and for one term he filled the office of assessor but otherwise has never sought nor held positions of political preferment, desiring rather to give his undivided time and attention to his business interests, which are carefully and wisely managed.

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#### DAVID K. FELL.

Death often removes from our midst those whom we can ill afford to lose, and such was the feeling throughout Stark county when David K. Fell was called from this life, for he was regarded as one of the progressive and public-spirited citizens of the county, having for a long period been one of the active and progressive farmers of Goshen township. He was born in Roxburghshire, Scotland, November 22, 1842, and was a youth of ten years when in 1852 he came to the United States, making his way direct to Illinois, at which time he joined friends living in Elmira, Stark county. He made the voyage and journeyed across the country in company with his parents and the family home was established in the Scotch settlement. There D. K. Fell was reared to manhood upon the home farm, having the usual experiences of the farm-bred boy who early began his work in the field. His school privileges were quite limited and he was largely a self-educated as well as self-made man, but in the course of years he became well read and developed excellent business ability. In early manhood he took up farm work as a livelihood, being employed by the month, but he was ambitious to engage in business on his own account and utilized every opportunity that led to advancement.

On the 9th of August, 1867, Mr. Fell was united in marriage to Miss Helen Jackson, also a native of Scotland, whence she was brought to the new world when but four years of age. Her father,

Thomas Jackson, was born and reared in the land of hills and heather, as was his wife, Mrs. Isabella Jackson. On bidding adieu to friends and native country they sailed for the new world and became members of the Scotch settlement at Elmira, Stark county, where their daughter spent her girlhood days.

Following his marriage Mr. Fell settled upon a farm in Goshen township, beginning the improvement of one hundred acres of land near Toulon. His persistent and energetic efforts soon wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of his place, and he continued his farm work with excellent success, adding to his property from time to time as his financial resources increased until he was the owner of four hundred acres all in one body but divided into two farms with two sets of buildings thereon, including residences, barns and all the necessary outbuildings for the shelter of grain, stock and farm machinery. In addition to tilling the soil he devoted considerable time to buying and shipping stock and built up a business of considerable proportions. Year by year his success increased and he was regarded as one of the foremost agriculturists of his community until 1900, when he left the farm and removed to Toulon. Here he became one of the organizers of the State Bank and was made vice president of that institution. He also assisted in the organization of the Kewanee State Bank and remained as its vice president, as well as vice president of the Toulon bank, until his death, which occurred October 4, 1913. Upon removing to the city he purchased a lot and erected thereon a commodious and attractive residence built in modern style of architecture, thus providing a most attractive home for his family.

To Mr. and Mrs. Fell were born seven children: Adam, who is now a traveling salesman residing in Peoria; Thomas and William, who are upon the Fell farm; Shubeal, who is engaged in business at Toulon; Jennet, the wife of Henry Burns, a resident farmer of Adams county, Illinois; Elizabeth, the wife of James Beadleman; and Mary, the wife of Claud Kean, a business man of Evanston, Illinois.

D. K. Fell was a stalwart supporter of the republican party but would never seek or hold office. He belonged to Toulon Lodge, I. O. O. F., served through the chairs and became a past grand, while both he and his wife were connected with the Rebekah degree and Mrs. Fell is also a member of the Woman's Relief Corps. She belongs to the Congregational church, of which Mr. Fell was an active member and a generous supporter. He also gave liberally to benevolent projects and was at all times a public-spirited citizen, cooperating heartily and earnestly in every movement that promoted the benefit of the community. For some years prior to his death he was in ill health

and traveled quite extensively in various parts of the country. He visited Hot Springs, Arkansas, a number of times and with his wife visited Denver and other parts of Colorado, also Washington, D. C., and different points in the east. His travels added largely to his knowledge, for he possessed an observing eye and retentive memory. He never regarded lightly the obligations and duties of life and he was one who derived much joy from the companionship of family and friends. His death therefore was the occasion of deep and wide-spread regret when he was called away. He left behind him a memory which is enshrined in the hearts of all who knew him and his life record should largely serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, showing that success and an honored name may be won simultaneously.

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## H. P. HOPKINS.

H. P. Hopkins, who has been engaged in the lumber business in Bradford since 1884, is now vice president of the E. W. Houghton Lumber Company, which owns eight yards in this and adjoining counties. His birth occurred in Allegany county, New York, on the 25th of July, 1841, and his parents, Ezra M. and Fanny (Stacy) Hopkins, were natives of Rochester, Vermont, where they were reared and married. Subsequently a removal was made to Allegany county, New York, and there the father devoted his time to farming and dairying interests until 1866, when he came west with his family. He passed away three years later when he had reached the age of sixty-six years and his demise was regretted by those who had come in close contact with him, for he was a man of sterling worth. For twenty-two years he served as justice of the peace in New York, and he was a lifelong member and for many years a deacon in the Presbyterian church. His wife, who was also an active church worker, passed away when sixty-five years old.

H. P. Hopkins is the sixth in order of birth in a family of seven children. He has one sister living, Mrs. Fannie Thompson, a resident of Buda, Illinois. He grew to manhood in New York and after attending the common schools became a student in the Rushford Academy. In 1863 he came to Illinois and was here connected with the map business, but trade being dull, he turned his attention to other work, teaching during the winter months in Milo township. The following spring and summer he was employed in delivering a state

map of Illinois and the next year he began farming in Milo township. In the fall he resumed teaching and continued to follow that profession until 1870. The summers, however, were devoted to farming in Milo township, but at length he decided that other pursuits would be more congenial and in 1870 he removed to Bradford and became a member of the firm of White & Hopkins, proprietors of a drug store. Later he also engaged in the clothing business, retaining, however, his interest in the drug store, which was managed by his partner, Mr. White. In February, 1884, Mr. Hopkins became associated with the E. W. Houghton Lumber Company, which was incorporated not long afterward, and he was made manager of the yards at Bradford. He has since remained with the company and in 1904 was made vice president. Following the death of Mr. Houghton, in 1912, he acted as president until January, 1913, when W. O. Houghton was elected president, since which time Mr. Hopkins has confined his attention to his duties as vice president. He understands the various phases of the business thoroughly, keeps in close touch with the trade and has had much to do with the growth and success of the concern. The company owned a half interest in both elevators at Bradford for several years and shipped a large amount of grain annually. Their home office is in Bradford and in addition to their yard there they own yards at Galva, Altona, Wyoming, Wyanette, Lamoille, Van Orin and Victoria, while they formerly also had a yard at Princeton but sold that to L. R. Davis and Ezra W. Hopkins, a son of our subject.

Mr. Hopkins was married in 1869 at Rushford, New York, to Miss Viola W. White, a daughter of Washington White and a native of Rushford. To this union have been born three children: Ezra W., who is a member of the firm of Hopkins & Davis, owners of the Princeton lumber yard; Carrie May, who died when seventeen years of age; and Harla, who is manager of the lumber yard at Bradford and is also engaged in farming and dairying.

Mrs. Hopkins is a well educated woman, having attended the schools of Rushford and Clinton Seminary, and for two years was a teacher in Rushford Academy. While her husband was postmaster of Bradford she was his able assistant. She has taken an active part in the work of a number of organizations, having served as president of the Woman's Relief Corps of Bradford and as worthy matron of the local chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, and having been an active worker in the Baptist church and Sunday school.

Mr. Hopkins has given his political support to the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and during the last year of President Harrison's administration he was appointed



postmaster, an office which he capably filled for four years. He was also president of the town board for several years and has likewise served as township trustee. The confidence which the public has placed in him has always been justified, as he has considered public office a public trust and has discharged his duties with a conscientious regard for the public welfare. He is now supervisor of his township. He belongs to Bradford Lodge, No. 514, A. F. & A. M.; and Wyoming Chapter, No. 133, R. A. M. He is one of the leading business men of Bradford and also one of its most popular citizens, as his attractive personal qualities and his proved integrity have gained him the warm regard of all who have been closely associated with him. He has passed his seventy-fifth birthday and is yet keen of mind and vigorous of body and retains also the spirit and courage of youth.

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#### LEVI FULKS.

Illinois is the center of the great farming industry of the country and Stark county is one of the rich agricultural districts of the state. Throughout his entire life Levi Fulks has been identified with the work of tilling the soil, which George Washington said "is the most useful as well as the most honorable occupation of man." He lives on section 16, Osceola township, and it was upon this section that he was born March 9, 1867, his parents being Levi and Rachel (Medaris) Fulks, who were natives of Ohio, in which state they were reared and married. On removing westward they settled in Illinois in the fall of 1850, establishing their home in Osceola township. Afterward they lived for two years at Boyd's Grove and then settled on section 16, Osceola township, where their remaining days were passed. The father reached the notable old age of ninety years, his birth having occurred on the 12th of October, 1824, while he passed away on the 16th of June, 1915. His wife died November 3, 1899, and both were laid to rest in the Osceola Grove cemetery.

Levi Fulks prepared for life's practical duties as a common school pupil and lived at home through the period of his boyhood and youth. In fact he has always remained upon the old homestead. His father has acquired several hundred acres of land and the labors of Levi Fulks were needed in the further development, cultivation and improvement of the farm. He has always carried on the work of general farming and today owns and cultivates an excellent tract of land of eighty acres.

In 1898 Mr. Fulks was united in marriage to Miss Florence Hall, and they have become the parents of two children, Nora Maybel and Myra Fern. Mrs. Fulks was born in Osceola township, a daughter of John and Mary C. (Grife) Hall. Her father was born at Broadbottom, England, and in 1855 crossed the Atlantic to the United States, after which he made his way at once into the interior of the country, settling in Osceola township, Stark county. He was then a youth of sixteen years and he began work as a farm hand, being thus employed until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when in response to the call of his adopted country for aid he enlisted in 1862 as a member of the One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for three years. His army experience, with all of its hardships and privations, largely undermined his health and he never recovered his normal condition. At the close of the war he returned home and was married in 1870. He afterward lived in Osceola township until about twenty-one years ago, when he removed to south-western Missouri, where he passed away in 1896, while his wife died in 1897. Their daughter, Mrs. Fulks, was educated in the common schools of Osceola township and in the State Normal School at Normal, Illinois, after which she took up the profession of school teaching, which she followed in Illinois and Missouri for ten years.

Mr. Fulks is a member of the Modern Woodmen of American and he gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. Both he and his wife are widely known in this county and have a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of their acquaintance, for their many good qualities have won for them warm regard.

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### THOMAS J. KIDD.

Thomas J. Kidd is the proprietor of the Riverview Farm, a well improved property in Elmira township. He was born in that township, November 7, 1871, and is a brother of Joseph Kidd, mentioned elsewhere in this work. He was educated in the Grove school and remained at home until twenty-one years of age, when he secured employment as a farm hand, devoting three years to that work. He then returned home and again aided in the cultivation of that place up to the time of his marriage, when he removed to his present farm on section 22, Elmira township. Here he built a small house, but in the intervening period he has made many changes in the appearance of the place by reason of the excellent improvements which he has



JAMES KIDD



MR. AND MRS. THOMAS J. KIDD

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put upon it. He today owns two hundred acres of rich and productive land, and the Riverview Farm is one of the fine properties of the locality. He has brought his fields to a high state of cultivation and annually gathers substantial harvests.

On the 24th of November, 1897, Mr. Kidd was united in marriage to Miss Mary McLennan, and they have become the parents of four children: John Everett, who died at the age of nine weeks; Sarah Sophia, at home; James William, who died when three years old; and Leah Mae, at home. Mr. Kidd has membership with the Modern Woodmen of America but concentrates his attention and energies almost entirely upon his business affairs and through his close application and industry has won a gratifying measure of success.

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### HENRY COLWELL.

Henry Colwell, who became one of the pioneer settlers of Essex township, Stark county, where he engaged in farming for many years, was born in Ross county, Ohio, on the 20th of April, 1813, and almost reached the age of eighty-seven years, dying on the 4th of March, 1900. It was in the fall of 1836 that he and his brother, Presley Colwell, and their wives came to Illinois from the Buckeye state and settled in what is now Essex township, Stark county, though then a part of Putnam county. The following year their father, Thomas Colwell, and the rest of their brothers and sisters came from their home in Ohio and settled in the vicinity. Henry and Presley Colwell lived the first winter in a log cabin on section 15, Essex township, on land now owned by William Cornell, near the place where the first settlement was made in Stark county by Isaac B. Essex in 1829 and near where the first school was built in Stark county in 1834. In 1837 Presley Colwell moved to section 21, Essex township, where he had bought land and where he lived until the fall of 1868, when he sold out and removed to Nodaway county, Missouri. He died at his home there a few years later.

In the fall of 1838 Henry Colwell removed to a farm which he had bought on section 30, Essex township, where he lived for a number of years, or until he traded farms with John Martindale, whereby he became the owner of the southwest quarter of section 29, Essex township. The farm is known as the old Henry Colwell homestead and it is still owned by Henry Colwell's heirs. He was closely connected with the growth and development of Stark county.

He very early knew the need of education. Besides being greatly interested in the common schools of his township, with a number of others he contributed liberally to the building of Lombard University at Galesburg, Illinois. The Colwell family still hold a scholarship in that institution as a recompense for the money contributed by Mr. Colwell. His son George was one of the first enrolled as a student in the university. Henry Colwell had a very large acquaintance throughout the surrounding country, as he was one of the first auctioneers in Stark county and the only one for many miles around. He was one of the foremost farmers. He with others organized the Stark County Agricultural Society in 1853, which held successful fairs at Toulon for more than thirty years, doing much good in the advancement of agriculture in the county. He filled the office of president of the society for many years with credit to himself and benefit to the society. He also held several offices in the township and creditably performed his duties. He was supervisor of Essex township at the time the railroad was built in Stark county.

Mr. Colwell was one of those early pioneers who had the experience of hauling grain to the Chicago market and it was almost impossible to get any money for their produce. They could only trade it for the actual needs of life, such as sugar, salt, sole leather, etc. Mr. Colwell was one of the leading stockmen of Stark county for a great many years, buying, selling and shipping stock of all kinds. Before the railroads came to Stark county he would buy stock, which he would drive to Kewanee or to Chillicothe and ship from there to Chicago. Like many of the pioneers he was able to meet disappointments and do all in his power to overcome them. He met with many misfortunes, the greatest of which was no doubt the death of his first wife, who passed away in 1847, at the age of thirty-three years, leaving him with six small children for whom to care. She was in her maidenhood Elizabeth Dawson and resided in Hocking county, Ohio. Afterward Mr. Colwell married Clarinda Eby, who died in 1880 at the age of fifty-one years. To them were born thirteen children. Of his large family of nineteen children all lived to manhood and womanhood except one who died in infancy, but several are now deceased. Those living are: Mrs. Mary Nicholson, a resident of Osborn, Missouri; Mrs. John McGregor, of Grand Junction, Iowa; Mrs. E. A. Trimmer, of Perry, that state; Marvin M.; Mrs. M. B. Triekle, Lillie and Ollie, all of Toulon; David, of West Jersey; P. B., of Wyoming; and Jennie, residing in Peoria.

It is interesting to note the intermarriages of this with other early families of the south part of Stark county and of adjoining counties.

Two of the sons, George and Miles, married Sarah and Amanda Barr, of Essex township. John married Almira Fast, of Essex township. Marvin married Mary Kendig, of Naperville, Illinois. David first married Addie De Lent, of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, and his second union was with Maggie Dryden, of West Jersey. P. B. wedded Cecilia Burns, of Princeville, and Douglas married Maggie Selby, of Princeville. Two of the daughters, Alcinda and Mary, married Jacob and Thomas Nicholas, respectively, of Essex township. Martha married John McGregor, of Monica. Anna married E. A. Trimmer, of Essex township. Sarah wedded M. B. Trickle, also of Essex township.

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### CHARLES S. MCKEE.

For years Charles S. McKee was identified with mercantile interests of Toulon and at all times his business methods measured up to the highest commercial standards, but in 1916 he sold his store. He was born in Ohio, May 2, 1864, a son of Robert McKee, who in 1865 removed to Illinois, settling on a farm near Galva. It was upon the old homestead property in Henry county that Charles S. McKee was reared, early becoming familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He attended the Galva schools and in early manhood began clerking in a dry goods store, being there employed for several years, during which time he gained thorough and practical knowledge of mercantile methods, thus laying the foundation for his later success.

In November, 1888, Mr. McKee was married in Toulon to Miss Mary E. Hall, the only daughter of Dr. Hall, a native of this city and a son of Dr. Hall, Sr., who was one of the pioneer physicians not only of Stark county, but of central Illinois as well. Mrs. McKee's aunt was the first white child born in this section of the state.

In 1889 Mr. McKee located in Toulon and for twelve years engaged in clerking here. He afterward established a new dry goods store on the south side of Main street, where he carried on business for three years. He afterward bought out a competitor on the north side of the street and removed his stock to that store and carried on business there until he sold out in 1916. He had a large double store, well lighted, and he carried an attractive line of merchandise attractively displayed. His stock included dry goods, clothing, boots

and shoes and groceries. He knew how to purchase advantageously and his prices were always reasonable, while his business methods were thoroughly reliable. He won a most creditable position among the leading merchants of the city and all who know him recognize that he deserves the success that has come to him.

To Mr. and Mrs. McKee have been born six children: Emily Irene, the wife of Roland Forman, a farmer of McLean county, Illinois, by whom she has a son, Roland Forman, Jr.; Eleanor, Ruth, Lucile and Rachel, all at home; and a daughter, Lucy, who died at the age of eleven years.

With Mr. McKee family interests are always first but he does not neglect the duties of citizenship, and while he has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking, he has responded to the demand of his fellow townsmen that he assume some of the public duties and responsibilities. He has several times been a member of the town council, was also city clerk for several years and for twenty-three years he has served as chief of the fire department, which is a volunteer service, the department numbering twenty-eight active young men. While some disastrous fires have occurred here, they have been very successful in fighting the flames, few buildings having been entirely destroyed. Mr. McKee certainly deserved much credit for his work in this connection and many other evidences of his public spirit could be cited, showing that he has the best interests of the community at heart and is most unselfish in his devotion to the general good. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity and has passed through all of the chairs in Toulon Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of which he is now a past master. He and his wife are connected with the Eastern Star chapter, and he belongs also to Wyoming Chapter, R. A. M., and to Kewanee Commandery, No. 71, K. T. He and his wife are members of the Congregational church of Toulon and Mrs. McKee is connected with the auxiliary societies of the church. They stand for all that is most worth while in community life and cast their influence on the side of right, progress and improvement.

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#### C. W. BOCOCK.

From his fellow citizens there have come to C. W. Bocoek, of Toulon, many evidences of their confidence and trust in him, for on various occasions he has been elected to public office, while into his hands have been placed some public trusts. He was born in Fulton



county, Illinois, May 2, 1859, a son of Cyrus Bocoek, of Bradford, who is one of the well known and highly esteemed citizens of Stark county. It was in this county that C. W. Bocoek was reared and at the usual age he became a public school pupil. He afterward attended the Wyoming high school and later he was employed upon his father's farm and in his father's store, continuing with him until he had reached the age of twenty-two years. Parental care and training qualified him for life's practical duties and instilled into his mind many of those principles which have guided him in his later relations.

Mr. Bocoek was married in Wyoming, March 5, 1882, to Miss Anna L. Markland, who was born in Ohio but was reared in Stark county, a daughter of John Markland, who died during her childhood. Following their marriage Mr. Bocoek and his bride established their home upon a farm in Marshall county, bordering the Stark county line. In fact portions of this farm extended into the two counties, although the residence and other buildings were in Marshall county. There Mr. Bocoek carried on general agricultural pursuits for eight years and during the period of his residence in Stark county he was elected and served for six years as road commissioner and as assessor for one year, while for two years he was township collector in Marshall county. From Marshall county he returned to the old home farm in Penn township and there he devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits for sixteen years, bringing the land under a high state of cultivation and adding materially to its value and productiveness. While living upon the farm he was elected supervisor and served for one term, after which he was reelected. In 1906 he received the nomination of the republican party for treasurer of Stark county and was elected to that office. In 1907 he removed to Toulon and entered upon the duties of his position in December of that year, continuing as the incumbent in the office for four years. His broad business experience and his public spirit well qualified him for the discharge of his duties and he made a most creditable record. Following his retirement from the position of county treasurer he served for four years as clerk of review. He is now secretary of the Elmira and Stark County Mutual Insurance Company and writes the policies and adjusts some of the fire losses and damages.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bocoek have been born two children: Nettie, the wife of Clarence E. Scholes, now of Henry, Marshall county, where he is bookkeeper in the National Bank; and Louva N., who is a student in the township high school of Toulon.

Mr. Bocoek has purchased residence property in Toulon which his family now occupies and there he is most comfortably situated. He

belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge of Toulon, in which he has filled all of the chairs and is a past grand, and he has represented the local organization in the grand lodge of the state on several occasions. He is likewise connected with the Rebekah degree and he has membership with the Modern Woodmen and the Fraternal Insurance Association. A spirit of progressiveness actuates him in all that he does, whether in the control of his private business interests or in the management of public affairs. He has ever recognized the fact that there is no such thing as standing still, that one must either advance or retrograde, and progression therefore became his watchword. He has done to the best of his ability whatever he has undertaken and on all occasions has manifested those sterling traits of heart and mind which in every land and every clime awaken confidence and goodwill.

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#### WALTER F. YOUNG.

Well known and popular in Toulon is the circuit clerk and recorder of Stark county, Walter F. Young, who has practically spent his entire life in this county, arriving here when a lad of three years. He was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, near Waukon, August 23, 1859. His father, B. F. Young, was a native of Maine and after he reached adult age was married there to Miss Sarah Gould, who was also born in the Pine Tree state. Mr. Young was a wheelwright by trade and carried on that business in Maine for some years after his marriage. During that period two children, a son and daughter, were born to himself and wife. In the year 1855 Mr. Young removed with his family to the middle west, settling in Allamakee county, Iowa, upon a farm near Waukon, where he continued to make his home for seven years. In 1862 he brought his family to Toulon and here established business as a contractor and builder. He possessed natural mechanical skill and ingenuity and invented and patented the first riding cultivator which is now in universal use. He spent his last years in Toulon, passing away in 1868. His widow still survives him and is today a well preserved woman of eighty-six years.

Walter F. Young was reared in Toulon and was educated in the public schools, after which he learned the carpenter's trade. He continued to follow carpentering and contracting for over thirty years and there are many buildings in Toulon and Stark county that are monuments of his architectural skill and handiwork. In 1912 he was nominated by the republican party for the office of circuit clerk and

recorder and at the following election a substantial majority was given him. He entered upon the duties of the position in December of that year and has since occupied the office in a most creditable manner entirely satisfactory to his constituents.

In 1897, in Peoria, Mr. Young was united in marriage to Miss Effie Boardman, who was born in Missouri but was reared and educated in Illinois and is a graduate of the Toulon high school. She afterward took up the profession of teaching, which she followed successfully for a number of years. Mr. and Mrs. Young began their domestic life in Toulon and to them have been born two children: Mildred, who is a graduate of the township high school; and Gilman B., who is attending high school.

Mr. Young is identified with the Masonic lodge of Toulon, in which he has filled all of the chairs and is a past master, while for a number of years he has been the lodge secretary. He likewise belongs to Wyoming Chapter, R. A. M., and he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star. They also hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and take a most active and helpful part in the church and Sunday school work, both being teachers in the Sunday school, while Mr. Young is a member of the official board and is the church treasurer. They do all in their power to promote the growth of the church and extend its influence and contribute in every possible way to the moral progress of the community. In all the relations of life, whether in business or in office, Mr. Young's record measures up to high standards of manhood and citizenship and the consensus of public opinion names him as a man of many excellent traits of character.

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#### WILLIAM H. HEWITT, D. D. S.

There is no more progressive dentist in this section of Illinois than Dr. W. H. Hewitt, of Wyoming, who has what is conceded to be the finest and best equipped dental parlor to be found in any town of its size in the state. He has a reception room, an office, a laboratory, a lavatory and a private rest room and is scrupulously careful to secure surgical cleanliness in his work and his apparatus is electrically driven. His offices are in the Scott, Walters & Rakestraw Bank building. A native son of Illinois, he was born in Bureau county in 1867, of the marriage of David and Drusilla (Spangler) Hewitt. The father was born in Ohio but in early manhood went to Bureau county, where he engaged in farming. Both he and his wife are deceased.

W. H. Hewitt spent his boyhood under the parental roof and accompanied his parents on their removal to Cass county, Iowa, in 1872. He completed a course in the public schools and subsequently was for two years a student in Oberlin College at Oberlin, Ohio, after which he entered the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, from which he was graduated three years later, in 1904, with the degree of D. D. S. He at once located in Wyoming, where he has built up a large and representative practice. He has equipped his attractively furnished rooms with everything that could promote his efficiency and add to the convenience of his patrons. He has gained unusual skill in his profession and has won a well deserved reputation for doing excellent work. His home, which he erected three years ago, is one of the finest residences in the town.

Dr. Hewitt was married in 1900 to Miss Sarah Elizabeth White, a native of Bureau county and a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Lewis) White, the former of whom is deceased, while the latter survives. The Doctor supports the republican party but has never had the time to spare from his profession to take an active part in politics. Both he and his wife are members of the Congregational church, and he is also well known in Masonic circles, belonging to the blue lodge and chapter at Wyoming, the commandery at Kewanee and the Shrine at Peoria. Dr. Hewitt has not only won high standing in his profession but has also gained the warm personal friendship of many, and his genuine worth is recognized by all who know him.

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### G. C. PLATT.

Among the energetic and prosperous farmers of Toulon township is G. C. Platt, who is devoting his attention to the cultivation of one hundred and sixty acres of land adjoining the corporation limits of Toulon. He has successfully farmed that tract for the last twenty years and its productiveness has been greatly enhanced by his practical and progressive methods.

Mr. Platt is a native of Pennsylvania, his birth having occurred in Clarion county, December 18, 1864. He was there reared upon a farm and on the 18th of December, 1885, he was united in marriage, in Cattaraugus county, New York, to Miss Ella Bodish, also a native of Pennsylvania. For a time Mr. Platt engaged in railroad-ing and in 1887 he made his way to the far west, settling at Grays Harbor, Washington, where he worked at anything that came to

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G. C. PLATT



MRS. G. C. PLATT

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hand, being willing to follow any employment that would yield him an honest living. While residing in that state he lost his wife in 1889, after which he returned to the east and joined his mother, who had located at Toulon. There he worked by the month as a farm hand for a time, but he was not content to remain in such a position, being desirous to engage in business on his own account, that he might work his way steadily upward. Accordingly he afterward rented the place whereon he now resides, assuming the management of the property in 1895. He has since carefully and successfully carried on general agricultural pursuits here, and in connection with the cultivation of cereals best adapted to soil and climate, he has made a success in raising and feeding stock, both branches of his business being carefully managed.

On the 10th of November, 1892, Mr. Platt was again married, for on that day, in Toulon, Miss Jennie Dodd became his wife. She was born in Tennessee but was brought to Stark county when a maiden of ten summers and was here reared. They traveled life's journey happily together for about twenty-two years and were separated by the hand of death on the 22d of April, 1914. The children of the first marriage are: Herbert, who is married and resides in Galva, Illinois, where he follows the machinists' trade; and Purl, who was born in the state of Washington and assists his father in carrying on the home farm. The children of the second marriage are: Pauline, who is a graduate of the Toulon high school and is now her father's housekeeper; Roy, Floyd and Myra, all at home. Mr. Platt is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and also holds membership in the Masonic lodge of Toulon, in which he now serves as master, while in 1915 he was its representative in the grand lodge. He is also a member of Wyoming Chapter, R. A. M., and is ever loyal to the teachings of the craft and to those higher principles which are inculcated by Christian instruction. His has been a busy and useful life and whatever success he has achieved and enjoyed is attributable entirely to his earnest and indefatigable efforts.

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### CHARLES H. GRISWOLD.

Charles H. Griswold is the owner of excellent farm property in Stark and Bureau counties and is engaged in the raising of high grade cattle and fine hogs. His business interests are carefully, systematically and successfully managed and are bringing substantial

financial results. Mr. Griswold has always made his home in this part of the state, his birth having occurred in Milo township, Bureau county, on the 24th of February, 1853, his parents being John A. and Maria (Steinbroek) Griswold, the former a native of Herkimer county, New York, and the latter of Pennsylvania. Coming west in early life, they were married in Illinois and the father carried on general farming in Bureau county until his death, which occurred in 1877, his widow surviving him for about twelve or fifteen years.

In his youthful days Charles H. Griswold was a pupil in the public schools of Milo township and later he attended college at Abingdon, Illinois, for two years and also became a student in the Valparaiso University at Valparaiso, Indiana. Following his return he located upon the home farm and was thereafter identified with general agricultural pursuits until 1905. In 1882 he began the breeding and sale of road horses and has since continued in the business. In this connection he has traveled extensively, making trips each fall to purchase horses. He has bred, raised, trained and driven his own horses and he has handled some of the finest steeds seen in this part of the country. He also carries on general agricultural pursuits and to some extent raises high grade cattle and fine hogs. His farm comprises two hundred and twenty-two acres of rich land in Bureau county, all under a high state of cultivation and well improved, and he also owns three hundred and forty acres of land southeast of Chillicothe, Missouri. He makes his home, however, in Bradford, where he has erected a fine residence, a good barn and garage. Upon his farm he has sixteen head of fine trotting stock and at one time had forty head. He has sold more trotting stock than any other man in the countryside and is one of the best judges of horses. He is today the owner of Lora Lay, regarded as the best horse in the county. His first race horses of note were Billy and Nellie McGregor and he has also been the owner of Phalanxer, Fred McGregor, Buelah Wilks, Jennie C., King Amarigo and Prince McGregor, while at the present time he has Lora Lay and Mamie Amarigo.

In 1882 Mr. Griswold wedded Miss Emma Bennett, of Milo, Bureau county, and they had a son, Harry, who is president and manager of the Keystone Iron Foundry at Los Angeles, California. The wife and mother passed away in 1892 and in 1894 Mr. Griswold wedded Miss Jennie Conover, of Marshall county, Illinois. Mrs. Griswold is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Griswold gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has always been a strong advocate of the temperance cause, working earnestly and untiringly in its support. In fact his influence is

always on the side of right, reform, progress and improvement and throughout Stark county and wherever he is known he is spoken of in terms of high regard.

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### MR. AND MRS. ALEXANDER McKENZIE.

A life is judged very largely by its inspirational quality, by its power to give to the lives that follow it just cause for loving admiration, and through that admiration, faith and hope and courage. As a loving tribute, then, and also as a noble example of that unwavering courage and that unquestioning acceptance of life as it is, to be made better and more acceptable by those to whom the gift of it has come, this sketch of two simple, unaffected lives is here written, with a full realization of its inadequacy, but with the consciousness that it will be read by sympathetic minds and understanding hearts, fitted to interpret its words aright.

From the deepest poverty in the Highlands country of Scotland, there came across the Atlantic, in 1863, a father, Alexander McKenzie, and two sons, Alexander McKenzie, Jr., whose life is here recorded, and Dumean McKenzie. Alexander McKenzie, Jr., was born March 20, 1842, near Fairburn, in Ross-shire, Scotland, about eighteen miles from Inverness, the capital of the Highlands. The father and sons came straight west from New York city and located in Stark county, Illinois, in the Scotch settlement of Elmira, where they joined John McKenzie, the oldest son of the family. The mother, Janet Chisholm McKenzie, had died in Scotland when Alexander was but three years old and Dumean, one. The father died in this country a short time after coming here.

Without money and without help, it was some time before this little family was able to earn enough in a strange, new country to make a beginning toward buying a home. But little by little the tiny hoard grew, until finally these three brothers together were able to buy, near Elmira, an eighty-acre tract of land with an old house upon it. On the 14th of September, 1876, Alexander McKenzie married Sarah Fowler, a daughter of one of the earliest pioneers, Brady Fowler, who likewise had made his beginning in the new country with absolutely no money. In fact, he borrowed the money for his marriage license when he married Rebecca Wiseman. This, however, was probably the only debt he ever had without the means in sight to pay it off. But the investment was evidently a wise one and the

risk allowable in such a case. A few years later these two with a family of three children set out from Pennsylvania by wagon to make a home in this fair Illinois of ours, which was then the great unopened west.

In this new country, Sarah Fowler was born near Oseola Grove, in Stark county, May 5, 1844. Practically her whole life was spent in this county, where her father and mother broke the virgin prairie soil and built one of the old pioneer log cabins. Her childhood knew both the pleasures and the hardships which belonged to those days, the days of the so-called "good old times," and her young womanhood experienced the thrilling period of the Civil war. Brady Fowler was a staunch abolitionist and a harbinger of fugitive slaves in those ante-bellum days.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie went to a small farm of eighty acres near Toulon, which they bought for a home, and here nearly all the rest of their lives were spent, a place inestimably dear to them all their days. To this original eighty-acre tract they kept adding other land near it and making other investments. Here four children were born to them, two sons, Neil and Kenneth, and two daughters, Florence and Clare, all of whom are living in and near Toulon. In 1877 they built a comfortable and beautiful new home on the old farm. To make and build such a home of his own was a great object of Mr. McKenzie's life, for he came from a country where such an achievement would have been impossible. Further than that he did not look or aspire at that time, but day by day, in spite of failures and discouragements, and the slow consummation of his hopes, he worked steadily, perseveringly, without despair, without envy, without bitterness, toward that end, never for an instant losing confidence in himself or failing in a persistent, enduring courage. Time passed and brought to him more than he had hoped in the way of possessions, until finally he came to be regarded as one of the leading financiers of the community. Such success in a financial way would be worthy of little comment were it not for the fact that he made his way alone and unaided while most people had at least some help to start with, meager though it might be. Neither would it be of much value for its own sake, aside from the fact that it is a monument to what man can do for himself in a patient, courageous way without the advantage of so-called "luck" and "good fortune," without any tampering with speculation, or by any illegitimate business, but by simple, honest, persistent effort, merely raising the products of the soil and with the proceeds buying more ground to continue the same work.

Nor were other things neglected for the sake of the mere accumulation of possessions. Of a quiet and retiring disposition, Mr. McKenzie seldom took a part in public affairs but was always a ready giver to things for the public good and always took great pride in the town and community where he lived. In the Toulon Congregational church, to which he transferred his membership from the Elmira Presbyterian in his later years, he was much interested and was ambitious for its growth and improvement.

In the year of 1913, Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie came to Toulon to the beautiful new home they had erected, because they felt they could no longer attend to their old work, and here, not quite a year later, Mr. McKenzie passed away on February 5, 1914, after a brief illness. Many people would regard this period of idling as a pleasure and consider the past years the hard part of life, but Mr. McKenzie did not feel so. He regarded the years of his work time as the happiest years of his life and always felt that if a man could not take pleasure in his work, his life was not ordered aright, and for his own part he keenly regretted the necessity of leaving the old farm home. Yet with his characteristic facing of life as it was, he set himself to enjoy the simple pleasures of retirement and be grateful that he had lived such a long period of years, not set aside among the old but still a part of the world.

For such a hard task as was his in his early years, he found in Mrs. McKenzie a perfect helpmeet. Even among pioneer women she was a remarkable woman, remarkable in an infinite variety of ways. At the time of her marriage, she was able to do everything about a home, even to making candles and soap and yeast and cutting patterns for gowns. Yet amid all her household cares and the cares of a large family, she found time to keep up her intellectual interests. Her purely formal education, in her girlhood, consisted of the somewhat haphazard instruction given in the old fashioned district school and a little smattering of Latin, grammar and history and rhetoricals at a small seminary near Abingdon, Illinois, where she begged her father to send her much against his will, for it was not yet the day of the education of women generally, and Brady Fowler was a firm, old fashioned believer in the home as woman's only sphere. She read and she learned all her life afterward, balancing with a rare good sense the intellectual and the practical. The breadth and variety of her interests were marvelous, considering the meager opportunities of her childhood and the time in which the formative years of her life were spent. They even extended into financial matters, in which she always took a keen pleasure and delight, managing her own private property her-

self, for the pure pleasure of doing it, with no small skill. She was one of the early members of the Congregational church of Toulon when it was small and weak and insignificant, entering it because she had faith in its broad principles and believed in its future, and she always remained interested in its services and all its allied societies. She was one of the earliest members, also, of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, likewise a small and insignificant organization, before the days of the popularity of temperance and before any considerable body of people had faith in it. Very early, too, she came to a belief in woman's suffrage, another unpopular cause in that day. In countless ways she saw and lived and moved in advance of her time, a pioneer woman in more than one sense of the word.

Yet with all this variety of interests, and interests, many of them, which were in her time unusual and not customary among women, she was primarily a home woman, a perfect and devoted mother, keeping in the midst of all the stress of life and its conflicting demands, her sanity and balance and sweetness. In all the matters of the modern world her interest continued to the end, and about her person and character in her declining years there was an almost complete absence of the withering touch of age. She, too, until death claimed her also, just four days later than her husband, on February 9, 1914, was a brave and splendid example of how one can mold circumstances till they contribute to the upbuilding of great life and character.

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#### A. C. COOPER.

A. C. Cooper owns four acres of land within the limits of Wyoming and is there engaged in growing fruit and raising bees. He is also active in the affairs of the municipal government, having been a member of the city council for the past twelve years. A native of Stark county, he was born on the 11th of November, 1874, and is a son of George Cooper, who was also born in this county and is now living with a daughter in Wyoming. He was a farmer during his active life and gained a gratifying measure of success in that occupation. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Mary J. Patterson, was a native of Rock Island, Illinois, and is deceased. The paternal grandfather of our subject, David Cooper, was born in Pennsylvania and married Eleanor Essex, a sister of Isaac B. Essex, who was the first settler of Stark county and for whom Essex township was

named. A sketch of the life of Mr. Essex appears elsewhere in this work.

A. C. Cooper has passed his entire life in this county and during his boyhood and youth assisted his father with the work of the home farm and also attended the public schools, thus gaining a good education. Since 1881 he has resided in Wyoming, where he owns four acres of land, and he is specializing in fruit growing and bee raising. He has made a scientific study of these subjects and is finding them both profitable. He raises strawberries and raspberries, for which he finds a ready sale on the market. He is one of the most extensive bee raisers in the county, having from ninety to one hundred colonies, and he takes great pains in their care, with the result that the honey from his hives has become well known for its fine flavor.

Mr. Cooper is a republican in politics and has taken a leading part in public affairs. For twelve consecutive years he has been a member of the city council and has exerted a great deal of influence in that body. He is a man of keen insight and strong personality, and his position on any question is never an equivocal one. He has a wide acquaintance throughout the county and is universally respected.

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### R. CHESTER JACKSON.

In 1909 R. Chester Jackson purchased the farm on section 30, Elmira township, on which he now resides. His entire life has been given to general agricultural pursuits and the persistency of purpose which he has displayed has led to the attainment of his present success. He was born in Elmira township, April 9, 1881, a son of William and Louisa (Stone) Jackson. The father was a native of Scotland and came to the United States with his father, Thomas Jackson, when about seventeen years of age. The family home was established in this county and here William Jackson wedded Louisa Stone, who was born near Osceola. He was a pioneer settler of Elmira township and there, following his marriage, continued to engage in general agricultural pursuits until his life's labors were ended in death.

R. Chester Jackson supplemented his early education, acquired in the district schools of Elmira township, by study in the Toulon Academy, and when not busy with his textbooks his attention was given to the work of the home farm until he reached the age of twenty-seven years, when he started out in business life independently by renting land in Toulon township. There he remained for three years,

after which he purchased his farm on section 30, Elmira township, becoming owner of the property in 1909. This is a one hundred and sixty acre triangular tract, on which he carries on the task of cultivating corn, wheat and other cereals. He annually harvests good crops, for his methods are practical and resultant.

In 1908 Mr. Jackson was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Grieve, a daughter of William Grieve, mentioned elsewhere in this volume. They have become parents of two children, Helen Charlotte and Marcia Louise. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson are members of the Presbyterian church, in which he is serving as clerk, and their interest is always manifest on the side of those forces which work for the moral progress and improvement of the community. In politics Mr. Jackson is a republican, but while he has never sought nor held political office, he has served on the township school board of Toulon township and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. For more than a third of a century he has been a resident of Stark county, covering the entire period of his life, and since starting out in the business world for himself he has made substantial progress, having steadily advanced toward the goal of prosperity.

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### ROLLIN E. WHEELER.

Toulon gained a substantial citizen when in 1906 Rollin E. Wheeler became a resident of Stark county. For the past six years he has been engaged in the hardware and automobile business and the progressive spirit which actuates him in all that he undertakes is bringing him to the goal of success. He was born in Ontario county, New York, June 24, 1880, and had good school opportunities there while spending his youthful days in the home of his parents. His father, Sylvester H. Wheeler, was a native of the same county, born in 1829, and was a son of Sylvester Wheeler, Sr., who served in the War of 1812. Sylvester H. Wheeler, Jr., was a merchant and farmer of Ontario county, New York, for a long period but ultimately was appointed superintendent of a division of the overland mail service operating across Texas to the California gold fields, where he remained for several years or until the outbreak of the Civil war, when he returned to Empire state and there spent his remaining days. His death occurred in 1901, and he is survived by his last wife, who resides in Bristol, New York.

Rollin E. Wheeler was a resident of the Empire state until he



reached the age of twenty-six years, when in 1906 he determined to try his fortune in the west and made his way to Toulon, where he assumed the management of a hardware business owned by W. W. Wheeler. He was unacquainted with the trade but soon became familiar with the business and he also won popularity among the people. Under his guidance the enterprise proved profitable, and feeling that he could win success in that line, R. E. Wheeler in 1908 purchased the business and also bought the hardware store of Davis & Fell. He admitted C. D. Fowler to a partnership and they conducted their interests together for three years, at the end of which time Mr. Wheeler bought Mr. Fowler's interest and became sole proprietor but soon afterward took J. P. Williams into partnership, that relation being maintained until the death of Mr. Williams in November, 1914. Mr. Wheeler has since been alone in the ownership and conduct of the store. He carries a large stock of shelf and heavy hardware and in addition to retailing goods of that character he conducts a plumbing business, installs furnaces, handles gasoline engines, also installs electric light plants and is engaged in selling automobiles, largely handling the Chalmers car since 1909. This is a fine, well built, serviceable car, popular in Toulon. The various branches of his business are proving a source of success to Mr. Wheeler, who is a very energetic man, placing his dependence upon industry, close application and honorable dealing.

On the 2d of October, 1912, Mr. Wheeler was united in marriage to Miss Ethel Williams, a daughter of J. P. Williams, of Toulon, now deceased. He erected an attractive modern residence on West Main street and he also purchased and still owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the Red River valley of North Dakota, all under cultivation. His activities are reaching out along many lines, and it is characteristic of him that he carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

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### MRS. HARRIET E. WINANS.

Mrs. Harriet E. Winans is the widow of W. H. Winans and a representative of one of the old families of Stark county. It was in the year 1872 that the Winans home was established in Goshen township. W. H. Winans was born in New Jersey, January 20, 1853, and was a son of J. H. Winans, also a native of the same state. After spending the days of his boyhood and youth in New Jersey, during

which period he obtained a public school education. W. H. Winans was married there on the 10th of May, 1871, to Miss Harriet E. Clemens, who was born and educated in the city of Newark, New Jersey.

At length the Winans family determined to try their fortunes in the middle west and J. H. Winans and family, together with Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Winans, came to Illinois, establishing their home in Stark county. They purchased an improved farm of two hundred and forty acres in Goshen township, near La Fayette, in 1872, and settling upon that property, J. H. Winans and son in partnership began its further development and improvement. Their labors were both practical and progressive and resulted in the production of substantial crops. They also gave considerable attention to raising and selling pure-blooded stock, making a specialty of Hereford cattle, and they became well-known breeders and dealers in pure-blooded Herefords. Their business affairs were ever carefully and wisely managed and a spirit of energy and determination actuated them at every point in their business career.

Whatever W. H. Winans undertook he accomplished, allowing no obstacles to bar his path that could be overcome by persistent and honorable effort. He continued to carry on the farm for a number of years, after which he removed to Toulon, where he purchased a residence and then lived retired. His rest had been well earned and he merited the enjoyment that came to him in his later years. He passed away in Toulon in June, 1902, when in the prime of life, being then but forty-nine years of age. He was a loyal member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Toulon and also a helpful and consistent member of the Baptist church. In fact his life was an expression of Christian manhood characterized by a recognition of the rights of others and his obligations to his fellowmen.

To Mr. and Mrs. Winans were born six sons and three daughters. Henry C., who is married and has a family of five children, is now a resident farmer of Goshen township, living on the old homestead. Lida H. is the wife of Frank Price and has a family of three children. Robert S. makes his home in Galva, Iowa. Emma C. is the wife of J. W. Rist, a farmer living near Burt, Iowa, and they have two children. Clifford W., who carries on general farming at Elkton, South Dakota, is married and has two children. John D., a farmer of Essex township, Stark county, is married and has one child. Bessie D. is at home. Leslie H. is now a junior in Denison University at Granville, Ohio, and Elbar J., a young man at home, completes the family.

Mrs. Winans is a lady of excellent business ability, capably man-

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BARN OF B. D. PHENIX

aging her interests and investments. Since the death of her husband she has purchased a lot on South Henderson street in Toulon and thereon has erected an attractive residence built in modern style of architecture and tastefully furnished. She is one of the active workers and earnest members of the Baptist church, and all who know her esteem her for her kindly spirit and her many good deeds. For forty-five years she has now lived in Stark county and is therefore familiar with many of the events which have figured most prominently in shaping the history of this part of the state.

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### BARDWELL D. PHENIX.

Bardwell D. Phenix, of Bradford, who has accumulated considerable wealth through hard work, thrift and wise investment, is connected with banking circles of the county as a member of the Phenix Banking Company of Bradford and is also a prominent farmer and breeder of Guernsey cattle. His birth occurred in Penn township, Stark county, on the 27th of March, 1863, and he is a son of Daniel B. Phenix, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. He passed the days of his boyhood and youth upon the home farm and received his education in the district schools. As soon as old enough he began helping with the farm work and assisted his father until he was twenty-five years of age, when, in partnership with his cousin, Oscar Phenix, he came to Bradford and established a store here.

After being connected with its management for six years Bardwell D. Phenix sold out his interest therein and in 1895, when the Phenix Banking Company of Bradford was formed, he entered the bank as assistant cashier. He also had charge of his father's extensive interests and had the management of the large tracts of land owned by the bank. He and his cousin, Daniel J. Phenix, have since directed the policy of the institution and have been very successful in its management, securing a large and representative patronage. He has large landholdings, owning four hundred and fifty acres in Stark county and having a half interest in the following tracts: two hundred and eighty acres in this county, one hundred and sixty acres in Kansas, seven hundred acres in Iowa, and three thousand acres in Mississippi, Illinois and Minnesota, all of which is rented to good advantage. He is also well known as a breeder of Guernsey cattle and has imported from the Island of Guernsey as the nucleus of his herd

a pure blooded bull, Governor of the Bells, and four pure blooded cows. He now has about twenty head of as fine cattle as are to be found in this state. He was also among the first to raise Cornish Indian Game chickens and took a number of premiums on his fowls at fairs in Chicago and Peoria.

Mr. Phenix was married on the 21st of December, 1887, to Miss Anna V. Downing, a native of this county. Her parents were Nathan and Hannah Downing, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of Germany. They were numbered among the early settlers of Penn township, Stark county. Mrs. Phenix died from the effects of a surgical operation at a Chicago hospital June 18, 1911, and was laid to rest in the Bradford cemetery. In 1913 Mr. Phenix was again married, his second union being with Miss Gale J. Seipt, of Peoria, a daughter of Charles and Anna Seipt.

Mr. Phenix is a stalwart republican in politics, but has never desired office. His beautiful residence in Bradford is throughly modern and is the finest home in the town. His marked success in all that he has undertaken is the direct result of his enterprise and good judgment and all who have come in contact with him acknowledge his ability. He is quiet and unassuming but those who are admitted to his close friendship recognize his many fine qualities and hold him in the highest esteem.

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### WILLIAM L. HULSIZER.

More than a half century has come and gone since William L. Hulsizer became a resident of Stark county. He arrived here when a lad of twelve years and for a long period has been known as one of Toulon's valued and public-spirited citizens. He can give an accurate account of many events that have shaped the history of the county, having witnessed the greater part of its growth and up-building.

His birth occurred in Oxford, Warren county, New Jersey, December 3, 1846, his father being Abner Hulsizer, also a native of New Jersey, in which state he was reared and learned the blacksmith's trade. He and his brother, James Hulsizer, in early manhood drove with horse and buggy across the country to Illinois, after which the brother traded the horse and buggy for land in West Jersey. Abner Hulsizer made the return trip to New Jersey by stage when he found opportunity to travel in that way but covered much of the distance



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM L. HULSIZER

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on foot. He worked at his trade at various places on the return trip and afterward conducted a blacksmith shop at Oxford for a number of years. He was married there to Miss Mary Ellen Correll, who was born in Pennsylvania but was reared in New Jersey. In 1853 they left the east for Illinois, traveling by train and by lake, with Stark county as their destination. They settled in West Jersey township, where Mr. Hulsizer purchased land at three dollars and a quarter per acre near the village of West Jersey. He afterward built a shop in the town and there carried on business, at the same time devoting every available opportunity to the work of opening up and improving his farm, whereon he reared his family and made his home for a number of years. He afterward disposed of that property and came to Toulon, where he spent his last years in honorable retirement from business, his death occurring December 19, 1898. His wife survived him for a few years and throughout the period of their residence in this locality they were numbered among the valued, worthy and respected citizens.

William L. Hulsizer, arriving in Stark county when a lad of six years, was here reared on the old homestead farm and in his youthful days attended the district schools. He is, however, largely a self-educated as well as self-made man and from experience has learned many valuable life lessons. He remained upon the farm with his father until he attained his majority and then made arrangements for having a home of his own by his marriage on the 23d of December, 1868, to Miss Luzetta C. Swank, who was born and reared in Stark county and is a daughter of Henry Swank, who came from Pennsylvania and died during the early girlhood of his daughter, Mrs. Hulsizer. Her mother had passed away during the infancy of the daughter, so that she was thus early left an orphan.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Hulsizer was celebrated in Toulon and they began their domestic life on a farm. He is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres in Goshen township and there for a long period he was actively engaged in general agricultural pursuits, his industry and capable management resulting in the annual harvesting of large crops. He likewise engaged in raising and feeding hogs and cattle and this constituted an important branch of his business. He built a good residence on the farm, also erected substantial barns and outbuildings for the shelter of grain, stock and farm machinery and his place became one of the neat and well improved properties of his township. Year after year he carefully tilled the soil until 1896 and then removed to Toulon, where he erected a very pleasant and attractive home. Although residing in the city, he still looks after his farm

and is also engaged to some extent in the real estate business, handling Illinois farm lands and city property.

In 1903 Mr. and Mrs. Hulsizer started on a trip abroad. They visited the Madeira Islands, Spain, Portugal, Algiers, Greece, Palestine, Egypt and other points along the Mediterranean, and returning to the European continent, visited Switzerland and England, having a most enjoyable trip in foreign lands. They also traveled westward through the Pacific coast states and have visited Mexico. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hulsizer are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Toulon, in which he is serving on the official board. He is very much interested in both church and Sunday school work and for twenty years served as Sunday school superintendent, filling that position for eight years in Toulon. He is a most public-spirited and progressive citizen and is a leader in many of the public enterprises which are of value and worth to the city. He was largely instrumental in establishing the Chautauqua and securing prominent and well known lecturers, speakers and entertainers, making the Chautauqua one of the attractive features in the educational and social life of the city. He stands loyally at all times for those things which are matters of civic virtue and civic pride and labors just as earnestly to advance the general welfare as he has done to promote his individual success along the legitimate lines of business. His prosperity is well deserved and the most envious cannot grudge him his prosperity, so honorably has it been won and so worthily used. There are those who regard public affairs as matters of no concern to them, but Mr. Hulsizer has always recognized the duties and obligations as well as the privileges of life and fully meets every obligation as it comes.

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#### EDWIN HARTLEY.

Edwin Hartley, who is living in Wyoming, still supervises the operation of his valuable farms in the county, from which he receives a gratifying income. He was born in Essex township, this county, on the 13th of June, 1857, a son of James Hartley, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Edwin Hartley was reared upon the home farm and attended the district schools and the schools at Wyoming in the acquirement of an education. Following his father's demise he inherited one hundred acres of land in Essex township and has since added to that tract until he now holds title to one hundred and eighty-three acres. In addition

to this place he owns one hundred and thirty acres in Toulon township and three hundred and twenty acres in Potter county, South Dakota. He personally cultivated his land until 1906, when he removed to Wyoming, where he has since lived. He still looks after his agricultural interests, giving close attention to the operation of his farms, although the actual work is done by others. He understands all phases of farming, possesses good business ability, which enables him to manage his affairs well, and the success which he has gained is well deserved.

Mr. Hartley was married December 4, 1879, to Miss Mary E. Duckworth, who was born in Stark county and is a daughter of Henry Duckworth. To this union have been born two children: Arthur C., who married Miss Ella Russell and is operating one of his father's farms; and Bertha, who married Lewis Wagner, of Wyoming, and has a daughter, Velda Loraine.

Mr. Hartley indorses the principles of the republican party and supports its candidates at the polls. Fraternaly he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and his wife is identified with the Congregational church. He has been a lifelong resident of Stark county and is keenly interested in everything relating to the advancement of his community. Through the development of his farm he has gained financial independence, and he has also contributed to the wealth of the county, whose greatest resource is its rich land.

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### J. W. HOUSE.

J. W. House, living in Osecola, is the owner of valuable farm property in Elmira township, including three hundred and twenty acres lying on section 11. As the years have passed he has made judicious investments in farm property and from his holdings derives a gratifying annual income. A native of New York, Mr. House was born in the town of Memphis, March 9, 1856, a son of James T. and Miranda (Weaver) House, who were also natives of the Empire state, where they remained until 1856, when they removed westward to Illinois, settling in Osecola. Later they established their home three miles east of Osecola and upon that place continued to reside for many years. The mother died in 1894, while the father passed away about 1902, their remains being interred in the Osecola cemetery.

J. W. House is indebted to the district school system for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. He remained at home until he

reached the age of twenty-three years and then removed to Bureau county, Illinois, spending about seven years in farming near Neponset. At the end of that time he removed to Osceola township, Stark county, and afterward located in Elmira township, where he resided for seven years. He purchased a residence in Osceola and is now the owner of extensive farm lands, including three hundred and twenty acres on section 11, Elmira township, and two hundred and forty acres elsewhere in Stark county. He likewise owns a tract of land of forty acres, at Palm Grove, Florida.

In 1880 Mr. House was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Lackie, a sister of R. Y. Lackie, mentioned elsewhere in this work. She was born on the old homestead in this county and has become the mother of three daughters: Edna, the wife of Herbert Ford, of Elmira township; Mabel, who married Don Tracy, of Elmira township; and Lena, at home.

Mr. House and his family are members of the Baptist church and are people of the highest respectability, to whom is extended the hospitality of the best homes of the county. He also has membership with the Modern Woodmen of America, while both he and his wife are connected with the Royal Neighbors, the latter having been recorder for the Royal Neighbors since the lodge was started in 1890, save for one year. Mr. House has served as school director and the cause of education finds in him a staunch friend. In politics he has ever been an earnest republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, and for nine years he served as assessor of Elmira township. He is well known in this part of the state, where he has spent practically his entire life, and as an enterprising business man, a progressive citizen and a faithful friend he enjoys the warm regard and goodwill of all with whom he has been associated.

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### SAMUEL HALL.

Samuel Hall, a prominent citizen of Bradford, is an extensive landowner and engages in stock raising on a large scale. He was born in Osceola township, two and a half miles northwest of Bradford, on the 4th of August, 1860, of the marriage of James and Elizabeth (Howe) Hall, both natives of Derbyshire, England, where they were reared and married. The father worked in a cotton factory until May, 1854, when he came to the United States, where his family joined him in 1856. Removal was made to Stark county,

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Illinois, and Mr. Hall worked by the month until he had saved enough money to purchase a team, when he began farming rented land. Later he bought eighty acres of land in Osceola township, paying therefor ten dollars per acre, and, although he had to go into debt to secure this property, it was not long before he was able to clear the farm of all incumbrances. The place has since remained in the possession of the family and is now owned by his daughter, Mary. He continued to prosper as the years passed and purchased more land from time to time until he held title to one thousand acres in Stark county. He gave his attention chiefly to cattle and hog raising and gave his personal attention to his extensive interests until he reached an advanced age. He then deeded his land to his children and removed to Bradford in 1904, where he lived in honorable retirement until his death on the 18th of February, 1915, when eighty-nine years old. He was supervisor of his township and was also called to other local offices, although he was too busy with his business affairs to take a very active part in politics. His wife also reached a good old age, passing away about 1908 in the faith of the Church of England, to which she belonged. To their union were born six children, of whom two died in infancy, the others being: Samuel; Jennie, deceased; James, also deceased; and Mary, a resident of Bradford.

Samuel Hall passed his boyhood and youth upon the home farm and received his education through attending the public schools. He continued to assist his father until the latter retired, and then received title to a portion of his father's estate, subsequently increasing his holdings until he now owns eleven hundred and sixty acres of land in this county. He rents part of his land but is engaged in breeding Hereford cattle and in feeding both cattle and hogs extensively, finding the stock business very profitable. In addition to his large land-holdings here he and his son own three hundred and twenty acres in North Dakota. He has given thorough study to the various problems that enter into the business of stock raising, and his success is not due to good fortune but to the care which he has taken to provide his stock with well balanced rations and the proper shelter and the close watch which he has kept upon the market. He is progressive, energetic and farsighted, and these qualities go far toward securing prosperity in any field of activity.

Mr. Hall was married on the 7th of March, 1889, to Miss Elizabeth Hawksworth, who was born in Peoria, Illinois, and is a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Elm) Hawksworth. In 1854 her parents removed to the United States from their native Yorkshire, England, and settled in Peoria, Illinois, where the father engaged in farming,

although he had previously been connected with merchandising. He passed away a short time after his arrival in this state, but his widow survived for many years, spending her last days with our subject and his wife. She was a member of the Episcopal church and was the mother of seven children, those besides Mrs. Hall being: Helen, the widow of John H. Mendenhall, of Peoria; Mrs. Eliza A. Marden; Esther, who became the wife of Amos H. Mendenhall and is now deceased; Mary Jane, who married Finis Fawcett, a resident of Nebraska; Charles, who is farming in Stark county; and John, a farmer of Peoria county. Mr. and Mrs. Hall are the parents of three children, Joseph Howe, Helen Hope and Martha Virginia.

Mr. Hall has always given his political support to the republican party but has never been willing to accept office, preferring to devote his entire time to his important business enterprises. His wife and children are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and his influence is consistently given to the side of fair dealing and righteousness. In 1907 he built a beautiful home in Bradford, where he has since resided, but he still gives careful supervision to his stock raising interests. He has been a factor of no little importance in the development of his county along the lines of agriculture and animal husbandry and is justly esteemed for his ability and progressiveness.

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### W. DAVID FULK.

For sixty-five years W. David Fulk has been a resident of Stark county, witnessing its growth and development from pioneer times to the present and taking an active part in promoting its agricultural interests. He is still busily engaged in farming, his home being on section 16, Osceola township. He represents one of the early families of the county, for his birth occurred in Elmira township, December 29, 1850. His parents were Levi and Rachel (Medaris) Fulk, who were natives of Ohio, in which state they were reared and married. They arrived in Illinois in the fall of 1850, having journeyed westward in a prairie schooner after the primitive manner of travel in those days. The father secured land and with characteristic energy began the development of a new farm, which he converted into rich and productive fields. In 1899 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, while he survived until June, 1915. His political allegiance was given to the democratic party.

W. David Fulk was reared to farm life on the old homestead,

where he remained until twenty-two years of age, when he located at his present place of residence on section 16, Osceola township. He has eighty acres of good land and is engaged in general farming. He has wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of the place, for he has erected good buildings, has brought his fields under a high state of cultivation, has planted an orchard and has added other improvements. He has engaged in the raising of full blooded Herefords, and his live stock interests have been an important feature of his business.

In 1873 Mr. Fulk was united in marriage to Miss Eva E. Harris, and they have become the parents of three children: W. T., who is assisting his father on the home farm; Bessie L., at home; and John M., who is residing upon another farm of eighty acres owned by his father, near Bradford.

In his political views Mr. Fulk has always followed an independent course, casting his ballot according to the dictates of judgment and the exigencies of the case. For a number of years he served as school director, and the cause of education found in him a warm friend. He and his wife attend the Methodist Episcopal church and they are worthy people, esteemed for their many excellent traits of character and respected for their well spent lives. Mr. Fulk deserves mention among the honored pioneer settlers of the county and his memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present. He has lived to see remarkable changes as pioneer homes have been replaced by commodious and beautiful farm residences. The buildings for the shelter of grain and stock have also been greatly improved, for the county is dotted here and there with mammoth barns and sheds. There is no feature of twentieth century farming that is not found in this district, and Mr. Fulk rejoices in what has been accomplished not only along agricultural lines but in all lines of normal business development.

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#### EMERY S. BUFFUM.

Among the honored veterans of the Civil war living in Toulon is Emery S. Buffum, who was among those that in the darkest hour of our country's history rallied to the defense of the old flag and kept the stars and stripes waving over the national capitol as the symbol of a united country. For many years he was actively and successfully engaged in farming in Stark county and is still the owner of one

hundred and eighty acres of rich and productive land in Goshen township but is now living retired from active business. His residence in the county covers a period of more than half a century, for he arrived here in 1864.

Mr. Buffum is a native of Rock Island, Illinois, and was born January 7, 1842. His grandfather, Jonathan Buffum, was born in Vermont and on coming to the west soon after the Black Hawk war, settled in Canton, Illinois. Later he removed to and settled in Rock Island, erecting the first brick building in that city. This was a hotel and for a number of years he continued actively in the hotel business. He afterward removed to Andalsia, where he spent his last years. During the period of the Black Hawk war he made his home in Monmouth. His son, Abel C. Buffum, was born in Ohio and was among the first settlers of Rock Island, establishing his home there about 1832, which was the year in which the Black Hawk war occurred, whereby the question of Indian supremacy in Illinois was forever ended. He was married in Knoxville, this state, to Miss Lucinda M. Pease, a native of Vermont. For a long period Abel C. Buffum carried on farming in Rock Island county but afterward removed to Knox county and eventually became a resident of Taylor county, Iowa, where he remained for a number of years. At length he went to California, taking up his abode in Anderson, Shasta county, where he lived retired until his death, which occurred when he had reached the advanced age of eighty-four years, four months and twelve days. He was married three times, being survived by his third wife.

Emery S. Buffum, whose name introduces this review, was the only son of his father's first marriage. He was reared in Knox county, Illinois, and acquired his education in the common schools. On the 19th of August, 1861, when a youth of nineteen years, he responded to the country's call for aid, enlisting in Company B, Thirty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under command of Colonel John C. Black. He participated in the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, where he was wounded in the breast, and because of the serious nature of his injuries he was afterward honorably discharged.

Later Mr. Buffum returned to Stark county and went upon a farm. On the 17th of May, 1864, he was married in Toulon to Miss Anna L. Himes, who was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Charles and Laura Himes, who were among the pioneer settlers of this county. After cultivating rented land for two years Mr. Buffum purchased eighty-eight acres which was entirely a wild tract. With characteristic energy he began to develop and improve the property and afterward extended the boundaries of his farm as

his financial resources increased until he became the owner of one hundred and eighty acres in Goshen township and also other land in the county. Upon his home place he erected a good residence and a substantial barn and other outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock. He continued farming there until 1901 and later he rented his farm to his son for several years and afterward leased it to others. He still owns the place, which is situated near the Henry county line, and from this he derives a gratifying annual income. Upon taking up his abode in the city he purchased the residence which he now occupies, and the success which he achieved in former years supplies him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

To Mr. and Mrs. Buffum have been born six sons and three daughters who are yet living, namely: Charles A., who is engaged in business at Long Beach, California; Edwin E., who is a partner with his brother at Long Beach; Elmer H., a real estate and insurance man of Toulon; George N., who follows farming at New Bechard, Saskatchewan, Canada; Perry H., a farmer living at Hayfield, Minnesota; Roy L., who is engaged in the practice of medicine at Long Beach; Laura L., the wife of Simeon Dunbar, a farmer and stock raiser of Casey, Iowa; Clara L., the wife of Fred P. James, of Hayfield, Minnesota; and A. May, the wife of Fred Nicholson, a farmer of Stark county. They also lost two children: Alberta, who died at the age of twelve years; and Nellie E., when ten years of age.

Politically Mr. Buffum is a republican and has frequently been a delegate to party conventions. He has served on the board of supervisors for two years and is a stalwart advocate of the principles in which he believes. He has passed all of the chairs in Toulon Lodge, I. O. O. F., of which he is a past grand, and he has twice been a delegate to the grand lodge. He and his wife are identified with the Rebekah degree, in which Mrs. Buffum has filled all of the offices and has likewise been a delegate to the grand order. They are earnest Christian people, Mr. Buffum belonging to the Methodist church and his wife to the Baptist church. They are both active church workers and do all in their power to promote Christian influence in the community. Mr. Buffum belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic and was at one time commander of the old post at Galva and later at Toulon. He thus maintains pleasant relations with his comrades with whom he wore the blue and with whom he followed the nation's starry flag to victory on southern battlefields. He is a member of the Old Settlers Association, in which he has been honored with office.

In 1876 Mr. and Mrs. Buffum attended the Centennial Exposition held in Philadelphia and they have also attended the World's Colum-

bian Exposition in Chicago, the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis and the exposition in Portland, Oregon. During the past seven years they have spent the winter months in California, much of the time being passed with their sons at Long Beach, although they have visited the various cities and points of interest on the Pacific coast. Both Mr. and Mrs. Buffum are well-known residents of Toulon and Stark county and are highly esteemed for their many excellent traits of character. Their home is ever open for the reception of their friends, who are many and who are ever cordially welcomed to their fireside.

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### DANIEL J. OWENS.

Daniel J. Owens, occupying one of the fine homes of Bradford, has long been a prominent representative of its business interests, formerly identified with merchandising and now with agricultural pursuits. He was born in Penn township, Stark county, January 6, 1871, a son of John and Maria (Dillon) Owens, both of whom were natives of Ireland, the father coming of Welsh ancestry. In early life both arrived in the United States and were married on this side the Atlantic. John Owens had made the voyage to the new world when seventeen years of age, or in 1856, and, penetrating into the interior of the country, had settled in Stark county, where he purchased a tract of raw land on which not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made. With characteristic energy he began to develop that place and there continued to engage in farming until 1872, when he removed to Campgrove, Illinois, where he lived for four years. On the expiration of that period he took up his abode on a farm east of Bradford, where he still resides, being one of the well known and highly respected farmers of Stark county, where he has resided almost continuously for six decades. His wife passed away in 1899.

At the usual age Daniel J. Owens became a public school pupil and also attended St. Mary's College in Kansas, where he finished the course but did not quite graduate. He has since attended Loyola College of Chicago, where he won the LL. B. degree. After his education was completed he took up the business of merchandising in 1893 and remained active therein for more than twenty years or until 1914, when he sold out. He has since given his attention to farming and has met with excellent success in that undertaking. In 1908 he erected a fine residence which is one of the best in Bradford. In con-

nection with his three brothers he owns six hundred acres of land. He likewise has three hundred and sixteen acres in Warren county, which is cultivated under his personal supervision and direction. One of the most distinguished students of economics in all America has said that there is no better investment than Illinois farm land. Believing this, Mr. Owens has placed his money in acreage and is today reaping the rewards of his sound judgment and untiring labor, for his farm properties are returning to him a most gratifying annual income.

On the 5th of June, 1912, Mr. Owens was married to Miss Maria Cahill, a native of Stark county, and they now have two children, Mary Josephine and Daniel J., both at home. The parents are members of St. John's Catholic church, and Mr. Owens is identified with the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Order of Foresters. He votes with the democratic party where national issues are involved but at local elections does not consider party ties. He has served as mayor of Bradford, and gave to the city a businesslike and progressive administration that largely promoted public interests.

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### GEORGE M. TURNBULL.

The name Turnbull has ever been a synonym in Stark county for progressiveness in business and for loyalty in citizenship, and the family has been represented in this part of the state from the pioneer era. George M. Turnbull was born January 15, 1867, at the second house south of his present home, which is situated on section 16, Elmira township. The family was established in Illinois by his grandfather, a native of Roxburyshire, Scotland, who on coming to the new world brought with him his family, including William Turnbull, the father of George M. William Turnbull was partially reared in Stark county. His birth had occurred in Roxburyshire, Scotland, but in his youthful days he came with his parents to the United States and completed his education in the schools of this district. He afterward located just north of the farm of George M. Turnbull and there resided until his death, which occurred about sixteen years ago, his attention throughout the entire period being given to agricultural pursuits. His widow survived him for about six years and then she too passed away.

A common school education fitted George M. Turnbull for the active and practical duties of life, together with the training which he received upon the home farm. He continued on the old homestead

until he attained his majority. He first purchased land near Galva, Illinois, on which he lived for seven years and then came to his present place, which is situated on section 16, Elmira township. He now owns two hundred acres of land in this tract, and upon it he has placed good improvements. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres of land at Watton, North Dakota. Upon his Stark county farm he is engaged quite extensively in feeding hogs and sheep, this being an important branch of his business.

On the 30th of April, 1892, Mr. Turnbull was united in marriage to Miss Mary McKenzie, a native of Scotland, and they became the parents of four children: Catherine B., now of Nebraska; William E., at home; Clarence, who is a school teacher in Elmira; and Mary I., attending school in Toulon. The wife and mother passed away in 1900. She was a devoted member of the Presbyterian church, to which Mr. Turnbull belongs. For twelve or fifteen years he has served as school director and is greatly interested in the advancement of the cause of education. In politics he has been an earnest republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise.

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### EDWIN HOLMES.

Edwin Holmes is one of the most venerable citizens of Stark county, having passed the eighty-fourth milestone on life's journey. For a long period he was actively connected with farming on section 12, Penn township, but now lives retired, making his home with his daughter, Mrs. W. C. Bocoek. He was born in Hyde, Cheshire, England, April 9, 1832, a son of Eli and Maria (Bailey) Holmes. The father, who was a clothier, died during the infancy of the son, who was one of eight children, of whom three sons came to the United States.

In the common schools of his native country Edwin Holmes mastered the elementary branches of learning and when about fifteen years of age bound himself out to Captain Jacob Gilles of the merchant ship *Queen*, a sailing vessel, on which he remained for three years. At New York he shipped as second mate on the *L. & W. Armstrong*, a vessel on which he sailed to Maricaoibo, South America. While in charge of the deck one day a colored man refused to do his work and this brought on trouble, resulting in mutiny, but with the aid of some soldiers the disturbance was quelled, and of the four negroes who were prominent in the disturbance two were brought





MR. AND MRS. EDWIN HOLMES

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back in irons to New York, where Mr. Holmes was summoned to appear as a witness against them.

After four years spent as a seaman Mr. Holmes returned to Liverpool with the intention of going to the East Indies, but on landing was met by his mother and sister, who were en route for America, and he accompanied them, arriving at New Orleans in the spring of 1850. He then proceeded northward and found employment in a brickyard in Fulton county, Illinois, at fourteen dollars per month, working from two o'clock in the morning until after dark. He afterward spent several years in the coal mines near Canton, Illinois, and while thus engaged was married in 1855 to Miss Salina Savill, who was born at Oldham, England, but when four years of age was brought to this country by her parents, Abraham and Anne (Adee) Savill, who, after a winter spent in Cincinnati, removed to Canton, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes began their domestic life at Canton but a year later came to Stark county, and for another year he was employed in the coal mines of Toulon township. He then returned to Canton and two years later went to Marshall county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming for a year. He then removed to a rented farm in Penn township, Stark county, and after two years purchased forty acres on section 12 in that township, taking up his abode on that place in 1860.

After two years, however, Mr. Holmes put aside business and personal considerations in order to defend the Union, enlisting on the 12th of April, 1862, as a member of the One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Colonel Thomas J. Henderson. In September the troops were sworn in and a few days later started for Kentucky, where they went into winter quarters. After active experience of a year in the usual military routine, Mr. Holmes was detailed for a scouting expedition with three companions. At five o'clock in the afternoon of September 14, 1863, they crossed the Hiwassee river and at two o'clock in the morning arrived at Cleveland. In an engagement which followed three days later, where they fought against overwhelming odds, they were compelled to surrender. The captain of the company had been killed and Mr. Holmes was severely wounded in the leg. All of the company were sent to Richmond, save Mr. Holmes, who, unable to walk, was left at Cleveland. Two weeks later he was sent with a number of other prisoners to Dalton, Georgia, and after eight days there was sent fifty miles farther south to Cassville. His traveling greatly inflamed his wounds, almost causing the loss of his leg. He had suffered too from the neglect of the rebel surgeon, but was fortunate

in that the surgeons were changed about that time, and from the new one he received kindness and attention. On the 25th of January, 1864, with other soldiers, he was removed to Atlanta, then the heart of the southern confederacy. He suffered all the hardships and privations of southern prison life with poor food and no comforts. In the last of February the good news was received that an exchange was to be made, and Mr. Holmes and his comrades were taken to Dalton, only to be disappointed, for after twenty-four men were exchanged the balance were sent back to Atlanta, where they were placed under strong guard. On the 24th of March again came the order for exchange, but this, too, proved to be a delusion and they were sent to Andersonville, where it seemed that rebel cruelty had reached its height such was the unmitigated misery and suffering which presented itself there within the prison walls. There was not a tent of any kind to shelter the twenty thousand there confined. The weather was cold and it rained constantly. The conditions were most unsanitary and they were deliberately and systematically starved, while many of the men were almost naked, the rebels having taken their clothes. All around were men dead and dying. Mr. Holmes was still lame and on crutches. Wrapping his blanket around him he sat down on his crutches, trying in that way to keep out of the mud, but he could not sleep owing to the cold and wet. Finally he heard someone say, "Has anyone come in from the Hundred and Twelfth?" and to his great joy found a soldier from his own regiment, and later some from his own company, who invited him to their mess to partake of such food as they had, which was nothing but a little corn meal. On the evening of the 29th of March, after having been enrolled, he drew his first ration at Andersonville, consisting of a pint of meal made from corncob and corn together, half a teaspoon of salt and two ounces of meat. That was a day's ration. For six weary months he remained at Andersonville amid scenes of sickness, suffering and anguish, surrounded by dead and dying. Once more they were told that they were to be exchanged, again to be disappointed, and on the 28th of September were sent to Charleston, the rebels fearing that the Union troops would be released by Sherman, who had already taken Atlanta. At Charleston they were placed and kept under the fire of Union guns for two days, after which they were sent back about one hundred miles into the country to Florence, where they were kept under heavy guard until a stockade could be built, being most inhumanly treated. For three days all that they received to eat was a half pint of poor corn meal and about two tablespoonsful of stock peas, or negro beans, to

a man. Some days they had nothing at all to eat, on one occasion being kept without food for three days as punishment because some of the Union soldiers had dug a tunnel under the prison walls, for which eleven thousand of the emaciated and suffering soldiers were compelled to endure the pangs of hunger for three days. The horrors of prison life seemed to reach their height at Florence, but on the 28th of November, 1864, the order for exchange again came and the men were put on cars for Charleston, where they changed cars for Savannah, arriving on the 29th. The next day they took the flag of truce and started for the Union lines, arriving on the same day on board a ship of the Union fleet. The relief and thankfulness of the men can better be imagined than described. Some of them had not been able to wash for months, and after washing they were furnished with new clothes and supplied with a good supper, the first real meal they had had in nine months. After a few days they sailed for Annapolis and four days later landed on free soil. Mr. Holmes and his comrades were then paid off, after having been inmates of rebel prisons for fourteen months and twelve days. On the 16th of December he left for his Illinois home and when discharged from the service returned to the farm where his wife had remained during his absence.

He at once resumed the cultivation of his land, and in 1866, having saved some money, purchased twenty acres more. Two years later he bought another forty-acre tract and in 1892 bought one hundred acres in Toulon township on which was a coal mine in operation. He also has one hundred and sixty acres of land in Texas, inherited from a brother. He developed his Penn township farm into a valuable property, on which he placed many improvements and for two years he engaged in general farming, meeting with substantial success.

To Mr. and Mrs. Holmes were born four children: Maria Ann, the wife of William Combs Bocoek, of Wyoming, by whom she has a daughter, Mina; Mary Jane, the deceased wife of Walter Swett; Albert Osear, who died at the age of eight years; and Alfred Edwin, in school.

In 1852 Mr. Holmes cast his first presidential ballot for John Winfield Scott, and in 1864 supported John C. Fremont, the first presidential candidate of the republican party. He has since been a stalwart supporter of the party, doing everything in his power to promote its growth and insure its success. He has never been an office seeker but has served as school director. He belongs to Dickerson Post, G. A. R., and has attended many of the reunions of his

regiment and state encampments. He is a self-made man, owing his success entirely to his earnest efforts, close application and business ability. Throughout his entire life he has displayed many sterling traits of character and is today not only one of the most venerable but also one of the most honorable citizens of Stark county.

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### ABRAM PHENIX.

Abram Phenix, who is living in honorable retirement from active life in Bradford after many years of well directed activity, has been a resident of Stark county for seventy-nine years, and he and his brother Harmon are probably its oldest settlers. He was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, on the 25th of December, 1829, and is a son of John T. and Lydia (Daniels) Phenix. The father was born in New York state, as were his parents, the family having been established in New York by his grandfather and great-uncle, who removed to New York city from Ireland as young men. The grandfather of our subject, Stephen Phenix, was born in that city and learned the weaver's trade from his father.

John T. Phenix was reared in the Empire state and in early manhood went to Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, where he followed the carpenter's trade until 1834, when he came west to Stark county, Illinois, and entered land in Penn township. He built a log house and as soon as possible brought his land under cultivation. He was joined by his wife and family in 1836 and continued to reside in this county until his death, which occurred when he was seventy-five years of age. He held title to and improved two different eighty acre tracts but after his sons became old enough to look after the farm work he left it mainly to them and gave his time to carpentering. He built the first sawmill and the first gristmill in his neighborhood and he not only erected the buildings but also sawed the lumber and split the shingles used in their construction. He also built the first courthouse at Toulon. He was an active worker in the democratic party, whose principles he firmly indorsed. His religious faith was that of the Methodist church and most of the early preachers of that denomination in this county were entertained at his home. His wife was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, and was there reared and educated. She was engaged in teaching school at the time of her marriage and was successful in her profession. In 1836 she came with her children by water to Peoria and thence to Stark county, Illinois, joining her

husband, and through all of the years of hardship and struggle which they, as well as other pioneer families had to endure, she proved brave, resourceful and hopeful and did well her part in the development of the county. She was also a consistent member of the Methodist church and her life was at all times guided by the highest principles. She was the mother of six children, namely: Daniel B., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Elizabeth, who married Samuel Sturm and died when eighty-seven years of age; Nancy, who became the wife of Solomon Geer and died when seventy-five years old; Mary C., who married Hiram Drawyer and died at the age of eighty-four years; Abram; and Harmon, also represented elsewhere in this work.

Abram Phenix was but seven years of age when he was brought by his mother to this county, and he remembers vividly the pioneer conditions that prevailed here during his boyhood days. He had practically no educational opportunities as he was compelled to help with the farm work as soon as he was large enough to guide a plow, but he utilized his evenings in private study, reading by the light from the fireplace or from a tallow candle. He remembers when much of the land in the county was wild prairie and he himself broke considerable land with an ox team. All of the implements which he used in farming in those days were crude compared with the complicated farm machinery of today. The responsibility of the cultivation of the land devolved mainly upon him as his father and older brother, Daniel, devoted their time to the carpenter's trade. After the crops were harvested it was difficult to market them as there were no bridges over the streams and as no railroads had yet been built through the county and it was necessary to make long hauls in order to dispose of the grain raised. There were a number of wolves still left in this locality and the region abounded in game, including deer and wild turkey, and a good hunter never lacked meat for his table.

A year after his marriage Mr. Phenix began farming on his own account, purchasing forty acres of raw land for fifty dollars. Having no money, he paid for his land by splitting rails, and his first residence was a cabin fourteen by sixteen feet in dimensions. He brought his land under cultivation, and the following year bought an adjoining eighty acres, for which he paid eight hundred dollars, the difference in the purchase price indicating the rapid rise in land values. As his capital consisted of only one hundred dollars he was compelled to borrow seven hundred dollars, for which he paid the exorbitant rate of fifteen per cent interest. After breaking his land he sowed it to wheat and in due time harvested a good crop. Subsequently he paid seven hundred and seventy-five dollars for thirty-six acres adjoining and

still later bought forty acres for sixteen hundred dollars. As he prospered he erected a commodious and substantial house, a large barn and other necessary buildings, and in time his place became one of the best improved in the locality. He engaged in farming and stock raising until 1881, when he rented the farm and removed to Bradford, where he has since made his home. For nineteen years he and his brother Daniel engaged in the threshing business and during that time owned twenty-one different machines. They were well patronized not only in this county but in adjoining counties and derived a good income from that source. Abram Phenix at one time owned the greater part of the land on which Bradford now stands but has since sold it to advantage as town lots. Since coming to Bradford he has erected three residences here. He is one of the substantial men of his county and none begrudges him his prosperity, for it is the direct result of his unremitting industry, economy and sound judgment, and he has not only gained financial independence but has also contributed to the development of the county along agricultural lines.

Mr. Phenix was married in August, 1851, to Miss Esther C. Geer, a native of Connecticut. She was brought by her parents to La Fayette, Stark county, Illinois, when but nine years of age and resided here from that time until her demise, which occurred on the 6th of April, 1909. She was a consistent member of the Baptist church. Mr. and Mrs. Phenix became the parents of five children: Mary J., who died when about thirty-five years of age; Phoebe Ann; Sarah Melissa; Emma Eliza, who died at the age of twenty-four years; and Rosie Maude.

Mr. Phenix has always been a staunch democrat and has taken an active part in public affairs. He has been honored by election to a number of local offices, having served as street commissioner of Bradford for a year, as pathmaster in Penn township for one year and as road commissioner of Osceola township for fifteen years. He was the leading spirit in the organization of school district No. 9, furnished the lumber for the schoolhouse and put up the building and for a number of years served as director. He has always been willing to give of his time and thought and also of his means to the advancement of community interests and his public spirit is recognized by all who know him. When he came here as a child there was only one small house between Peoria and Wyoming, only three small stores in the former place and but two houses in the latter town. He is entitled to high honor as one of the courageous and farsighted pioneers whose work has made possible the present high state of development of the county, and his fellow citizens justly hold him in the highest esteem



and the warmest regard. He has reaped the reward of his labors and has gained a large measure of wealth but he takes greater satisfaction in the knowledge that his success has not been gained as the result of the failure of another, as he has always been strictly honest and upright in all of his dealings. He is now eighty-six years of age and is still active and interested in the affairs of the day.

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### HENRY DUCKWORTH.

Henry Duckworth devoted his life to agricultural pursuits and through his well directed industry gained a competence which enabled him to spend his last years in honorable retirement in Wyoming. He was born in Haslingdon, Lancashire, England, on the 9th of July, 1828. He passed his boyhood and youth in his native country and received his education in the common schools. After putting aside his textbooks he learned the shoemaker's trade, which he followed in England until 1850, when he emigrated to the United States, sailing from Liverpool on the 6th of March in company with his sister, Elizabeth Duckworth, John Wrigley, Samuel Andrews, William Longdon, and Thomas Pearson and sister. They landed in New Orleans and came up the Mississippi and Illinois rivers to Peoria, arriving there on the 4th of May. Four years later Mr. Duckworth had gained a sufficient start in business to enable him to send for his wife and two children, a son and daughter, who accordingly joined him in this country. The daughter, however, died in the same month that they reached the United States. The family home was maintained in Peoria county until 1858, when removal was made to Valley township, Stark county, where Mr. Duckworth purchased a farm. He devoted his energies to the operation of that place for thirteen years, and then took up his residence upon a farm near Wyoming. He remained there until he retired from active life and removed to Wyoming, where he built a comfortable home on Galena avenue. He died there on the 7th of April 1904, deeply mourned by his many friends.

Mr. Duckworth was married on the 27th of August, 1848, at Berry Church, England, to Miss Mary Crabtree, who was born in Lancashire on the 19th of July, 1828. She passed away in Wyoming on the 10th of December, 1898. To their union were born twelve children, seven of whom are living, namely: Alfred, a resident of Toulon township; Mrs. Jacob Farden, of La Platte, Missouri; Mary E., the wife

of Edwin Hartley; Mrs. John Egelston, a resident of Chicago; and Mrs. John Drinnin, William and Mrs. Charles Wrigley, all of whom are living in Wyoming.

Mr. Duckworth supported the republican party at the polls and at all times placed the party welfare above his private interests. This characteristic was manifest in the Civil war, when, in 1864, he enlisted in the Seventh Illinois Volunteer Regiment, with which he remained until the close of hostilities. He was well known in Masonic circles, being one of the first members of the Royal Arch Chapter at Wyoming and belonging also to the commandery at Peoria. He aided in organizing the Congregational church and could be counted upon to further its work in every way possible. In all the relations of life his conduct measured up to high standards, and he was justly held in great esteem.

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### THOMAS D. CHURCH.

Thomas D. Church, deceased, was one of the well known and highly respected citizens of Stark county, where he made his home for sixty-six years. He was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, in 1836. His father, Norman Church, was also a native of that state and was there reared and married, continuing his residence there until death called him to the home beyond. His widow afterward married a Mr. Kirby and in 1847 they removed westward to Illinois, settling in Goshen township, Stark county.

Thomas D. Church was at that time a lad of about eleven years and upon the home farm in this county the remainder of his youth was passed with the usual experiences that come to the boy who is bred upon the western frontier. On the 31st of December, 1857, he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah White, who was born and reared in Goshen township, a daughter of John White, whose residence here dated from 1834. He had removed to Illinois from Massachusetts and upon his arrival preempted land which was at that time entirely undeveloped and unimproved. He broke the sod, harrowed his fields and put in his crops and in time was gathering good harvests. He also fenced his land, built a dwelling thereon and continued the active work of the farm, being one of the industrious, energetic citizens of the community. Success attended him in his undertakings and his further investment in property made him in time the owner of a large tract of land. He also bought and sold land and in this way realized

THOMAS D. CURRIE AND FAMILY



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quite a substantial profit. He was a well known citizen of Stark county up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1852, his wife surviving him for a number of years.

At the time of their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Church located on the old Church homestead. He began farming an eighty-acre tract of land, which he brought under a high state of cultivation, and later he purchased an adjoining eighty acres, becoming in the course of years a prosperous farmer. The tangible evidence of his enterprise and industry was seen in the improvements which he made upon the place. He built a good residence, also substantial barns and sheds and transformed the farm into one of the excellent properties of the township. Thereon he resided until 1904, when he purchased a residence in La Fayette, where he made his home for ten years.

As time went on, the marriage was blessed with eight children: Charles C., who is living in McIntire, Iowa; Wallace, an active and progressive farmer living on the old home place; Elmer, who is engaged in the practice of medicine in Toulon; Mrs. Ed Miner, living in Goshen township; William, who makes his home with his mother in La Fayette; Mrs. A. G. Fell, of Peoria; and two who have passed away.

Mr. Church died in La Fayette, May 12, 1914, at the age of seventy-seven years, and was laid to rest in La Fayette cemetery. He and his wife were members of the Universalist church of La Fayette, the church property standing on the same block as their residence. Mr. Church was also a member of the Masonic fraternity and was always loyal to the high teachings and purposes of these two organizations. His was a well spent life characterized by loyalty to duty, by reliability in business and by public-spirited citizenship, and as the years went on he won many friends, so that his death was the occasion of deep and widespread regret.

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### G. S. MALLETT.

G. S. Mallett, residing in Bradford, controls important and profitable business interests as a dealer in grain and coal at Lombardville and at Gravel Hill, where he is operating as the senior partner in the firm of Mallett & Code. His birth occurred in Milo township, Bureau county, Illinois, December 3, 1853, his parents being James F. and Mary L. (Steinhauer) Mallett, both of whom were natives of Providence, Rhode Island. On removing westward the father settled in

Bureau county Illinois, in the early '40s, when the work of civilization and improvement had scarcely been begun in this section of the state, which is indicated by the fact that much of the land was still in possession of the government. His father, E. J. Mallett, had pre-empted a claim and James F. Mallett began to develop and improve the property. E. J. Mallett was a paymaster general of the United States army and afterward took his son, James F., as his assistant and during a considerable period of his early life and again in later years he resided in New York city, where he died.

G. S. Mallett was educated in the schools of Milo township, early becoming familiar with the branches of learning there taught. His business training was received upon the home farm, where he remained until 1890, when he came to Bradford and entered the grain and coal business, establishing yards at Lombardville and also at Gravel Hill, conducting his interests under the firm name of Mallet & Code. He has direct charge of the business and his operations are directed by sound judgment and keen discernment which bring excellent results.

Mr. Mallett has been married twice. He first wedded Miss Laura Enos and for his second wife he chose Carrie A. Ebersole. He is a democrat and for some years he filled the office of collector in Milo township but has had little ambition to fill political positions. His religious faith is that of the Episcopal church, while his wife belongs to the Methodist church. Fraternally he is connected with the Masonic lodge of Bradford, the Modern Woodmen camp and the Fraternal Reserves, while both he and his wife are identified with the Eastern Star chapter at Bradford. Their lives are guided by high and honorable principles, which shape all of their relations with their fellowmen. Mr. Mallett has many admirable traits of character, being persistent, energetic and farsighted in business, progressive in citizenship, loyal to his friends and devoted to his family.

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#### FRED BROWN, D. D. S.

Dentistry may be said to be unique among the professions in that it demands ability of a threefold character. One must have mechanical skill and ingenuity as well as scientific knowledge, combined with the power to manage the financial interests of the business. Lacking in none of these particulars, Dr. Fred Brown has become well established in his profession during the eight years in which he has engaged

in practice in Toulon. He was born in Mendota, Illinois, January 7, 1884, and was reared in his native county, pursuing his education in the public schools until he left the high school and became a college student. His professional training was received in the Northwestern University Dental School, from which he was graduated in 1908 as a member of a class of one hundred and forty-two, of which there were one hundred and thirty-eight male and four female members. After completing his studies in the university, Dr. Brown located in Toulon, where he opened an office and entered upon the active work of the profession. His office is well equipped with the latest improved dental appliances and he has secured a satisfactory practice.

On the 24th of December, 1908, Dr. Brown was married at Rock Falls, Illinois, to Miss Arley Elaine Reek, a daughter of J. P. W. Reek, of that place. Dr. and Mrs. Brown have a son, Frederick Keith. The parents are members of the Congregational church. Dr. Brown belongs to the Toulon Masonic lodge, and is also a member of Wyoming Chapter, R. A. M., and Kewance Commandery, K. T. He is now serving as city treasurer. He and his wife occupy a pleasant home on the boulevard. During the years of their residence in Toulon they have gained many friends and enjoy the esteem of all who know them.

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### EDWIN TURNBULL.

A student of history cannot carry his investigations far into the annals of Stark county without learning of the close connection of the Turnbull family with the records of this part of the state, for from pioneer times to the present representatives of the name have been closely associated with the agricultural development and progress which have brought Stark and adjoining counties to their present condition of development and prosperity. Edwin Turnbull, now successfully engaged in general farming on section 6, Elmira township, was born upon this place, January 30, 1873, his parents being William and Catherine (McClellan) Turnbull, both of whom were natives of Scotland. The father, when but ten years of age, came to the United States with his father. He had begun his education in the schools of Scotland and some time after coming to the new world he began farming in Elmira township, Stark county, Illinois, establishing his home on section 16, where he continued to reside until called to his final rest in March, 1900. His entire life was devoted to general agricultural

pursuits, and he was regarded as one of the worthy and highly respected farmers of his locality. His widow survived him until 1906 and was laid by his side in the Elmira cemetery.

Edwin Turnbull was educated in the schools of Elmira and in the academy at Toulon, while his practical training along business lines was received under the direction of his father upon the home farm. He learned every phase of farm work and was thus able to assume the management of the home place, which he is carefully and systematically cultivating. In this undertaking he is associated with his brother David, and together with their sister Mary they are owners of four hundred acres, constituting one of the valuable and attractive farms of Elmira township. They carry on general farming and also engage quite extensively in feeding stock. They have put many of the improvements upon the farm and utilize the best machinery to facilitate the work of the fields and care for the harvests. The brother David was also born upon this place, and both brothers are regarded as representative agriculturists and enterprising young business men of the county.

Edwin Turnbull is a member of the United Presbyterian church, and his life is guided by its teachings. His political support is unflinchingly given to the republican party and for one term his brother David served as county supervisor, making an excellent record in the office. Having always lived in this district they are widely known, and the substantial traits of character which they have displayed have won for them enviable positions in the regard of their fellow citizens.

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#### A. R. GRIEVE.

A. R. Grieve belongs to one of the old families of Stark county and was born on the farm on which he now resides, his natal day being July 25, 1890. His parents were William and Esther (Oliver) Grieve, who are mentioned elsewhere in this work, being now residents of Elmira township.

Spending his youthful days under the parental roof, A. R. Grieve attended the common schools of Elmira township, where he acquainted himself with those branches of learning that are regarded as indispensable factors in preparation for life's practical duties and responsibilities. He worked in the fields during the vacation periods and has always remained upon the home farm, being now engaged in the further cultivation of three hundred and fifty acres of land, from



which he annually gathers good harvests of corn, wheat and other cereals. He also feeds some stock.

On the 12th of January, 1916, Mr. Grieve was married to Miss Pauline Hall, a daughter of M. C. Hall of Toulon township. They are both people of genuine personal worth, holding membership in the Presbyterian church of Elmira and enjoying the confidence, goodwill and high regard of all who know them. Mr. Grieve is identified with no lodges and politically follows an independent course, voting for men and measures rather than for party.

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### ALBERT L. BARTON.

Albert L. Barton, who for many years has been living retired from business in Toulon, was born in Toulon township, on the old home farm of his father, Barnard Barton, who was a native of the state of New York. Through the period of his boyhood and youth the father remained in the Empire state and in early manhood came to the west, settling in Stark county, Illinois, where he rented land and carried on farm work. He became the owner of a tract of one hundred and sixty acres on section 9, Toulon township, by entering this as a claim from the government. With characteristic energy he began the arduous task of transforming the wild prairie into productive fields. He broke the sod, opened up a farm and placed it in a high state of cultivation, carrying on the work of improvement as he found opportunity and gained the capital necessary to further his labors. In time he erected a good farm residence, also built a large barn and outbuildings, planted an orchard and secured other modern equipments. In Knox county, Illinois, he wedded Miss Sarah Miller, who was born and reared in Indiana, a daughter of William Miller, an early settler of Warren county, Illinois, and afterward of Knox county. Mr. Barton was an industrious and prosperous farmer and a well-known citizen of Stark county. Here he reared his family and spent the last years of his life on the old homestead, dying February 27, 1907. His wife had previously passed away, her death occurring August 16, 1902. He was a member of the Toulon Baptist church.

Albert L. Barton was one of a family of five sons and two daughters. The eldest son, William A., is a retired farmer, now living in Garnett, Kansas. The second son, John M., is living in Kansas City, Missouri, and Silas H. is a resident of Wyoming, Illinois. The next two, Albert L. and George W., are residents of Toulon and the sister,

Cordelia, is also living in Toulon. She has erected an attractive residence of cement blocks near the Methodist Episcopal church of Toulon, it being one of the pleasant homes of the city. The other daughter of the family, Emma, died at the age of five years and five months.

Albert L. Barton was reared on the old homestead and in time took charge of the place. After the death of his father he purchased the interest of the other heirs in the property and is still its owner. It is known as the Walnut Grove Farm and comprises two hundred and forty acres, which is divided into two well improved farms. He was always accounted an active and progressive agriculturist and stock raiser during the years in which he concentrated his efforts upon the further development and cultivation of his land. He afterward rented the farm, at which time he and his sister removed to Toulon, where she, as previously stated, built a good home in 1908.

Mr. Barton and his sister have made two trips to California, visiting various cities on the Pacific coast from Seattle and Portland south to Los Angeles and Long Beach. In the sunny clime of California they have spent two winters. Mr. Barton owns an automobile and drives back and forth between his farm and his home in Toulon, and he has also made trips to Kewanee and Peoria and other cities in this part of the state. Politically he is a republican where national issues are involved but at local elections considers only the capability of the candidate. His has been an active and well spent life, and he is justly accounted one of the substantial citizens of Stark county.

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#### ALVA M. JANES.

Among Stark county's most active and progressive citizens is Alva M. Janes, who occupies a position of leadership in the western part of the county, making his home in La Fayette. Fifty-three years have come and gone since he first opened his eyes to the light of day in a little log cabin in Goshen township, on the 10th of January, 1863, and through the intervening period he has not only been an interested witness of, but also an active participant in, many events which have shaped the history and promoted the progress of this part of the state. His father, Charles Janes, was born in Wiltshire, England, where he worked in a woolen mill until he was seventeen, when he came to the United States, joining a brother and sister in Massachusetts in 1854. After a brief period in that state he came west to

Rochester, Illinois, where he engaged in farm work. Mr. Janes was married in this county to Miss Christine Bergland, who was born in Sweden but came to the Bishop Hill Colony when a child of nine years with her mother and brother. In the course of years he became one of the well-known and most prosperous farmers of his part of the county, having added to his holdings until he was the owner of four hundred acres of rich and productive land. He spent his active life upon the farm in Stark county, there passing away in 1905, while his wife survived him for a decade, dying in February, 1915.

Alva M. Janes was reared upon the old home farm in Goshen township and acquired his primary education in the La Fayette schools. Later he spent three years in Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington. After teaching one year in Stark county he continued his studies in Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, where he spent three years, being graduated with the class of 1893, at which time the degree of Ph. B. was conferred upon him. He then returned to La Fayette.

On the 22d of June, 1893, Mr. Janes was married to Amy I. E. Reed, a daughter of Ira C. and Maria Reed, prominent pioneers of Goshen township and founders of the I. C. Reed public library of La Fayette. Mrs. Janes was born in La Fayette. She is a graduate of Knox College and spent five years as a high school teacher.

Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Janes established their home in Knox county on Maple Grove Farm, which lies in both counties and is adjacent to La Fayette. He is engaged extensively in general farming and in breeding and raising registered pure-blooded shorthorn cattle and Clydesdale horses. His business interests have been wisely conducted and have brought him a substantial measure of success.

He stands as one of the foremost agriculturists and stock raisers of the locality and is also a well-known figure in banking circles, being the prime mover in the establishment of the La Fayette State Bank. He organized the private bank of Janes & Company in 1903 and erected a good bank building. This company in 1915 was reorganized and became the La Fayette State Bank.

His interests and activities have made him a most important factor in the improvement, upbuilding and progress of the section in which he lives. While he has conducted extensive and important business interests and has won success in that connection, he has at the same time found opportunity to cooperate in movements which have been of great general benefit. He was one of the organizers and promoters of the La Fayette Fair Association, furnishing the grounds on which

the association erected good buildings to accommodate the large crowds attending the fair and the exhibits sent thereto. The association has the use of fifty acres, on which is a splendid grove of large sugar maples and other fine forest trees. Mr. Janes also helped to organize a stock company that erected a hotel at a cost of eight thousand dollars. This is a good brick building, furnishing hotel accommodation for the traveling public. There are few features of the town's progress that are not more or less indebted to him for his cooperation and aid. Perhaps his most beneficial work to the town was the establishment of the second mail route, which was accomplished after much planning and labor. It necessitated the changing of five different routes without lessening their mileage and was such a herculean task that the most optimistic predicted failure. He succeeded and won great praise from the government official for his skilful work.

Mr. and Mrs. Janes have two sons, while two daughters died in infancy. Leonard Reed is a student in Northwestern University as a member of the junior class. William Charles is a freshman at Knox College at Galesburg. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of La Fayette and Mr. Janes is serving on the official board. He was largely instrumental in having the pastor's salary raised, for he believed that the men who devote their life to the gospel should have adequate recompense that they may support their families. Mrs. Janes is also an active church worker, and their influence in the community is always on the side of right, progress, justice and improvement. Mr. Janes is a member of the Masonic fraternity. Those who know him, and he has an extensive acquaintance in this part of the state, entertain for him the warmest regard because of his well spent life and the fidelity which he manifests to all those principles which are of greatest worth to the individual and to the community.

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### SAMUEL B. GINGRICH.

Samuel B. Gingrich is now living retired in Toulon but for years was one of the active and progressive farmers and stock raisers of Stark county, making his home in Essex township, where he systematically and successfully carried on general agricultural pursuits. Stark county numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Essex township, April 17, 1852. His father, Christian



MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL B. GINGRICH

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Gingrich, was born in York county, Pennsylvania, November 8, 1812, and was a son of Christian Gingrich, Sr., who removed with his family to Ohio, casting in his lot among the pioneer settlers of Ashland county, where he resided for a number of years. He afterward came to Illinois and joined his children, who had preceded him to this state, becoming a resident of Stark county. His son, Christian Gingrich, Jr., was reared in Ashland county, Ohio, and was married there in 1837 to Miss Mary Coleman, a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. The same year they removed westward to Illinois, making permanent location in Essex township, Stark county, where the father purchased a tract of raw land. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon the place, but with characteristic energy he broke the sod, fenced the land and converted it into a productive farm. His first purchase comprised eighty acres, to which he added from time to time until he was the owner of five hundred acres of very valuable farm property. He erected thereon a good residence, barn and outbuildings and he became one of the prosperous farmers, stock raisers and feeders of his district, his business ability and indefatigable industry bringing to him a creditable measure of success. Upon that farm he reared his family and spent his last years, his death occurring July 30, 1876. His wife survived him for two decades and spent her declining years in the home of her son, S. B. Gingrich, there passing away May 11, 1897.

Samuel B. Gingrich was reared on the old homestead and enjoyed the usual public school advantages. He was early trained to the work of the farm and continued to assist his father until the latter's death, after which he succeeded to the ownership of the old home property. He was active in the further development and improvement of the place, his farm work being conducted along progressive lines. He rebuilt and remodeled the house, which is now one of the best farm residences in Essex township, and he also built good barns and outbuildings. The farm consists of five hundred acres of Stark county's rich land and from the property Mr. Gingrich derives a most gratifying annual income. While living upon the place he made a business of raising good stock, handling Durham cattle and Poland China hogs, and he also fed stock for the market.

On the 24th of December, 1874, in West Jersey township, Mr. Gingrich married Miss Clara Whitten, who was born in Ohio but was reared in Stark county, a daughter of Theodore Whitten, who became a prominent farmer of West Jersey township. To this marriage have been born three children: Elva C., who is married and owns and operates a farm in Essex township, where he is engaged in raising

and feeding stock as well as tilling the soil; Mabel, who became the wife of Charles Addis, a farmer in Knox county, Illinois, and died October 26, 1908; and Fern, a young lady at home.

In 1912 Mr. Gingrich purchased a pleasant residence in Toulon and removed to the city but still gives supervision to the work of the farm and it returns to him a very gratifying sum each year. Politically he is a republican but has never been ambitious to hold office. In fact he has always found that his business affairs make full demand upon his time and energies, and his success is attributable to the fact that he has ever been persistent in purpose and straightforward and honorable in all his dealings.

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### G. W. BROWN.

G. W. Brown, a resident farmer of Penn township, his home being on section 14, was born two miles south of Wyoming on the 20th of May, 1862, his parents being C. W. and Elizabeth (Henderson) Brown, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Peoria. It was in the year 1854 that the father came with his parents to Stark county and through the intervening period, covering more than sixty years, the family has been actively identified with the agricultural development and progress of this section of the state.

G. W. Brown has spent his entire life in Stark county and after mastering the elementary branches of learning taught in the public schools he attended school in Castleton and also at Normal, Illinois. He then returned to the farm to take up the occupation to which he had been reared and since then has put all of the fine modern improvements upon the place. He has here a palatial residence—one of Stark county's most beautiful homes. It is elevated some feet and the lawn in front of the house is terraced. His farm comprises two hundred and forty acres of land, the value and productiveness of which are constantly enhanced by the methods which he employs in its cultivation. In addition to raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he began breeding Hereford white faced cattle ten years ago and at the head of his herd is a fine full, Twyford Protector, imported from England. In addition Mr. Brown has engaged in the breeding of horses and hogs but does not do so at the present time. He has also engaged quite extensively in feeding stock and is regarded as one of the foremost representatives of live stock interests in this part of the state. He has two sets of improvements upon his place



and in all of his farm work has manifested a most progressive spirit. Three years ago he brought into the locality the first tractor here used and enterprise has dominated his work at all points in his career.

In June, 1886, Mr. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Lucy E. Swayne, of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, by whom he has four children, as follows: Jessie LeRoy, who is engaged in farming south-east of Wyoming; Hazel L., the wife of Ross R. Raker, of Buffalo, New York; and Myra and Chester, both at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown attend the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Brown holds membership in the Modern Woodmen camp at Castleton. His political allegiance is given to the republican party but the honors and emoluments of office have no attraction for him, as he prefers to concentrate his efforts upon his business affairs and through wise management, close application and determined purpose he has won the success which is now his and which has gained for him a place among the most substantial and representative farmers of his native county.

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### DAVID CARSTAIRS.

David Carstairs, living on section 17, Goshen township, is now serving as the representative of that township on the board of county supervisors and is actively engaged in farming, being the owner of a place of sixty acres that is neat and well improved. He came to Stark county in 1876, in which year he crossed the Atlantic from Scotland, his birth having occurred in Perthshire, that country, on the 18th of May, 1855. There he was reared to manhood upon a farm, dividing his time between the work of the fields and the acquirement of a public school education. He made the trip to the new world in company with Davis Lowman, bringing with them a bunch of shorthorn cattle from Scotland. Landing at New York, they made their way direct to Toulon and for a short time Mr. Carstairs was employed by Mr. Lowman upon his farm near Toulon. In 1879 he went to Texas, where he joined a construction outfit working on the Santa Fe Railroad. He continued with that company for fifteen years, working in New Mexico, California and Arizona, spending about three years in the vicinity of Los Angeles. In 1898 he returned to Illinois and in 1904 purchased the land whereon he now resides. In the intervening period he has spent considerable time in the further cultivation and development of this property.

In Goshen township, in 1894, Mr. Carstairs was married to Miss Margaret Frail, a daughter of Barnabas Frail, who was one of the first settlers of the county, arriving in 1835. Mrs. Carstairs was born and reared in Goshen township and was here married.

Subsequent to this Mr. Carstairs again went to Arizona in connection with railroad construction, spending the succeeding four years in such work in that state and in California, thus completing the fifteen-year period previously mentioned. He resided in La Fayette while putting up the buildings upon his farm and making the necessary improvements. He has erected a pleasant residence supplied with running water, furnace heat, electric lights and telephone connection. In fact this is one of the thoroughly modern and up-to-date homes of the township, providing them with many of the modern comforts of life. He has also erected good barns and other necessary out-buildings for the shelter of grain and stock. Since December, 1915, he has resided upon this place, which is today one of the neatest and best improved farms in Goshen township, and in addition to this place he cultivates an eighty-acre tract adjoining his own land.

Mr. and Mrs. Carstairs have a daughter, Katherine, who was graduated from the State Normal School at Normal, Illinois, in 1915 and now holds the position of registrar at that institution. They also lost a son, David, who passed away in 1913 at the age of fifteen years.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Carstairs are widely and favorably known in the county where they make their home. His has been an active and useful life and unremitting industry has constituted the basis upon which he has builded his success—success that now ranks him among the substantial agriculturists of his community.

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#### W. C. WILLIAMS.

W. C. Williams is successfully engaged in business in Wady Petra, Stark county and also has ten acres of land there planted to fruit. He was born in Chicago on the 9th of April, 1872, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Roberts) Williams, both natives of Wales, although their marriage occurred in Chicago. The father was a pattern maker and carpenter and passed away in 1899. The mother died in 1907.

After completing his public school course in Chicago W. C. Williams attended the Kansas Normal University at Salina for some time. On beginning his independent career he engaged in farming

and stock raising in Osage county, Kansas, where he remained until 1910, when he located in Wady Petra, Stark county, Illinois. He bought the grain and lumber business here formerly conducted by Virginus Chase and at the present time also deals in heavy hardware and farm implements. He owns the elevator and warehouse and has built up a large and profitable trade. He also owns ten acres of land which was devoted to pasture when it came into his possession seven years ago but is now set out in fruit, including grapes, strawberries, raspberries, apples and pears. All of his business interests are capably managed and he has gained a gratifying measure of financial success.

In 1903 Mr. Williams was united in marriage to Miss Ethel Booth, and they have three children, namely, Ruth, Walter and Helen. Mr. Williams casts his ballot in support of the candidates and measures of the democratic party. In religious faith Mrs. Williams is a Methodist and he is identified with the Masonic blue lodge and chapter at Wyoming. He has gained a high place in the estimation of his fellow citizens since coming to Stark county and is recognized as a man of much business ability.

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### QUINCY I. GRAVES.

Quincy I. Graves, who is successfully conducting a livery and feed barn at Wyoming, was formerly engaged in farming and still owns one hundred and sixty acres of good land. He was born in Essex township, Stark county, on the 28th of September, 1873, of the marriage of B. F. and Mary E. (Weber) Graves, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. He was reared upon the home farm and divided his time between assisting his father and attending the district schools. When twenty-one years of age he commenced farming on his own account and some time later purchased eighty acres of land, to which he has since added a similar tract, so that he holds title to one hundred and sixty acres, all of which is under cultivation. He followed agricultural pursuits for a number of years, and his practical and progressive methods and his good business management enabled him to secure a good income from his land. In the spring of 1915, however, he removed to Wyoming and built a large livery barn and since that time has concentrated his energies upon the development of a livery and feed business. His experience with horses and grain while

upon the farm has been of value to him in this new undertaking and he has found it profitable.

Mr. Graves was married in 1894 to Miss Ada J. Simmerman, a daughter of A. J. Simmerman. Three children have been born to this union: Ruth M., the wife of Reuben Shaw, who is operating our subject's farm in Essex township; and Verna and Earl, both at home.

Mr. Graves indorses the principles of the democratic party and supports its candidates at national elections but where only local issues are at stake votes independently. He holds membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Wyoming and is popular within and without that organization. He has depended upon his own enterprise and good judgment for success, and the prosperity which he has gained is well deserved.

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#### B. W. CRUM.

B. W. Crum is engaged in general agricultural pursuits on section 17, Penn township, and aside from this has been actively identified with the work of improvement and development in the locality, both as an office holder and through his support of those agencies which work for the moral uplift of the community. He was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, on the 13th of October, 1850, and is a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Hess) Crum, who were born, reared and married in the Keystone state and in 1859 brought their family to Illinois, settling in Penn township, Stark county, upon the farm now owned by J. A. Bunnell. For a time the father rented the land and then purchased the farm on which his son is now living. He had improved two good farms in this county ere he passed away, his death occurring upon what was then his home place, a half mile south of the present residence of B. W. Crum. In early life he had learned the miller's trade but after coming to Stark county continuously engaged in general agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1896. The family was of German extraction.

B. W. Crum was educated in the common schools, which he attended for a brief period in Pennsylvania, while later he continued as a student in the district schools near the home farm in Stark county and for one term was a student in Buda. He took up the profession of teaching, which he followed for six years in his home locality, imparting clearly and readily to others the knowledge that he had acquired, so that he proved one of the capable educators of the neighborhood.

At the time of his marriage, however, he took up the occupation of farming and he is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of arable land on sections 17 and 20 Penn township, to which he has added excellent improvements in keeping with the spirit of modern progress along agricultural lines. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Miner county, South Dakota, and his prosperity is attributable entirely to his own efforts.

In 1881 Mr. Crum was united in marriage to Miss Laura Swayne, by whom he had five children, as follows: one who died in infancy; Atalie, who is the wife of Claud Sterling and resides three miles east of her father's farm; Dean D., who passed away in 1916; and Gains and Scott S., both at home.

Mr. Crum has ever been deeply interested in the welfare of his community and especially in its moral progress. Although not a member of the Methodist Protestant church, he was a generous contributor to the erection of its first house of worship, which was burned down in 1915, after which he was one of the first to start the movement for the erection of the present church. His wife is a member of the Brethren church. In politics he is a republican-progressive and he is now filling the office of assessor. For a number of years he served as justice of the peace and is again in the office. He has also been school treasurer in his township for thirty-five consecutive years and he is statistical crop reporter for the county. He has been president of the Memorial Association of the township since its organization and he is a charter member of the Modern Woodmen camp at Castleton. His has been an active and well spent life, in which he recognizes every duty and meets every obligation. At the same time he has carefully managed and directed his business affairs and the wise use he has made of his time, talents and opportunities has gained him substantial and well deserved success.

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### SAMUEL MALONE.

Samuel Malone, who is engaged in general farming on a tract of land of one hundred and thirty-seven acres on section 6, Penn township, which he owns, was born on the 19th of October, 1867, in Marshall county, Illinois, upon a farm north of Campgrove, then occupied by his parents, Samuel and Margaret (McConnell) Malone, both of whom were natives of County Down, Ireland. On leaving the country they crossed the Atlantic to the United States and were married

here. For a time they resided in Marshall county but on the 8th of March, 1875, took up their abode upon a farm on section 6, Penn township, Stark county, there spending their remaining days. The father died June 13, 1898, and the mother survived until July 2, 1902, when she also passed away. In early life Mr. Malone had devoted his attention to mining but after coming to Illinois took up the occupation of farming, which he ever afterward followed.

Samuel Malone is indebted to the public school system of the state for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. He has always lived upon the home farm, taking care of his father and mother and assuming the active management of the business. He now owns one hundred and thirty-seven acres of land, giving his attention to general farming, his labors being attended with a substantial measure of success as he carries on the work of tilling the soil and developing the crops. His judgment in matters relative to the farm and its development is sound and his labors are bringing good return.

In 1903 Mr. Malone was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Millslagle, by whom he has five children, namely: Edna Margaret, Charles H., Mary Elizabeth, Lloyd Eugene and Bernice. Mr. Malone votes with the democratic party and keeps in touch with the vital questions and problems of the day but does not seek nor desire political office, preferring to concentrate his energies rather upon his home problems that arise in connection with the further development and improvement of his farm.

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#### WALTER N. CHAMPION.

Walter N. Champion, who is engaged in general farming on section 34, Osecola township, owns and cultivates one hundred and sixty acres of rich and arable land and also is farming another tract of eighty acres. He was born on the 15th of May, 1876, on the farm which is still his home, his parents being Edward H. and Hannah E. (Drawyer) Champion, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York. They were married, however, in this county and for a number of years they resided on a farm northwest of Bradford but eventually purchased the place upon which Walter N. Champion now resides. The father added many improvements to the property and there remained until his death. His wife has also passed away. They had a family of eight children but only two of

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MR. AND MRS. WALTER N. CHAMPION





SOLAN ARNOLD AND VERA MARIE CHAMPION

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the number are now living, Walter N. and Henry, the latter located near Modena, Illinois.

Spending his youthful days under the parental roof, Walter N. Champion became a public school pupil and his practical business training was received under the direction of his father. He early began work in the fields and upon the death of his parents he took over the old home property, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of excellent farming land. This he now carefully cultivates, its further development occupying his time and energies together with the cultivation of an eighty-acre tract which belongs to his two children.

In the year 1900 Mr. Champion was married to Miss Clara N. Imes and they had four children: Isla, now deceased; one who died in infancy; Nolan Arnold and Verna Marie, both at home. The parents attend the Methodist Episcopal church and guide their lives according to its teachings. In politics Mr. Champion is an earnest republican and fraternally is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He and his wife are hospitable people and their home is ever open for the reception of the many friends that they have in their section of the county. Mr. Champion has been a lifelong resident of Osceola township and has therefore witnessed much of its growth and development as the work of improvement has been carried forward, bringing about a notable transformation.

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### WILLIAM E. NIXON.

William E. Nixon has been clerk of Stark county for fourteen years, his continued return to that office indicating his satisfactory services. He was formerly actively engaged in newspaper publication and during the eighteen years that he owned and edited the Post-Herald at Wyoming, Illinois, he made it one of the leading weekly papers in this part of the state.

Mr. Nixon was born in Toulon on the 14th of November, 1859, a son of Edward and Margaret (Kenney) Nixon, both natives of Romney, Hampshire county, West Virginia. In early life they removed to Peoria county, Illinois, where their marriage occurred on the 22d of December, 1853. Three years later they located in Toulon, which remained their home until they were called by death. The father's demise occurred on the 8th of May, 1883, when he was fifty-nine years old, and the mother's on the 21st of January, 1909, when seventy-seven years old. They became the parents of four children:

Charles E., now living in Peoria, Illinois; Emma M., who married Manning A. Hall on the 29th of December, 1880, and died in New Salem, Kansas, on the 9th of June, 1889, at the age of thirty-two years, leaving three children, Maurice, Edward and Maude; William E.; and Frank C., who died in Peoria on the 26th of March, 1902, when thirty-eight years old. The paternal grandparents of our subject, William and Mary (Cheshire) Nixon, were among the pioneers of Peoria county, Illinois, removing there from West Virginia in September, 1831.

William E. Nixon received a high school education in Toulon and when only fifteen years old began his newspaper career in the office of the Stark County News at Toulon. He applied himself diligently to learning everything possible connected with the printing and publishing business and in October, 1880, with a partner founded the Stark County Sentinel, also at Toulon. After conducting that paper for two years he disposed of his interest therein to J. Knox Hall in May, 1882, but on the 1st of January, 1889, he again became one of the newspaper publishers of the county, purchasing the Post-Herald at Wyoming, Illinois. For eighteen years he devoted the greater part of his time to its publication and it gained recognition as one of the most influential and best known weeklies in central Illinois. He built up an efficient news service which enabled him to give his readers complete and reliable accounts of local events, and through his editorial page he worked constantly and effectively for the advancement of Wyoming and Stark county. In September, 1907, he sold the paper and has since given practically his entire time to his official duties.

It was in November, 1902, that Mr. Nixon was elected clerk of Stark county and on taking office he removed to Toulon. He was re-elected in 1906, 1910 and 1914, receiving at each election the highest vote of any candidate on the county ticket, an unusual tribute, which speaks much for his personal popularity and the confidence which his fellow citizens repose in his ability. Since taking up his residence in Toulon he has held other official positions, as for seven years he has been a member of the school board and for five years has served on the city council. He was chairman of the board of local improvements, which devised and installed the present splendid system of water-works, and his duties in that connection made heavy demands upon his time and attention. While living in Wyoming he was for five terms city clerk and for five years a member of the school board.

Mr. Nixon was married in Toulon on the 30th of November, 1882, to Miss Lottie R. Brace, who was born in Elmira, Illinois, on the 15th of January, 1862. Her father, Orlando Brace, was born in

Elmira on the 8th of August, 1838, a son of Myrtle G. and Phebe (Munson) Brace, pioneers of Stark county. On the 10th of September, 1862, he enlisted for service in the Civil war, joining Company A. One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was at the front for three years. He saw much active service and in the battle of Spanish Fort, Alabama, on the 2d of April, 1865, was severely wounded. After the close of hostilities he returned to Illinois and in November, 1873, was elected treasurer of Stark county and removed to Toulon. He made an excellent record in that office, which he held until December, 1886. His demise occurred on the 12th of December, 1909, when he was seventy-one years old. He was married on the 13th of February, 1861, to Lucy A. Hudson, who was a daughter of Daniel and Mary (Mayhew) Hudson, natives of Ohio, who settled in Stark county, Illinois, in 1855. She passed away on the 14th of December, 1910, when seventy years old. To Mr. and Mrs. Brace were born seven children: Mrs. Nixon; Luella M., who was married on the 25th of December, 1882, to Frank S. Rosseter, now deceased, and who died on the 8th of December, 1902, in California, in her fortieth year, leaving two daughters, Myrtle, the wife of Benjamin R. Saunders, and Ethel L.; Frank B.; Florence B., the widow of Frank L. Kinney; Harry W.; George M.; and Edith L., the wife of George C. Christ. Mr. and Mrs. Nixon have three children, as follows: Edward B., who is engaged in newspaper work in Peoria, Illinois, was married on the 12th of December, 1906, to Adeline L. Bradley, a daughter of Henry C. and Alberta (Edwards) Bradley, of Toulon, and they have two sons, Bradley and Paul. Grace F. was married on the 15th of June, 1915, to Dr. Martin R. Chase, a son of Joseph and Sarah (Rist) Chase, of Toulon. She and her husband now live in Chicago. Paul O., who is assistant cashier in the State Bank of Toulon, is living at home.

Mr. Nixon has been a lifelong republican and has done much efficient work in behalf of that party. In religious faith he is a Congregationalist, and he is also identified with the Masonic order. He was raised a Master Mason in Toulon Lodge, No. 93, in December, 1881, and when he became a resident of Wyoming transferred his membership to Wyoming Lodge, No. 479, of which he served as worshipful master in 1891, 1892, 1894, 1895, 1901 and 1902. In 1909 he was master of the Toulon lodge, with which he is again identified. In 1901 he was high priest of Wyoming Chapter, No. 133, R. A. M. He is likewise identified with the Order of the Eastern Star and with the Modern Woodmen of America. In addition to attending to his private business interests and his official duties, he has been active in

all matters pertaining to the promotion of the social and material welfare of the community in which he lives, and his public spirit is generally recognized. Mrs. Nixon received her education in the Toulon schools, and is a member of the Congregational church and of the Order of the Eastern Star, and in the last named order served as worthy matron of Wyoming Chapter in 1897 and of Toulon Chapter in 1913.

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### JOHN W. WALTERS.

John W. Walters, who since 1895 has been a partner in the banking house now conducted under the name of Scott, Walters & Rakestraw at Wyoming, was born July 26, 1854, at Ashbourne, Derbyshire, England. His father, the Rev. William Walters, was born at Mayfield, Staffordshire, England, and wedded Sarah Neal, whose birth occurred in Derby, England. Following the birth of their five children they came to the new world, making their way to Wyoming, Illinois, in November, 1870. The father became the first pastor of the Congregational church of Wyoming, which he aided in founding in 1873. He continued to fill that pastorate for a decade and then again from 1893 until 1900. Between those two periods he was pastor of the Congregational churches at Lacon, Illinois, and at Hastings and Long Pine, Nebraska. He passed away in Wyoming in 1900, greatly esteemed and beloved by all. His life had been of marked influence for good in the community, his teachings being of far-reaching and beneficial effect and leaving their impress upon the lives of many with whom he came in contact. His wife died in 1872.

John W. Walters pursued his education in St. John's Academy in his native city to the age of sixteen years, when he came with his parents to the new world. He embarked in the mercantile business in Wyoming in 1878 as a partner of A. G. Hammond and was thus actively identified with commercial affairs of the city until 1895, when he became a factor in financial circles, entering into partnership with the banking firm of Scott, Wrigley & Hammond, which is now Scott, Walters & Rakestraw. In this connection he is bending his efforts to administrative direction and executive control, and during the past twenty-one years he has contributed in no small measure to the success of the institution. He is also a director of the Stark County Telephone Company and owns considerable real estate in Illinois and other sections of the country.

On the 13th of June, 1877, at Wyoming, Mr. Walters was married to Miss Alice B. Wrigley, a daughter of John Wrigley, who was born at Haywood, Lancashire, England, and was associated with George W. Scott in founding the bank of Scott & Wrigley at Wyoming in 1870. Mr. and Mrs. Walters have become the parents of seven children: Arthur John; Sarah Anne, now the wife of Herbert L. Miller, of Danville, Illinois; Florence Louise, the wife of John R. Dexter, of Ardmore, Oklahoma; William Alfred, of Leroy, Illinois, who married Miss Hilda White, of St. Joseph, Missouri; and Edith Alice, Helen Mary and Harold Wrigley Scott, all at home.

Mr. Walters has adhered to the religious faith of his father and has long been a very active and prominent member of the Congregational church, in which he has served as trustee and treasurer for many years. That he is interested in the intellectual progress of the community is shown by the fact that he has served for nineteen years as a member of the board of education of Wyoming. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, and fraternally he is connected with the Masons, belonging to the lodge, chapter and Eastern Star. A resident of Wyoming from the age of sixteen years, he is well known here as one of the prominent, representative and honored citizens, his life having ever measured up to the highest standards of manhood and citizenship.

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#### G. W. MERNA.

An excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres, situated on section 28, Penn township, is the property of G. W. Merna, who located thereon about six years ago and here in addition to general farming he is engaged in the raising of Clydesdale horses, becoming well known as a leading dealer of his community. He was born in the township in which he still makes his home on the 13th of September, 1874, his parents being George and Mary F. (Bateman) Merna, the former a native of England and the latter of Ohio. On coming to the United States the father settled first at Fall River, Massachusetts, but afterward made his way into the interior of the country and became a resident of Stark county, where he passed away in the fall of 1912 after having devoted many years to general agricultural pursuits in this locality. His widow still survives and yet occupies the old home farm in Penn township.

No special event occurred to vary the routine of farm life for G.

W. Merna in his boyhood and youth. He worked upon the old home place from early boyhood when not busy with his textbooks and after leaving school concentrated his entire attention upon the farm work until he reached the age of twenty-seven years. He then began farming on his own account on a tract of land south of his present home and came to this farm in 1910. In the intervening period he has erected a large, substantial barn and other outbuildings and has lighted the place with electricity brought from Wyoming. This land is divided into fields of convenient size by well kept fences and within the boundaries of the place are comprised one hundred and sixty acres of land. Stock raising has to some extent been followed by him, his attention being now given to Clydesdale horses, and he has also engaged in feeding stock.

In 1901 Mr. Merna was united in marriage to Miss Emma Taylor, a native of Rock Island, Illinois, by whom he has two children, Bernice and Gladys. The parents attend the Methodist Protestant church, of which Mr. Merna is one of the trustees. His political allegiance is given the republican party but he has never sought or desired office. He has, however, served as school trustee. Fraternally he is well known as a Mason, belonging to the lodge and chapter at Wyoming. He has also filled all of the offices in the Odd Fellows lodge at Castleton and he is widely known and popular among the members of those organizations, who recognize his sterling worth and know that his life is molded along lines that have their root in honorable principles. Having always lived in Penn township, his life history is as an open book and many who know him speak of him in terms of warm regard.

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### EDWARD C. CAVERLY.

Progressive agriculture in Stark county finds a worthy representative in Edward C. Caverly, who resides on section 16, Toulon township. There he is successfully engaged in tilling the soil and also in the breeding and raising of Poland China hogs. He is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land constituting a neat and well improved farm, and the enterprise which he displays in its management results in the attainment of gratifying success. He has always lived in Stark county, his birth having here occurred September 21, 1868.

His father, William P. Caverly, was born in Ireland and was



there reared to mature years. When a young man he came with a sister to the new world and for a time resided in New York city, where he learned the carpenter's trade. He afterward removed westward to Toulon, where he followed his trade and also did contract work. He erected the first Board of Trade building in Peoria and other important structures of that period stand as monuments to his skill and handiwork. Purchasing land, he established his home upon a farm in Toulon township and thereon reared his family. He was for years one of the public-spirited citizens of Stark county, where he served as supervisor and in other positions of honor and trust. He started out in life a poor boy among strangers, but he accumulated wealth quite rapidly and was long numbered among the prosperous and substantial citizens and men of affluence in Stark county. His prosperity resulted from his sound judgment, his close application and his indefatigable industry. He spent his last years in Toulon, where he passed away about 1912, and his widow, who still survives him, makes her home in Toulon.

Edward C. Caverly was reared on the old homestead, remaining with his father until he reached the age of twenty-five years, during which period he assisted in the active work of the fields. In March, 1893, he was united in marriage to Miss Sierra Nevada Ward, who was born in Illinois and was reared and educated in Toulon.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Caverly took up their abode on the place where they still make their home. With characteristic energy he began to till the soil and further improved the place and today his farm is one of the attractive features of the landscape. There is a large and pleasant residence built in modern style of architecture, lighted with gas and supplied with hot and cold water throughout the house. In fact this is one of the finest farm residences in Toulon township and is an evidence of the progressive spirit of the owner. In the rear of the dwelling stands a substantial barn and other outbuildings that furnish ample shelter for grain and stock. He uses the latest improved farm machinery in carrying on the work of the fields and all of his land is tillable. For years he has been quite extensively engaged in breeding and selling pure blooded Poland China hogs and is now one of the foremost representatives of the business in Stark county. For some years he has held two public sales annually and he also sells at private sale. In addition he has filled orders from distant points, shipping some fine animals to various states.

Mr. and Mrs. Caverly have become parents of a son, Charles, who is now a student in the township high school at Toulon. The

family is well known in their part of the county and warm regard is entertained for them by all with whom they have come in contact. Politically Mr. Caverly is independent, voting for men and measures rather than party. His entire attention has been concentrated upon his business affairs and his persistency of purpose has brought to him substantial and gratifying success.

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### JAMES T. ROGERS.

James T. Rogers, who owns and operates a half section of fine land in Peem township, is giving the greater part of his attention to the raising of Clydesdale horses and shorthorn cattle. His birth occurred in Peoria county, Illinois, on the 22d of August, 1851, and he is a son of Henry M. and Emily (Evans) Rogers. The father was born in the vicinity of New York city and the mother, Winchester, Virginia. In 1838 Henry M. Rogers migrated westward and took up a claim near Princeville, Peoria county, Illinois, which he improved until 1857. In that year he came to Valley township, Stark county, and took up his residence upon a tract of good land on section 4. He was a successful agriculturist and at the time of his death was in excellent circumstances. He was held in high esteem by his fellow citizens and for about thirteen years served as supervisor. His death occurred in 1878, and his wife died in 1897.

James T. Rogers attended the schools of Galva and Peoria and after completing the work of the public schools took a commercial course. He then returned to the farm and assisted his father in its management until the latter's death, when he took charge of its operation. Later he bought land a mile south of the homestead in Valley township and lived there for three years. He next purchased a farm in Peem township, and for twenty-five years has resided upon that place. He has erected all of the buildings, which are modern and substantial, and also planted a fine grove, which adds not a little to the attractiveness and value of the farm. His place comprises three hundred and twenty acres on section 33, Peem township, and is one of the best improved farms in the neighborhood. For ten years he has raised Clydesdale horses, and he also breeds shorthorn cattle. His stock is of high grade and commands a good price on the market.

In 1886 Mr. Rogers was united in marriage to Miss Emma Jarman, who passed away in 1912, leaving three children: Clarence Alvin, Ethel and Vira, all at home.



JAMES T. ROGERS AND FAMILY

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Mr. Rogers supports the democratic party at the polls and for seven or eight years held the office of commissioner of Valley township, and he has also filled other positions of trust. He holds membership in the Pleasant Valley church, and fraternally is connected with the Masonic blue lodge and chapter at Wyoming, the Modern Woodmen of America at Wyoming, and the Maccabees also of that place. His life has been characterized by energy and business acumen, and these qualities, together with his willingness to adopt new methods when their value has been shown, insure his continued prosperity.

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### CHRISTIE SORENSON.

Christie Sorenson is the owner of Springdale Farm, a property of one hundred and ten acres situated a mile west of Toulon, on the Logan Lee highway. Forty-five years have come and gone since he arrived in Illinois, for he is a native of Denmark. He was born September 6, 1849, and in his childhood accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world, the family home being established in Winnebago, Wisconsin. When he was a youth of fifteen he left home and went to Muskegon county, Michigan, where he was employed in the timber woods and sawmills and in fact worked at any employment that he could secure which would yield him an honest living and gain him a start in life. In time he became an expert sawyer and commanded high wages.

In Muskegon county, in 1869, when a young man of twenty years, Mr. Sorenson was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Walling, who was born in Stark county, Illinois. In 1871 they came to this state, settling in Toulon, where Mr. Sorenson was employed in various ways. He afterward rented land for several years and during that period carefully saved his earnings until he was able to purchase a tract of one hundred and eighty acres on section 25. He took up his abode upon that place and with characteristic energy began its development, residing there for fifteen years, during which his labors wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of the place. He erected a good frame residence, also barns and sheds and in the work of the fields displayed unflinching energy as well as practical knowledge of the best methods of tilling the soil. In 1908 he rented the farm and removed to Toulon, where he spent the succeeding five years, there purchasing a residence lot and erecting thereon a pleasant home which he still owns.

In 1898 Mr. Sorenson lost his wife, who passed away leaving two children: William H., a resident of Toulon; and Charles H., of Colorado. Both are married. On the 4th of March, 1891, in Toulon, Mr. Sorenson was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Levina Claybaugh, nee Kincaide, a widow, who was born in Missouri. By this marriage there were three children, of whom two are living: Clara, the wife of William Goodwin, of Toulon; and Mary Leona, who is a student in the Toulon high school.

In 1915 Mr. Sorenson settled upon his present farm on section 23, Goshen township, and has already begun to make substantial improvements there. In politics he is identified with the republican party, and, while never an office seeker, has served as road commissioner. He belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge at Toulon, in which he has filled all of the chairs and is now a past grand. He is likewise identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and both he and his wife are members of the Toulon Baptist church, in the work of which he is deeply and helpfully interested. He is now serving as one of the officers of the church and he also has a Sunday school class of twenty-one boys, so that he is taking active part in promoting the moral progress of the community. Those who know him speak of him in terms of high regard, for his entire career has been guided by lofty principles and over his life record there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil.

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#### I. F. STEWARD.

I. F. Steward, who is devoting his attention to farming on section 4, Penn township, is a native of Stark county, his birth occurring in Osceola township on the 23d of February, 1866. He is a son of Nathan D. and Julia C. (Kinyan) Steward, natives respectively of Maine and Pennsylvania. They were married, however, in Stark county, Illinois, and the father engaged in farming land in Osceola township for many years. He still resides upon his land although he has now given the operation of his farm over to others.

I. F. Steward was reared under the parental roof and received his education in the common schools. He assisted his father until he was twenty-seven years old, when he removed to Penn township and rented land. At length he was able to buy one hundred and seventeen acres in that township, which he subsequently sold, however, buying his present farm, which adjoins his original holdings. He has

remodeled the residence and barns and also made other improvements upon the place and keeps everything in excellent condition. His home farm comprises one hundred and twenty-five acres, and he also has an interest in an undivided sixty-five acre tract. He feeds a large number of cattle and hogs annually and derives a good income from the sale of his stock. The success which he has gained is doubly creditable in that it is due directly to his own well directed efforts.

In 1892 Mr. Steward was united in marriage to Miss Stella C. Sterling, and they have a son, Ross E., who is at home. Mr. Steward is a staunch republican and for twelve years held the office of road commissioner, while for many years he served as school director. He belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge of Castleton and to the Modern Woodmen of America at Bradford and is also identified with the Methodist Protestant church, of which his wife is likewise a member. He has thoroughly identified his interests with those of Stark county, in which he has passed his entire life, and his staunchest friends are those who have known him intimately since boyhood.

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#### WILLIAM H. PARISH.

William H. Parish, living on section 14, Goshen township, is busily employed in the further development of his farm of three hundred and twenty acres, which is pleasantly and conveniently located within four miles of Toulon. The farm is most pleasing in its appearance because of the many improvements that have been put upon it and the well kept condition of the fields. Mr. Parish was born in the township in which he still resides, his birth having occurred on his father's old homestead February 16, 1859. He is a son of Pethuel Parish, now of Toulon and one of the largest landowners of Stark county.

Upon the old homestead William H. Parish acquainted himself with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, enjoyed those pleasures which give zest to boyhood and in the neighboring schools mastered the lessons which qualified him for life's practical and responsible duties. As he advanced in years his efforts were given more and more largely to the active work of cultivating the fields and then he made arrangements for having a home of his own by his marriage in February, 1875, to Miss Anna Fogelson, who was born in Maryland, where she was reared to the age of

seventeen years, when she accompanied her father, Henry Fogelson, to Illinois upon his removal with his family to this state.

For five years after his marriage Mr. Parish engaged in farming on a part of his father's land and afterward purchased an eighty-acre tract on which were fair improvements. Still later he made investment in one hundred and three acres of land which he cultivated for several years, but eventually he sold that place and bought one hundred and sixty acres near by. His holdings include about thirty-five acres of timbered pasture land. He has remodeled the home and barn and now has a well improved farm on which he is engaged in raising and feeding stock for the market, while at the same time he carefully cultivates the crops best adapted to soil and climate. He was one of the promoters of the La Fayette Fair Association and is still one of its stockholders.

To Mr. and Mrs. Parish have been born four children, of whom two are living. Everett, who is married and has one daughter, is engaged in farming in Goshen township. May is the wife of Jesse Frail, a farmer of Goshen township, and they have a son, Miles Clyde.

Mr. Parish exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party but his loyalty therto is never the outcome of a desire for public office. However, for some years he was a member of the school board and he has ever been interested in affairs that have to do with public improvement and civic advancement. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp at Toulon and both he and his wife are connected with the Royal Neighbors. They now have a wide acquaintance in Toulon and this part of the county and the warm friendship of many is freely accorded them. For more than a half century Mr. Parish has been a witness of the events which have marked the history of Stark county and throughout almost the entire period he has been closely associated with the agricultural development of this part of the state.

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#### ALBERT W. KING.

Albert W. King gained financial independence through his well managed business affairs and is now living retired in Wyoming. He was born in Washington Courthouse, Fayette county, Ohio, on the 2d of November, 1846, a son of Wesley King, whose birth occurred



in Maryland on the 18th of August, 1821. The paternal grandparents were John and Rachel (Hixon) King, natives of Virginia, who removed to Ohio at an early day in the history of that state. John King was a Methodist minister and three of his sons followed in his footsteps.

Wesley King was reared in the Buckeye state and devoted the greater part of his life to agricultural pursuits. He removed to Stark county, Illinois, in 1856 and purchased three hundred and twenty acres of good land in Valley township. Four years later, when it was thought that a railroad was going to be built through Wyoming, he established a furniture store there. But the road was not constructed and two years later he sold that business and bought a farm two miles northeast of Wyoming, which he operated until his demise in 1887 at the age of sixty-six years. He was very prominent in the work of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in early days his home in Valley township was a stopping place for the Methodist circuit riders. His political allegiance was given to the republican party, and he held a number of local offices, including that of member of the school board. He was married on the 11th of November, 1841, to Miss Elizabeth Brown, a native of Virginia and a daughter of Peter and Eliza (Bateman) Brown. She reached the advanced age of eighty-four years; her mother died at the venerable age of ninety-four years; and her grandmother lived to be one hundred and three years old. By her marriage she became the mother of eleven children, of whom two died in infancy. Six are still living, namely: Celenia, the wife of Thomas C. Hepperly, of Lentz, Oregon; Albert W.; Peter, who resides in Missouri but was for forty years a resident of Kansas; J. E., who is farming in Stark county; Elizabeth A., the wife of W. R. Terpening, of Missouri; and Mrs. A. H. Pettit, of Los Angeles, California. John died in Holt county, Missouri, in 1909. Mrs. Alice Clark passed away in Burlington, Kansas. Isaiah died in Stark county, Illinois, in 1913.

Albert W. King was about ten years of age when the family removed to Stark county, Illinois, and here he grew to manhood. He attended the village schools of Wyoming for some time but being the eldest son in the family and his father needing help in the operation of the farm, he put aside his school books at a comparatively early age and assisted his father until he was twenty years old. He then went to Independence, Missouri, and worked in a store owned by his uncle for a year, after which he returned to Wyoming and entered the employ of Scott & Wrigley. A year later he and Captain Otman purchased the business formerly conducted by Scott & Wrigley and

for five years this association was maintained. In 1874, however, our subject became sole owner of a business but in 1879 admitted his brother, J. E. King, to a partnership and the firm became King Brothers. They continued in business for twenty-five years and for fifteen years the volume of their trade exceeded that of any other firm in Stark county. In 1899 they sold out and since then Mr. King of this review has not been active in business. His success was due to his quickness to recognize and take advantage of opportunities for expansion and for improving the service which he rendered his patrons, to his integrity and to his strong common sense—qualities which are always at a premium in the commercial and financial world. He owns three hundred and twenty acres of land in Penn township—the old family homestead—and is recognized as one of the substantial citizens of his community.

Mr. King was married in 1873 to Miss Mattie Stone, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Samuel S. Stone, who settled in Henry county, Illinois, before the Civil war. Mrs. King taught school previous to her marriage. She has become the mother of three children: Fred S., a merchant of Preston, Iowa, who is married and has two children, Lawrence Schmidt King and Ferris Albert King; Nina L., the wife of Dr. C. C. Falk, of Eureka, California; and Albert W., who died when in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. King also reared a niece of Mrs. King, Julia Louise Stone, who, however, was always known as Louise Stone King until her marriage to Dr. W. H. Holmes of Pomona, California. Her mother died when she was an infant.

Mr. King has been prominent in public affairs for years and before the incorporation of Wyoming was president of the village board for two years and has since served many times as a member of the city council. He has brought the same sound judgment and insight to bear upon the solution of municipal problems that enabled him to successfully carry out his business enterprises and there has never been any question as to his devotion to the public welfare. For twenty-two years he was an officer in the Central Agricultural Society, realizing the close relation that exists between the prosperity of the farmers of the county and the development of the towns which are the trade centers for the county. He belongs to the Masonic lodge and chapter at Wyoming, to the commandery at Kewanee and has served three different times as master of the lodge and for twenty-three years has been its secretary, this record proving the high esteem in which he is held by his fraternal brethren. For forty years both he and his wife have belonged to the Order of the Eastern Star. Since retiring from business life he has found many other interests to

occupy his leisure, and he and his wife both enjoy the months which they spend in California, going there frequently to visit their daughters.

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### GRANT DEXTER.

Grant Dexter is one of the prosperous farmers and stock breeders and dealers of Goshen township. His home on section 4 is known as the Cloverdale Farm and comprises three hundred acres of rich and arable land, on which he raises Hereford cattle. He is a native son of Stark county, born January 27, 1865, and he represents an old New England family. His father, George F. Dexter, was born in Bangor, Maine, January 11, 1832, and there reached adult age, after which he came with his parents to Illinois, the family home being established in Elmhira township, where they were among the pioneer settlers. With the work of early development and improvement here they were closely associated. George F. Dexter was married in this county to Miss Laura Miner, who was the first white female child born in Stark county. Following his marriage Mr. Dexter purchased land whereon he now resides, his first tract comprising forty acres. He at once began to develop and improve the place and as his financial resources increased he extended its boundaries from time to time, becoming in the course of years one of the prosperous farmers of Goshen township. He erected a pleasant residence and provided shelter for grain and stock by building good barns and sheds. In 1889 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who passed away on the 27th of April of that year, since which time Mr. Dexter has made his home with his son Grant, who is the eldest in a family of three sons.

The usual experiences of the farm bred boy came to Grant Dexter in the period of his youth. He attended the district schools and from the time of early spring planting until crops were harvested in the late autumn worked in the fields. Eventually he relieved his father of the care and development of the home farm by assuming its management and control. At the time of his marriage he brought his bride to the old homestead. The residence has since been remodeled and is now a thoroughly modern and attractive home supplied with furnace heat, hot and cold water, bathroom, gas light and other modern conveniences. Mr. Dexter has also added to his farm by the purchase of adjoining land on section 3, Goshen township, and in connection with the cultivation of the fields he is engaged in the breed-

ing and sale of Herefore pure bred cattle. He was also one of the promoters of the Galva Cooperative State Bank, of which he became a director, and he was active in promoting the La Fayette Fair Association, of which he became a stockholder.

On the 2nd of December, 1886, in Henry county, Illinois, Mr. Dexter was married to Miss Emma F. Keim, who was born and reared in that county and who by her marriage has become the mother of four children: Fay, the wife of Frazer T. Winans, a resident farmer of Goshen township; Grace; Gladys; and Marvin G.

In politics Mr. Dexter has been a lifelong republican and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but does not seek nor desire public office. He and his wife are both active workers in church and Sunday school. They belong to the Baptist church of Toulon and Mr. Dexter was made a member of the building committee, having in charge the erection of the new church. He is never willing to make terms with anything underhanded but is straightforward and honorable in all of his relations and has made his life a potent force in promoting moral progress and uplift in the community in which he has always made his home.

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### JOSEPH A. KIDD.

Starting out in life as a farm hand, Joseph A. Kidd has gradually worked his way upward. From his earnings he saved the money which enabled him to purchase land, and he now has one of the finest productive farms of Osceola township, his home being on section 18. He was born on the 17th of August, 1874, in Elmira township, his parents being James and Sarah (Gailey) Kidd, both of whom were natives of Ireland, the father's birth having occurred in County Antrim, and the mother's in County Derry. Coming to the new world they established their home in Stark county, Illinois, where their remaining days were passed, and upon the farm where they located they reared their family of five children: Elizabeth, the wife of W. H. Boardman, living in Elmira township; Thomas J., also a resident of the same township; Joseph A.; Mary, the wife of M. H. Londenburg, of Canova, South Dakota; and James, also residing in Elmira township. They also lost two children in infancy.

Joseph A. Kidd pursued his education in the Osceola Grove school, dividing his time between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. He con-



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH A. KIDD

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tinued at home with his parents until he reached the age of eighteen years, when he started out in life on his own account, working by the month as a farm hand for seven years. He was ambitious to engage in business for himself and during that period he saved his earnings until he felt justified, through experience and by reason of his capability, in renting land which he cultivated for six years. Further economy and industry enabled him during that period to save the sum wherewith he purchased his farm on section 18, Osceola township. Here he has one hundred and seventy-five acres, in addition to which he owns eighty acres in Elmira township. He cultivates all of this land himself and is quite extensively engaged in feeding stock. He has put up most of the buildings upon the place, erecting an excellent barn and sheds, while in 1913 he built his present residence, which is thoroughly modern, equipped with electric lights, and supplied with all the latest conveniences and comforts. His place is known as Glen View Farm, and the success of his stock feeding interests is indicated in the fact that he ships from two to four carloads of cattle and hogs annually.

When twenty-five years of age Mr. Kidd was married to Miss Lizzie Murray, and they have three children: Margaret Isabel; Dale Thomas; and James William. Mr. Kidd has always given his political support to the republican party where national questions and issues are involved, but casts an independent ballot at county elections. He has served as school director and is interested in the educational progress of the community. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen camp at Osceola, and religiously with the United Presbyterian church of Elmira. His life is actuated by high and honorable principles, and his practical and progressive efforts have been attended with successful results, which place him among the substantial stock raisers and agriculturists of the state.

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### JOHN ALLEN.

John Allen, residing on section 31, Toulon township, is a thrifty and progressive farmer, stock raiser and feeder who owns and cultivates a tract of two hundred and forty acres of land constituting one of the well improved farm properties of the county, situated just south of Toulon. Mr. Allen was born in Fulton county, Illinois, May 22, 1864, a son of William Allen, who was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, where he was reared to the age of eighteen years. He then came to

the new world and for a time resided in New York state. Subsequently he came west to Illinois and established his home in Kane county. He was married in St. Charles, Illinois, to Maggie Broderick, also a native of the green isle of Erin, whence she came to the United States in 1840. Mr. Allen removed from Kane to Fulton county and still later came to Stark county, where he turned his attention to farming but later engaged in buying and shipping stock, including cattle, horses and hogs. He became a well-known dealer and shipper and won success through the careful management of his interests. He spent his last years in Toulon, where he died December 5, 1904, at the age of about seventy years.

John Allen was a lad of but four summers when brought to Stark county, where he was reared upon the old homestead farm, the public school system affording him the educational opportunities that he enjoyed, although he is largely a self-educated man, adding much to his knowledge through reading and observation as well as through practical experience since attaining his majority. In early manhood he rented land and thus engaged in farming for a number of years. After his marriage he rented land in Henry county for six years, and while residing there he made purchase of his first eighty acres in Stark county. He also purchased a half interest in a meat market and butchering business in Toulon, of which he had charge for two years, after which he disposed of that business. He carefully saved his earnings and in the spring of 1905 purchased an eighty-acre tract whereon he now resides, on section 31, Toulon township, a mile south of the city of Toulon. With characteristic energy he began its further development and improvement and he now occupies there a comfortable residence in the rear of which stand good barns and other out-buildings, and these in turn are surrounded by highly cultivated fields. He has purchased more land as opportunity has offered and is now the owner of a farm of two hundred and forty acres. Mr. Allen makes a business of raising and feeding cattle and hogs for the market and fattens and ships from two to three carloads of hogs and one or more car loads of cattle each year.

On the 10th of February, 1896, Mr. Allen was united in marriage to Miss Alice Brady, who was born and reared in this county and for four years was a successful teacher. By this marriage there have been born two sons and two daughters, Henry, Margaret and Paulina, all students in the township high school at Toulon, and William, who is attending the country school.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen were reared in the Catholic faith, to which they still adhere, and Mr. Allen is identified with the Modern Wood-



men and the Mystic Workers, both of which are fraternal insurance societies. He is a self-made man and deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, for he started out in life empty handed and by persistency of purpose and indefatigable energy has worked his way upward. His life has been a very busy and useful one and his success is the proof of his industry, determination and capability.

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### WOOD C. DEXTER.

An alert and wide-awake farmer is Wood C. Dexter, who is living on the old homestead farm of one hundred acres on section 4, Goshen township. His birth occurred in Toulon township on the 24th of November, 1874, his father being James Dexter, who was born near Bangor, Maine, and who came to Illinois with his father, Lolan Dexter, who settled in Stark county. James Dexter was married here to Elizabeth Johnson, a daughter of P. P. Johnson, one of the pioneer settlers of Stark county. Following his marriage James Dexter began the cultivation of his father's farm and then made purchase of what has since been known as the Dexter homestead. This he developed and improved, erecting thereon a good residence and substantial barns and outbuildings. He was an active and industrious citizen and a prosperous farmer who carefully, systematically and successfully cultivated his land until 1881, when he rented the place and removed to Galva, where for more than a third of a century he has now lived retired, enjoying the fruits of his former toil in well earned rest.

Wood C. Dexter is one of a family of four sons and two daughters. He remained under the parental roof until he went away to school, supplementing his early educational training, received in the district schools of Goshen township, by study in the schools of Galva. In 1903 he returned to the farm and has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits, giving his attention to general farm work and to stock raising. He also does some dairying, milking a number of cows and selling the cream. His work is carefully managed, system characterizing everything that he does, so that there is no loss of time, labor nor material.

On the 9th of March, 1905, Mr. Dexter was united in marriage, in Galva, to Miss Effie Johnson, who was born, reared and educated in Galesburg, Illinois, and formerly engaged in teaching in the schools of this state and also in Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Dexter have a family of five children, namely: James, Howard, Gertrude, Carl and Keith.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Dexter are members of the Galva Baptist church and their lives measure up to high standards, being characterized by good deeds, noble purposes and fidelity to duty in every relation.

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### EMERY L. HALSTED.

Emery L. Halsted, a representative farmer of Toulon township, living on section 33, is well known not only as the owner of a highly improved tract of excellent land but also as a breeder of Clydesdale horses, and a stock feeder. His life record began in Marshall county, Illinois, on the 19th of March, 1881. His father, Nelson Halsted, was a business man of that county and was there married and reared his family. For years he was proprietor of a meat market and butchering business but he passed away in 1881. His widow survived him for more than two decades, her death occurring on the 9th of February, 1903.

Emery L. Halsted was reared in Marshall and Stark counties and is indebted to the public school system of the state for the educational opportunities which he enjoyed. He is, however, largely self-educated and has gained many valuable lessons in the school of experience and from reading and observation. He lost his own father during infancy and from the age of fourteen years has been dependent upon his own resources. He worked for several years by the month as a farm hand for his stepfather but was ambitious to engage in business on his own account and utilized every opportunity that led to that end. He was married in Wyoming, November 9, 1904, to Miss Drusilla C. Cox, who was born and reared in Stark county and is a daughter of the late Monroe Cox, who was a well known citizen here. Mr. Halsted and his brother rented land which they farmed in partnership for five years and eventually E. L. Halsted took up his abode in Wyoming, where he engaged in clerking for a time and also did other work that came to hand. He afterward purchased the farm whereon he now resides, becoming owner of a one hundred and six acre tract of land adjoining another eighty-acre tract which his wife inherited, making their farm one of two hundred and forty acres of well improved land. He keeps everything about the place in good repair, has erected substantial outbuildings to protect stock, grain and farm machinery from inclement weather and has fenced his land, dividing it into fields of convenient size. In addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he is engaged in

raising and feeding stock for the market and annually ships one or more car loads of fat hogs and a car load of fat steers each year. He is also a well known breeder and dealer in standard bred Clydesdale horses. His business affairs are capably managed and enterprise and discrimination have brought him growing success.

Mr. and Mrs. Halsted have a daughter, Clara, now a student in the township high school at Toulon. In politics Mr. Halsted maintains an independent course, nor has he ever been ambitious for office. He belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge at Toulon and his wife is connected with the Rebekah degree. Much of his life has been spent in Stark county, so that his history is largely familiar to his fellow townsmen, who feel that he has fully won the success which is his and who name him with the progressive farmers and stock raisers of the county.

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#### DUNCAN M. MARSHALL.

Actuated by the spirit of progress and advancement in all that he does, Duncan M. Marshall has proven his right to rank with the representative and leading farmers of Goshen township, where he owns two hundred and twenty acres of arable land on section 2. While he has been a resident of Stark county for only a brief period, having arrived here in 1912, he has won recognition as a substantial and representative citizen.

His birth occurred in Marshall county, West Virginia, April 11, 1879, and he was educated in the public schools. When a young man he removed westward to Illinois in 1901, settling in Henry county, where he worked by the month as a farm hand for a number of years, thereby gaining his financial start. He afterward purchased a team and turned his attention to the business of teaming in Kewanee, where he spent two years. Still later he removed to Bureau county, where he cultivated a rented farm for two years and then returned to Henry county, where he continued to rent land for six years. In 1912 he made purchase of the farm whereon he now resides and in the intervening period he has concentrated his efforts and attention upon the further development and improvement of the place. He has fenced the fields, repaired the buildings and erected a large silo at a cost of six hundred dollars. Among the other improvements that he has added are a hog house, a good cement tank, a cattle shed and a hay barn. He is very energetic, his life being characterized by unremitting diligence and industry, and within the short space of four

years he has wrought a marvelous change in the appearance of his place. In addition to tilling the soil in the production of crops he raises and feeds stock, and is also now engaged in breeding shorthorn cattle and other pure-blooded registered stock, thereby adding materially to his income.

On the 1st of March, 1904, in Kewanee, Mr. Marshall was united in marriage to Miss Martha Clark, who was born and reared in Asheville, North Carolina, and in young womanhood joined an uncle in Kewanee. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall have three living children, Harry, Ward and Helen. They lost their first born, Hazel, who died at the age of two and one-half years. Mr. Marshall is a very energetic young man, his life being characteristic of the spirit of enterprise which has typified the development of the Mississippi valley.

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### NATHAN CORRINGTON.

Nathan Corrington devotes his time to the operation of his farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 24, Penn township, and is meeting with gratifying success as an agriculturist. His birth occurred in Peoria, Illinois, on the 15th of November, 1883, and he is a son of Frank V. and Lucy (Giles) Corrington, both of whom were born and reared in the vicinity of Peoria. The father engaged in farming there and both passed away in that locality.

Nathan Corrington was reared under the parental roof and received a good common school education, but when eighteen years of age began farming on his own account. Later he worked for a year and a half at the plumber's trade, after which he again turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. He remained in Peoria county until 1914, when he came to Stark county and purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 24, Penn township. The place was formerly owned by his father. The residence is up-to-date and well designed. He raises grain and stock and derives a good financial return from his labor.

In 1913 Mr. Corrington was united in marriage to Miss Daisy Dean Vogel, who was born in Peoria county. They have a son, Giles Russell.

Mr. Corrington is independent in politics, voting for the man rather than the party, and he attends the Methodist Episcopal church at Bradford, to which his wife belongs. He is well known in Masonic circles as he is identified with the lodge, chapter, commandery and

shrine, all at Peoria. He is a young man but has already attained a measure of prosperity that would be creditable to a man several years his senior. He is not only a prosperous farmer but is also a public-spirited citizen and is willing to aid in securing the advancement of his community.

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### OTIS HODGES.

Otis Hodges, who holds the title to the Maple Ridge Farm comprising three hundred and twenty acres of land on section 1, Penn township, was born in Valley township, Stark county, on the 21st of November, 1860, of the marriage of David and Nancy (Hutchinson) Hodges. The father, who was born in England, came to the United States when only thirteen years of age and located in Saratoga, New York. He remained there for nineteen years but at the end of that time, in 1851, removed to Stark county, Illinois. He purchased land here, which he operated for two years, and then returned to New York state. At length, however, he came again to Stark county and his remaining days were passed upon the home farm here. He was a fine business man, and as the years passed and his resources increased he invested in additional land, becoming in time the owner of eight or nine hundred acres. His wife survives and still lives in Valley township.

Otis Hodges entered the public schools at the usual age and acquired a good education. After putting aside his textbooks he assisted his father on the farm until he was twenty-eight years of age, when he purchased land in Peoria county. He farmed there for a long period but in 1909 removed to his present farm, which comprises three hundred and twenty acres and is situated on section 1, Penn township. Ten acres of the land is in timber in Peoria county but all of the rest is under cultivation and aside from his home farm he operates an additional fifty-six acres. The place is known as the Maple Ridge Farm and is well improved and thoroughly modern in its equipment. He raises the crops best adapted to soil and climate and also feeds some stock, especially hogs. As the years have passed he has prospered financially and is now in excellent circumstances.

On the 11th of September, 1889, occurred the marriage of Mr. Hodges and Miss Elizabeth Graham, who was born in Scotland. They have become the parents of the following children: Sherman, who is living in Bradford, Illinois; Agnes, who is the wife of Mart

Deyo, of Osceola township; Raymond, who married Elsie Drawyer and who is assisting his father; and Robert, Alma, Jesse, John and Edwin all at home.

Mr. Hodges casts his ballot in support of the candidates and measures of the republican party and for two terms served as road commissioner in Akron township, Peoria county. Fraternally he is identified with the Maccabees. He attends the Methodist Protestant church, to which some of the family belong, and his influence is always given on the side of righteousness and justice.

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### JOHN T. FOX.

Although John T. Fox has given over to others the active work of the fields he still resides upon his three hundred and fifty acre farm on section 35, Essex township, and supervises its operation. He was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on the 7th of January, 1847, a son of Abraham Fox, who was a native of Pennsylvania, and removed to Ohio in young manhood. The father learned the weaver's trade in his youth and became a skilled artisan. He was married in the Buckeye state to Miss Jane Sampson, who was also born in Pennsylvania but was brought to Ohio by her parents as a child. She and her husband both passed away in the Buckeye state.

John T. Fox was reared in his native state and secured a good education in the public schools. In 1864, when seventeen years of age, he enlisted at Circleville, Ohio, in Company A, Thirty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he remained for a year. He was with Sherman on the march to the sea and remained at the front until the close of the war but saw no hard fighting. He participated in the grand review at Washington D. C., and was mustered out of service in July, 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky, after being with the army for ten months.

After his return from the front Mr. Fox purchased a tract of land in Ohio and engaged in farming there until 1876, when he removed to Shelby county, Illinois. Two years later he came to Stark county, arriving here in December. He purchased eighty acres in Essex township and has since resided upon that place. The residence was standing at the time that the farm came into his possession but he has erected all of the other buildings, which are commodious and well adapted to their purpose. He has met with gratifying success in his farming operations and has invested in additional land from



MR. AND MRS. JOHN T. FOX

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time to time, his holdings now comprising three hundred and fifty acres. He is not actively engaged in the operation of his farm but supervises the work of others.

Mr. Fox was married in 1868 to Miss Elizabeth Weber, who was also born in Ohio. Her father, Michael Weber, devoted his life to farming and passed away in the Buckeye state. Mr. and Mrs. Fox are the parents of ten children, namely: Lillie, the wife of C. B. Strayer, of Toulon; Clara, who married E. L. Gelvin, a farmer of West Jersey township; Emma, the wife of E. A. Graves, a resident of Minnesota; Alice, who married John E. Siders, of Perry, Iowa; Elmer H., who is farming near Perry in Boone county, Iowa; Effie, who married W. C. Kamerer, of West Jersey township; Harriet, the wife of E. C. Gingrich, of Essex township; Arthur, who is married and is operating his father's farm; Bertha, a twin of Arthur and the wife of Will Addis, of Huron, South Dakota; and Myrtle, who married Samuel Large, a farmer of Essex township.

Mr. Fox is a republican in his political allegiance and has served for four years as township assessor, making an excellent record in that capacity. Through his association with the Grand Army of the Republic he keeps in touch with other veterans of the Civil war and in times of peace he has proved as loyal to the common good as he did when as a boy he entered the Federal army. He has gained a wide acquaintance during the thirty-eight years of his residence in this county, and those who have been most closely associated with him are his staunchest friends.

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### COURTNEY D. FOWLER.

Courtney D. Fowler, operating a farm of four hundred and seventy acres on section 4, Toulon township, is one of the wide-awake, alert and enterprising agriculturists and stock raisers of this part of the state. He was born December 11, 1874, on the old homestead farm which he still occupies. His father, John Fowler, was a native of Pennsylvania, born in Elmira, October 31, 1833. The paternal grandfather, Brady Fowler, removed with his family from Pennsylvania to Illinois, making a permanent location in Stark county in 1836, so that he was numbered among its oldest pioneer settlers. He arrived there only four years after the Black Hawk war had ended Indian supremacy in Illinois. He preempted or purchased three hundred acres of land which was entirely wild and unimproved and at

once he began to break the sod and till the soil. He split rails and fenced the farm and in the course of time transformed his land into very productive fields.

John Fowler was reared upon the old homestead and in this county married Sarah E. Norris, who was born in Tazewell county, Illinois. He took up the task of further improving the old home place, erected a large and pleasant farm residence, also built a good barn and planted a fine grove of pine, cedars, spruces and forest trees. This constitutes a great protection against storms from the west and northwest, for the trees are now large and their broad branches shut out the winds. For a long period he was numbered among the active and prosperous farmers of Stark county and his holdings comprised two or more tracts of very productive land. He was also one of the public-spirited citizens of the county and served as supervisor and in other official positions of honor and trust. He held membership in the Elmira Presbyterian church and for some years was a member of its choir. He guided his life according to the teachings of the church and throughout the community was known as a consistent Christian gentleman whose death, which occurred April 5, 1914, was deeply regretted by all. His wife survives him and now resides in Toulon.

Courtney D. Fowler was one of a family of two sons and two daughters and was reared on the old family homestead, acquiring his primary education in the public schools near by and in the Toulon high school. He remained with his father on the old home place until he attained his majority and afterward began farming on his own account. On the 3d of October, 1910, in Toulon, was celebrated his marriage to Miss Jennie M. Pierson, who was born in West Jersey township, this county, a daughter of W. H. Pierson. For three years Mr. Fowler was off the farm, during which time he was engaged in the hardware business in Toulon, but at the end of that time disposed of his interest in the store and in 1911 returned to the farm, upon which he has made many modern improvements, keeping everything in touch with the most scientific methods of carrying on agricultural pursuits. He has a large, powerful traction engine, with which he operates a gang of eight fourteen-inch plows, thereby saving much horse power and time. He has other modern farm machinery and implements and in fact there is no feature of progressive farming at the present time that is lacking upon his place.

To Mr. and Mrs. Fowler have been born two children, Ruth and Jean. The mother is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Toulon, while Mr. Fowler belongs to the Elmira Presbyterian church. Both are held in the highest esteem, their many excellent traits of heart

and mind gaining for them the confidence and goodwill of all with whom they have been brought in contact. Mr. Fowler's labors largely set the standard for others and his well directed business ability is bringing him success, while his course proves what can be accomplished by determination and honorable effort.

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### TIRUS T. KELLY.

Tirus T. Kelly, an enterprising and progressive farmer and stock raiser is operating the Manxman Farm, consisting of two hundred and forty acres on section 8, Goshen township. He has been a life-long resident of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Henry county, April 2, 1889. His father, Thomas Kelly, was born under the British flag, on the Isle of Man, and there passed his boyhood and youth, coming to the new world with his mother in 1874, following the death of the husband and father. Mrs. Kelly located in Henry county, Illinois, where she joined her older son. Thomas Kelly afterward purchased land and improved a farm in Weller township, that county. He there engaged in general agricultural pursuits for a number of years, when he sold that property and purchased the farm in Goshen township, Stark county, upon which son his Thomas now resides. He called it the Manxman Farm after an old estate on the Isle of Man. He bent his energies to the further development and improvement of that property, rebuilt and remodeled the house, also erected barns and outbuildings, and was regarded as one of the most energetic and enterprising farmers, stock raisers and feeders of the locality. He continued upon that farm until 1910, when he removed to Galva, where he now lives retired. While a resident of Henry county he was united in marriage to Mrs. Jane Kewish, who also was born and reared on the Isle of Man. When she crossed the Atlantic she, too, became a resident of Henry county, Illinois, and there she gave her hand in marriage to Robert Kewish, who was also a native of the Isle of Man and after coming to the new world followed farming in Henry county until his death. His widow afterward became the wife of Thomas Kelly and they are now highly esteemed citizens of Galva, where they hold membership in the Presbyterian church. Mr. Kelly is also a member of the Odd Fellows lodge there, in which he has filled all of the offices and is a past grand.

Tirus T. Kelly was reared under the parental roof in Henry and Stark counties and was educated in the schools of Galva and of La

Fayette. He continued to assist his father with the farm work until the latter removed to Galva, at which time Tirus T. Kelly took charge of the home place and is now busily engaged in the further cultivation of the Manxman Farm of two hundred and forty acres. He raises good crops and in connection therewith is engaged in raising and feeding stock. He is also engaged in breeding Duroc-Jersey hogs and Shropshire sheep, and his live stock interests constitute an important and profitable branch of his business.

To the home farm Mr. Kelly brought his bride following his marriage in La Fayette, Illinois, on the 6th of April, 1910, when Miss Pearl White became his wife. She is a daughter of Abel H. White, of La Fayette, was born and reared there and was graduated from the high school. By her marriage she has become the mother of a daughter and son, Bernice and Russell T.

Mr. and Mrs. Kelly are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of La Fayette, and Mr. Kelly affiliates with the Masonic lodge there, exemplifying in his life the beneficent spirit upon which the craft has been established. He is also identified with the republican party but never has been an office seeker. That he is interested in the cause of education is indicated by his four years' service on the school board and his active efforts to promote public school interests in his locality. In a word, his influence is always on the side of advancement and improvement. He stands for all those things which feature most largely in promoting the civic welfare, and at the same time he finds ample opportunity to carefully and successfully manage his business affairs, which are now bringing to him substantial and well merited success.

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### J. W. MAHLER.

J. W. Mahler, a practical and efficient farmer of Penn township was born a half a mile south of his present farm on the 2d of December, 1860. His parents, John Edward and Elizabeth (Hamilton) Mahler, were born in Hanover, Germany, and in Pennsylvania, respectively, the latter being of English and German extraction. When eighteen years of age the father came to the United States and settled in Stark county, Illinois. He became the owner of land in Penn township and concentrated his energies upon its cultivation for many years but at length removed to Wyoming. He was a self-made man and through his energy and good judgment became the owner of

five hundred and sixty acres of valuable land. He reached the advanced age of ninety-one years and is survived by his wife who is still living in Wyoming.

J. W. Mahler entered the public schools at the usual age and completed the course offered there but during his boyhood and youth also assisted his father with the farm work. He remained upon the home place until he was twenty years old, when he took up his residence on section 23, Penn township. His home farm comprises a quarter section, and he also owns one hundred and sixty acres in Cheyenne county, Nebraska. He has made all the improvements upon his place, which compare favorably with those found on neighboring farms, and in the management of his affairs he is progressive and businesslike. He engages in general farming and has gained a gratifying measure of prosperity.

Mr. Mahler was united in marriage in 1880 to Miss Hannah Maria Fouts, and to them were born two children: Charles, who died in infancy, and Rose M., the wife of James Sliver, a farmer of Stark county.

Mr. Mahler votes the republican ticket and for twenty-seven consecutive years has held the office of school director, his services in that connection having been highly satisfactory to his constituents. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America at Campgrove and has many friends within and without that organization.

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### JOHN E. O'NEILL.

John E. O'Neill, who has gained a gratifying measure of success as a farmer and stock raiser in Penn township, was born in County Cavan, Ireland, on the 28th of August, 1871, a son of Terrence and Catherine (Leddy) O'Neill, also natives of that county. They resided in their native country until 1882, when they came to the United States, sailing from Queenstown on the 1st of April. After reaching America they made their way westward to Wyoming, Stark county, Illinois, where they arrived on the 22d of April. They located upon a farm and the father devoted his time to its operation until his death, which occurred on the 22d of June, 1912. The mother survives and is still living at Wyoming.

John E. O'Neill began his education in Ireland but continued his studies in the public schools of Toulon after the removal of the family to this country. On starting out to make his own way in the world

he worked as a farm hand for ten dollars per month and was so employed for a decade. He then rented land for three years but at the end of that time was able to buy sixty acres on section 29, Penn township, for which he paid seventy-five dollars an acre. Subsequently he bought another sixty acres from his father at one hundred and fifty dollars per acre, and in 1915 he purchased eighty acres at two hundred dollars per acre. He has planted a fine grove upon the farm, has erected good buildings and made other improvements upon the place, and in his work follows up-to-date methods. He feeds a large amount of stock annually and also engages in raising grain to some extent.

On the 19th of February, 1908, Mr. O'Neill was married to Miss Margaret Farber, by whom he has five children: Helen M., John Edward, Frances J., Margaret Celestine and Catherine Celestia.

Mr. O'Neill supports the democratic party at the polls and manifests the interest of the public-spirited citizen in the affairs of government although not an office seeker. He has, however, served for two years as school director. He is a communicant of the Roman Catholic church of Wyoming and contributes to the support of that organization. He has been very successful as a farmer and has also gained and held the warm friendship of many.

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### FRED A. FULLER.

Active among the energetic and farsighted farmers of Goshen township is Fred A. Fuller, who lives on section 3 and who gives his undivided attention to the improvement of his farm, his labors being attended with excellent results. He was born in Henry county, this state, on the 27th of June, 1873, and his father, George W. Fuller, was also a native of that county, his birth having occurred in Wethersfield township, February 12, 1846. His paternal grandfather, Ansel Fuller, was reared amid pioneer conditions and environment upon the home farm in Stark county and afterward removed to Henry county, where he purchased land and opened up a farm, upon which his son, George W. Fuller, was born and reared and upon which he has since made his home. George Fuller was married in Henry county to Miss Maggie E. Likes, who was born in Pennsylvania but was reared in Henry county, Illinois, where her father, Samuel Likes, settled at a very early day.

Fred A. Fuller was reared on the old homestead farm in Henry

county, having the usual experiences that fall to the lot of the farm bred boy. Play and work divided his time, together with the task of acquiring a public school education, and when his textbooks were put aside he concentrated his efforts on the work of assisting his father in carrying on the home farm. After he had attained his majority he rented land, which he cultivated for several years, and he also purchased a steam thresher and cornsheller, which he operated in Henry county for seven years, making that work an important branch of his business. He made his first purchase of land in 1907, when he became the owner of eighty acres in Goshen township. This was blue grass pasture and the sod had never been broken. He now has fifty acres under the plow, while the balance is meadow and pasture land. He has erected a substantial and comfortable residence upon the place, has also put up good barns and sheds, and today has a well improved and valuable farm. In connection with the development of his place he raises and feeds stock, making a speciality of Duroe-Jersey hogs.

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### J. S. GLEASON.

J. S. Gleason, of Penn township, who now holds title to four hundred and forty acres of finely improved land, is a self-made man for he began his independent career without capital or without the aid of influential friends and has at all times been dependent upon his own resources for success. He was born in Dublin township, Cheshire county, New Hampshire, on the 10th of April, 1835, the son of Phineas Gleason, Jr., and a grandson of Phineas Gleason, Sr. The last named served throughout the Revolutionary war and was promoted to the rank of captain. The greater part of the fighting in which he took part occurred in the vicinity of Lake Champlain. He reached an advanced age, dying when he was eighty-three years of age, and our subject remembers having seen him. The family is of English descent, the ancestors of the American branch having resided at Manchester, Lancashire. Phineas Gleason, Jr., spent the greater part of his life in the east but during his last days lived with our subject in Stark county, Illinois. His wife was in her maidenhood Miss Sarah Smith and she was born in Dublin, New Hampshire. They had nine children, of whom two came to Illinois, our subject and his brother Charles.

J. S. Gleason was reared upon the home farm, in New Hampshire and received a high school education in that state. He remained there

until he was about twenty years of age, when in 1855 he came to Stark county, Illinois, and located upon his present home farm on section 15, Penn township. There was a small log house upon the place and he kept bachelor's hall there for about sixteen years. He placed his land under cultivation in a comparatively short time and as the years passed his resources increased although there were many difficulties to be encountered in those days which the modern farmer knows nothing of. Among other things it was difficult to market his crops and stock as the nearest railroad point was Henry, Illinois, eighteen miles distant. He believes in the desirability of real estate as an investment and has purchased more land from time to time until he now owns four hundred and forty acres, which is improved with four sets of buildings. He supervises the operation of all his land and derives therefrom a handsome income.

Mr. Gleason was married in 1870 to Miss Abbie S. Nims, by whom he has the following children: Albert M., who is operating one of his farms; Clara M., the wife of Harry Adams, a farmer of Penn township; Della, who married Ben Leadley, a resident of Penn township; Charles Sumner, who is operating land belonging to his father; Laura Pearl, the wife of Rev. Edward Duffenbough, a Methodist preacher stationed at Altona, Illinois; Lottie Alice, the wife of Samuel Stuffacher, of Monroe, Wisconsin; John Harrison, who is station agent at El Paso; and Jessie Mabel, a school teacher at Oneida, Illinois.

Mr. Gleason is a staunch republican in his political belief and for about twenty years has served as a member of the school board and has also held the office of road commissioner. Both he and his wife are affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church and take a keen interest in its work. He has never had occasion to regret his choice of an occupation for he has gained financial independence and has also found farming congenial work. His home is modern and well kept up, and its attractiveness is enhanced by shade and orchard trees which he himself planted.

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#### F. B. HALLOCK.

F. B. Hallock, pleasantly located on section 11, Elmira township, occupies an attractive residence, thoroughly modern, which stands in the midst of an excellent tract of land of two hundred and fifty acres, which returns to the owner a golden tribute for the care and labor bestowed upon it. Mr. Hallock was born in Pawpaw town-





F. B. HALLOCK AND FAMILY

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ship, De Kalb county, Illinois, March 4, 1845. During his infancy his mother died and he was reared by a family of the name of Hallock, by which name he has always been known. His own father went west in 1849 and was never heard from again.

F. B. Hallock spent the days of his boyhood and youth in Lee county, Illinois, there remaining until after the outbreak of hostilities between the north and the south, when his patriotic spirit was aroused by the attempt to overthrow the Union, and on the 11th of January, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Company D, Fifty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for three years, or during the war. After serving for thirteen and a half months, however, he was honorably discharged because of physical disability. Later he came to Stark county and here remained until he could no longer content himself to remain at home when the nation was battling for existence. He therefore enlisted again, joining Company D, First Illinois Artillery, with which he served for eighteen months, rendering valuable aid to his country. During his first enlistment he participated in the battles of Shiloh and Little Hatchet, and during the period of his second enlistment he took part in the engagements at Big Shanty, Vicksburg, Kenesaw Mountain, the siege of Atlanta and the battle of Nashville, returning home in 1865 with a most creditable military record.

Mr. Hallock once more took up his abode in Lee county, Illinois, where he began farming, residing there until 1875, when he established his home on a farm near Elmira. He then conducted a dairy and became the pioneer cheese maker of Stark county. After continuing at his original place for five years he bought a farm about two miles south of Osceola, where he continued in the manufacture of cheese for four years. He then began feeding cattle and devoted his energies to that business for five years. On the expiration of that period he came to his present place of residence, erecting a fine home, supplied with all modern equipments and conveniences and affording him all of the comforts of life now that he is approaching the evening of his days. His farming property comprises two hundred and fifty acres of rich and productive land, which returns to him a gratifying annual income.

In North Adams, Massachusetts, Mr. Hallock was united in marriage to Miss Anna E. Clarke, and they have become the parents of four children: Mabel, the wife of George W. Norris, living in Neponset, Illinois; Minnie, at home; Frank W., who is engaged in feeding cattle on his father's farm; and William O., who is attending school at Pella, Iowa.

Mr. Hallock has always given his influence on the side of moral teachings and is one of the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church and is serving on its building committee. In politics he has been a lifelong republican, supporting the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has filled some local offices, acting as collector for five years and as assessor for one term. In 1863 he became a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at East Pawpaw, Illinois, passed through all of the chairs and became a member of the encampment and also of the Rebekah lodge. He is a valued representative of the Grand Army of the Republic, passed through all of the chairs in James Jackson Post, No. 37, and has been adjutant for about twelve years. He enjoys this association with his former comrades, recounting the incidents when they went on the long, hard campaigns, fought in hotly contested battles or rested in winter quarters. The same spirit of loyalty in citizenship has characterized him throughout his entire life, and he is as greatly interested in the welfare of his country today as when he followed the stars and stripes upon southern battlefields.

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#### JUDGE WILLIAM WILBERFORCE WRIGHT.

Modern philosophical reasoning has evolved the thought that "Not the good that comes to us, but the good that comes to the world through us is the measure of our success." Judged by this standard the life of Judge William Wilberforce Wright was a most successful one. He did much to uphold the legal and political status of his community and to advance its intellectual and moral growth. Never was his position upon any vital question an equivocal one and the high regard entertained for his opinions resulted in a large following for any cause which he advocated. The second son of Captain William Wilberforce and Anne Matilda (Creighton) Wright, he was born in Canton, Illinois, September 10, 1842. His father was a native of Hanover, New Hampshire, and belonged to a family which settled in New England in 1665, and some of whose members participated in the struggle for independence. The mother of our subject was of Scotch-Irish descent and came to this country from the county of Cavan, Ireland.

William Wilberforce Wright finished his education in the Galva high school and then farmed with his father near Toulon until of age. In 1862 he began the study of law in the office of Hon. Miles A.

Fuller, in Toulon. In 1864 he enlisted for service in the Civil war, becoming a member of the One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry, a one hundred day regiment, in which he served as sergeant nearly six months, voluntarily remaining until the end of the war was assured.

On his return to Illinois Mr. Wright finished his legal studies and was admitted to the bar at a term of the supreme court, held at Mount Vernon in November, 1866, and was in practice in Toulon from that date until his death, September 30, 1912. He was considered to be one of the most honest, upright and just attorneys that ever practiced law in this county. He was not only faithful to his clients, but also just to his opponents. It was his custom, whenever possible, to effect a settlement of differences outside rather than to bring his clients into court. In politics he was a republican, an ardent admirer of Lincoln and a contemporary of Robert G. Ingersoll.

Mr. Wright served Stark county, Illinois, six years as master in chancery and twenty-five years as county judge, while continuing practice in the higher courts. He was a delegate from the Peoria district to the national republican convention at Chicago in 1884; at the district convention in 1886 he was within but one vote of the nomination for representative to congress, and lacked that only because of his well known temperance sentiments. He was a man who was much interested in the welfare of the community, taking a great interest in educational matters. He was a member of the Toulon Debating Society, an organization which brought many noted men to this town, such as Wendell Phillips and Theodore Tilden. He served as president of the high school board of education and also as a member of the board of trustees of Toulon Academy.

He united with the Toulon Congregational church on November 13, 1853, seven years after the church was organized. A brother of his father, Samuel G. Wright, was pastor of the church at the time. On November 29, 1896, the fiftieth anniversary of the church was held and Judge Wright delivered the historical address. He held successively the offices of trustee, clerk, treasurer, was elected deacon December 1, 1883, and continued in that office up to the time of his death. During his relationship with the church he became very much interested in the Sabbath school work and served as superintendent for a considerable time. His interest in the Sabbath school work was not confined to the church alone but to the town and surrounding country. While he was superintendent Dwight L. Moody was brought here and delivered some inspiring addresses.

Judge Wright was married May 19, 1875, to Mary Harrison

Hopkins, a daughter of Hon. Joel W. Hopkins, of Granville, Putnam county, Illinois, and to them were born the following named: Eleanor Matilda, William Wilberforce and Helen Gertrude, who survive him; and Mary, who died in infancy.

No man was more modest in his behavior, unassuming in his aspirations; always a thorough gentleman, sincere and courageous, yielding to no temptation of temporary expediences in defense of his conduct, he was ever keenly alive to the best and highest interests of his fellowmen. In his church relations he was faithful to the service of the church and the doctrines of the Bible, and had a religious experience that shed over his life a halo of hope whose effulgence made light the gloom in the lives of others. He lived a life that may well become the aim of every man; it was one of strong and abiding faith in the eternal verities of religion, and he could say with Paul, the old soldier of the cross, "I have fought a good fight: I have finished my course: henceforth there is left for me a crown of righteousness."

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### GEORGE A. WASSON.

George A. Wasson owns the Sylvan View Farm on section 25, West Jersey township, which consists of two hundred and forty acres and is there successfully engaged in raising both grain and stock. He was born in Peoria county, Illinois, on the 20th of November, 1856, and is a son of John Wasson and a grandson of George Wasson, both natives of the state of New York. The last named met death by an accident. John Wasson grew to manhood in Cayuga county, New York, but in 1850 located in Peoria, Illinois, then a small village. After devoting some time to getting out ties for the railroad and to working as a farm hand he rented land for three years and also did some teaming. Subsequently he purchased forty acres of land for twelve hundred dollars, buying the property on time as he had no capital. The first year was so rainy that crops were poor and he was unable to make any payment upon the farm and wished to give up the place. However, the people from whom he had purchased it told him to continue to cultivate it and to pay when he could. He eventually discharged all his indebtedness upon the farm, which he operated for a number of years. At length he disposed of it and bought a one hundred and sixty acre tract of land which he broke and fenced and improved with a good house and a substantial barn. He also set out

an orchard and in time the place became one of the most highly developed farm properties of the locality. He also purchased an adjoining eighty acres and an additional sixty acre tract and likewise owned property in the city of Peoria. His last years were spent in that city, where he lived retired. He suffered a stroke of paralysis on Thanksgiving Day and died on Sunday, and his wife died on Sunday of the following week from the same cause, she being stricken on the day of his funeral. They were both members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he served on the official board. They were the parents of ten children, five sons and five daughters.

George A. Wasson was reared upon the home farm in Peoria county and is indebted for his education to the district schools. He remained with his father until he reached mature years and through assisting with the work gained valuable training in agricultural pursuits. Subsequently he purchased eighty acres of land in Princeville township, Peoria county, and for five years engaged in farming that place, his sister Ella keeping house for him. At the end of that time he sold the farm at a good profit and bought his present place, the Sylvan View Farm, which comprises two hundred and forty acres on section 25, West Jersey township, Stark county. In order to purchase it he went into debt seven thousand dollars. He took up his residence upon the place in 1903 and has since engaged in its operation. He raises good crops annually and also derives a gratifying profit from the sale of his high grade stock. He has paid off the indebtedness upon the farm and ranks among the substantial residents of West Jersey township. He has erected a large and modern residence provided with acetylene light, furnace heat, hot and cold water and the barns and other farm buildings are all substantial and well designed. The value of the farm is also increased by a fine orchard which Mr. Wasson set out. In addition to the Sylvan View Farm he owns three hundred and twenty acres in Traverse county, Minnesota, which is improved and is rented.

Mr. Wasson was married on the 6th of April, 1903, to Miss Emma White, a daughter of James E. White, a resident of Toulon and a veteran of the Civil war. Mrs. Wasson was born and reared in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Wasson have one son, Orville J. who is his father's partner in the operation of the home farm. He received a high school education in Toulon and his wife, who bore the maiden name of Ruth Lyon, also attended high school there. They have one daughter, Flora Emily. He has a great deal of mechanical ability and is an expert blacksmith and machinist although he never served an apprenticeship. He has a well equipped shop and works in both

steel and wood. He understands thoroughly the construction of an automobile and is able to make needed repairs upon his car.

Mr. Wasson, of this review, was formerly a member of the Patrons of Husbandry or the Grange and took an active part in that organization, serving for several years in the office of lecturer. In politics he is independent, but although he manifests a commendable interest in public affairs he has never sought office. He has gained a wide circle of friends in Stark county and is recognized as one of its most up-to-date and successful farmers and stock raisers.

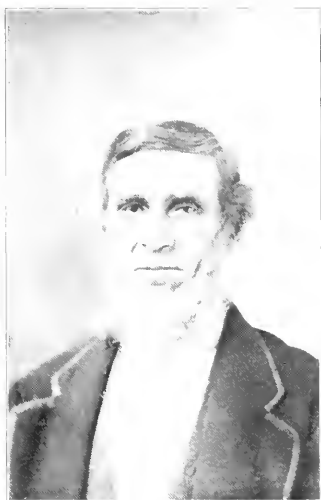
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### GEORGE T. OLIVER.

That Stark county offers to her people many opportunities and advantages is indicated in the fact that a large proportion of her native-born citizens have remained within her borders, content with conditions here found. To this class belongs George T. Oliver, who was born in 1859, on the farm on section 30, Elmira township, upon which he still resides. He is descended from Scotch ancestry, being a grandson of Thomas Oliver, who was born in Roxburghshire, Scotland, and came to the United States about 1836. He made his way into the interior of the country and cast in his lot with the pioneer settlers of Illinois. Only four years before had the Black Hawk war occurred, and there were great sections of the state that were unclaimed and undeveloped. Thomas Oliver established his home in the midst of a native timber tract in Elmira township and there in the midst of the forest began to hew out the farm upon which George T. Oliver was born many years later. He had made purchase of this farm in 1838, paying the usual government price of a dollar and a quarter per acre. He hauled the first building material brought into this county from Chicago, and he also took his wheat to market in Chicago. He had been a shepherd in Scotland and after coming to the new world engaged quite extensively in handling sheep, while his sons performed the work of cultivating the fields and raising grain. After the marriage of his son Adam the grandfather, Thomas Oliver, removed across the road to the farm now occupied by Oliver Turnbull and there he passed away about 1866, when George T. Oliver was a little lad of six years.

Adam Oliver, his son, was born in Scotland and was about twenty years of age at the time the family made the long voyage across the Atlantic to the new world. As previously indicated, he became an





ADAM OLIVER



JOHN OLIVER  
ANDREW OLIVER

WILLIAM OLIVER

HENRY OLIVER  
THOMAS OLIVER

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active assistant of his father in the development and cultivation of the home farm, upon which he continued to reside until called to his final rest. He came into possession of the property and was the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of rich, valuable and productive land, devoting his entire life thereon to farming and stock raising. He passed away in 1885, and is yet remembered by many of the older settlers, who knew him as a man of sterling worth. He had married Agnes Davidson, who was a native of the same shire in Scotland as her husband and who had come with her parents to the United States a short time after the arrival of the Oliver family, the Davidsons settling in Marshall county, Illinois. Mrs. Oliver survived her husband for about four years, dying in 1889. He had been previously married, his first wife having been Polly Anne Parks, by whom he had one daughter, Polly Anne, who is now living in Elmira township. The children of the second marriage were six in number: George, now deceased; Margaret, the wife of M. M. Brace, of Kewanee, Illinois; Thomas, who has passed away; Jessie, the wife of Edward Tunnicliff, of Burwell, Nebraska; George T.; and Helen, the wife of M. T. Tuttle, of Lenox, Iowa.

After attending the district schools George T. Oliver spent one year as a student in Monmouth College and at the death of his father took over the business of further developing and improving the home farm. He has one of the three best places in Elmira township and he has put upon the farm many of its present modern improvements, all of which are of excellent character. He has four hundred and seventy acres in the home place, together with one hundred and sixty acres elsewhere in Elmira township, and he makes a specialty of raising polled Hereford cattle and has also fed cattle very extensively. His place is known as the Pioneer Stock Farm, and the property has been under one name for a longer period than any other farm in that section of the county.

On the 1st of January, 1883, Mr. Oliver was united in marriage to Miss Luella M. Fuller, by whom he had three children, as follows: Luella F. and Edith, both at home; and Margaret, who gave her hand in marriage to Robert Weeks, of Elmira township. The wife and mother passed away in 1895, and four years later Mr. Oliver was again married, his second union being with Miss Belle F. Jackson, by whom he has two children, Ruth and Adam, both at home.

Mr. Oliver has been a lifelong republican and is of the progressive type. He has served for twelve years as supervisor and in other local offices and has also been school director. He and his wife are members of the United Presbyterian church, in the work of which they are

actively and helpfully interested, Mr. Oliver serving as one of the trustees and as elder. His entire life has been an expression of high and honorable principles and in his business career he has ever been thoroughly reliable, never taking advantage of the necessities of his fellow-men in any transaction but building up his business along constructive lines and winning his prosperity through honorable effort.

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### ELBA V. GRAVES.

Elba V. Graves is a member of the firm of Miller & Graves, grain dealers of Duncan and is also manager of the local branch of the business of Scott, Walters & Rakestraw, bankers of Wyoming. His birth occurred in Vinton county, Ohio, on the 20th of January, 1862, and his parents were Jacob and Sidna A. (Barnett) Graves. The father was born in Vinton county, Ohio, on the 19th of September, 1834, while the mother was a native of Guernsey county, Ohio. They were married on the 13th of November, 1856, and remained in the Buckeye state until 1864, when with their family they came to Stark county, Illinois. The father purchased eighty acres of land in Essex township, on which he lived until his demise on the 3d of September, 1913. He had long survived his wife, who passed away on the 14th of July, 1887. He was a republican and served as assessor of Essex township for a number of years and as supervisor for some time. He had eleven children, of whom ten are still living. Emory R. died in 1894, when seventeen years of age. Those who survive are: Mary A., the widow of Charles E. Fouts, of Ottawa, Kansas; Arilla, the wife of William Schiebel, of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin; Elba V.; Smiley R., who resides in Duncan, Illinois; Stanley S., a farmer of Essex township; Lyman S., who is in the employ of Brown & Upperman at Wyoming; Julia E., the wife of Peter Shurts, of Hector, Minnesota; Clinton E., a resident of Weston, Illinois; Elton O., who is farming in Essex township; and Jennie, the wife of C. F. Addis, of West Jersey township.

Elba V. Graves was but two years of age when brought by his parents to this county and was reared upon the home farm in Essex township. He is indebted for his education to the district schools and when twenty-two years of age he went to work for A. J. Scott, a grain dealer of Duncan, and three years later bought a half interest in the business, the firm becoming Scott & Graves. In 1900 Mr. Scott's son-in-law bought his interest in the business, which has since been

conducted under the style of Miller & Graves. They not only deal in grain but also handle lumber and various kinds of building material, including lime and cement. During all the years that the business has been in existence it has been conducted along lines of strictest honesty and its well earned reputation for fair dealing is one of its most valuable assets. It has gained a large patronage and the men who are conducting it are numbered among the leaders in commercial circles of Duncan. Mr. Graves devotes the greater part of his time and attention to the management of this business but also has charge of the interests at Duncan of Scot, Walters & Rakestraw, bankers of Wyoming. His sound judgment and business acumen are manifest in his enterprises, and he has succeeded in all that he has undertaken.

Mr. Graves was married in 1890 to Miss Miranda M. Moody, who was born in Peoria county, Illinois, and is a daughter of Talleyrand and Harriet Moody, the former deceased and the latter still living in Peoria county. Mr. and Mrs. Graves have eight children, namely: Walter C., a farmer of Essex township, who married Miss Sadie Fritz and has one child, Eugene; Lois A., who is teaching school and resides at home; Milo E., who is assisting his father in business; Stella I., who is also teaching and lives at home; and Homer M., Ernest V., Oliver W. and Archie R., all at home.

Mr. Graves is a republican in politics, believing that new conditions of life should be met by new policies of government. He formerly served for a number of years as school trustee and has never ceased to take a keen interest in the welfare of the public schools. He holds membership in the Modern Woodmen of America at Duncan, and his wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. His advancement in business has been continuous since he began his independent career and he is now one of the well-to-do residents of his town.

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### C. R. JACKSON.

C. R. Jackson, who is farming one hundred acres of good land on section 30, Valley township, was born in the town of Stark, Stark county, on the 26th of July, 1883. His parents, Percy and Elizabeth (Dunn) Jackson, were both born in Illinois and are now living in Wyoming, this county.

C. R. Jackson is indebted for his education to the public schools and to his father for his early and thorough training in agricultural

work. He is now operating the homestead, which comprises one hundred acres, and his well directed labors are rewarded by good crops. He also raises high grade stock, for which he finds a ready sale on the market, and his resources are constantly increasing. He is both practical and progressive and ranks among the efficient young farmers of the county.

In 1910 Mr. Jackson was united in marriage to Miss Grace Thurston, a daughter of William Thurston, and to their union has been born a son, Wilbur Richard. Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Jackson has supported the candidates and measures of the republican party but he has never been an aspirant for office. Both he and his wife attend the Congregational church of Wyoming and support all movements seeking the moral advancement of their community. He has gained a measure of success that would be creditable to a man several years his senior and his knowledge of farming and his industry insure his continued prosperity. His entire life has been spent in Stark county and the fact that those who have known him intimately from boyhood are his sincerest friends is proof of his genuine worth.

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#### ROBERT ALEXANDER ADAMS.

It is always with a feeling of regret that the public learns of the passing of one of its old-time citizens, especially if such a one has manifested sterling traits of manhood and citizenship and has displayed loyalty and progressiveness in connection with public affairs. Such was the record of Robert Alexander Adams, who was a valued and worthy citizen of Penn township. He was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, on the 16th of July, 1845, and had passed the sixty-sixth milestone on life's journey when called to the home beyond. He was an only son and lost his mother when but eight years of age. His father afterward married again and by that marriage there were five children, three of whom are yet living: Mrs. Mary Markland, whose home is at Wakita, Oklahoma; William O., a resident of Hammond, Indiana; and Samuel B., living at Wyoming, Illinois.

Robert A. Adams was reared in the usual manner of farm lads, acquiring a district school education through the winter months, while in the summer seasons he worked upon the home farm. He remained with his father until he reached the age of twenty-two years, when he started out in life on his own account. He was married on the 31st



THE  
COURT  
OF COMMONS



of December, 1868, to Miss Mary E. Earhart and they began their domestic life on a farm in Penn township, Stark county. With the passing years five children came to bless their union but three of the number died in early life. Those who still survive are Alva and Harry F., who yet remain upon the old home farm near Castleton.

Throughout his entire life Mr. Adams continued to engage in general agricultural pursuits and he brought his fields to a high state of cultivation, so that he annually harvested good crops. He also added to his farm modern improvements, including the best farm machinery. Every part of his farm indicated the practical and progressive methods of the owner, whose work resulted in bringing to him substantial success.

Business, however, constituted but one phase of his life, for he had time for his friends and for public service. He was respected by all who knew him because his life was ever upright and honorable and he was loved by many because of his kindness and helpfulness. He was continually extending the hand of assistance to some one who needed aid and was ever ready to speak a word of encouragement. His integrity in all business affairs was above question, his word being ever as good as any bond solemnized by signature or seal. Such a life record is proof of the statement that an honored name is rather to be chosen than great riches.

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### FRED H. FLEMING.

Fred H. Fleming, who resides on section 12, West Jersey township, is the efficient superintendent of the Stark county farm, a position which he has satisfactorily filled for the past fifteen years. He dates his residence in this county from 1854, having been brought to Illinois when but a year old. He was born in Clearfield county, Pennsylvania, May 25, 1853, and his father, Samuel Fleming, was a native of the same locality, there being reared to mature years, after which he wedded Miss Rebecca Bonsel, who was likewise a native of Clearfield county. Samuel Fleming followed the occupation of carpentering, continuing active in that field of building operations for a number of years. On his removal to Illinois in 1854 he settled in Elmira, Stark county, and there took up contracting as well as carpenter work, in which he continued for several years. He afterward purchased a tract of eighty acres of new land and opened up a farm, performing all of the arduous labor incident to the initial cultivation

of the fields. Subsequently he purchased another tract of twenty-six acres, thus becoming the owner of a farm of one hundred and six acres, upon which he made fair improvements and thereon reared his family. As the years passed his success increased and he acquired a competence that enabled him to live retired in his later years. Removing to Toulon, he there resided until his death, which occurred when he had reached the ripe old age of ninety-five. For some years he had survived his wife.

Fred H. Fleming has known no other home than Stark county and his business activities have largely connected him with its farming interests. When a young lad he began work in the fields and his responsibilities broadened as his age and strength increased. He attended the public schools and when a young man served for a time as mail carrier between Elmira and Neponset. After a year, however, he resumed farming and for one year cultivated a tract of land which he rented in Toulon township. He afterward removed to Taylor county, Iowa, and for one season was employed as a farm hand near Lenox, but at the end of that brief period returned to Stark county, where he and his brother David purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of partially improved land in Goshen township. They continued to engage in farming in partnership for a period, but later Fred H. Fleming sold out to his brother and established a rug and carpet shop just north of the city of Toulon. He operated that for two years, on the expiration of which period he was appointed to his present position of superintendent of the Stark county poor farm, which comprises one hundred and sixty acres of good land, which he carefully and systematically cultivates. When he took charge of the place there was much work needed to be done in the way of repairs and improvements and he now has everything in first class condition, carrying on the farm work with the aid of a hired man, while Mrs. Fleming manages the household affairs with the assistance of a maid. During the winter there are about fourteen people on an average who are inmates of the home, mostly aged people, unable to work, but through the summer there are less than half that number. The yearly expense amounts to about four thousand dollars, while the revenue from the farm amounts to two thousand dollars. Mr. Fleming keeps some cattle and hogs and also has good horses upon the place. The buildings and fences are kept in a good state of repair and everything indicates his careful management.

On the 12th of February, 1880, Mr. Fleming was married, in Elmira, to Miss Elizabeth Moffitt, who was born and reared in Elmira and there pursued a public school education. Her father, William

Moffitt, was a native of the north of Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Fleming have two children: Jessie, a well educated young lady, now employed as a stenographer in Toulon; and Clyde, who is employed in a plumbing business in Toulon. He is married and has three children. Mr. and Mrs. Fleming also lost a daughter, Margaret, when three years of age, and a child who died in infancy.

Mr. Fleming belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp and his wife is a member of the Congregational church. Both are well known and enjoy the warm regard of all with whom social or business relations have brought them in contact.

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### JOHN AND SAMUEL DOWN.

John and Samuel Down, who are successfully engaged in farming and stock raising on one hundred and sixty acres of fine land on section 21, Valley township, are sons of William and Elizabeth (Cutler) Down, the former born in Devonshire, England, and the latter in Suffolkshire, England. The father came to the United States when seventeen years of age and the mother was brought here by her parents when four years old. Mr. and Mrs. Down were married in Peoria county, Illinois, and remained there for several years, but on the 11th of March, 1866, located on section 21, Valley township, Stark county, where they lived until called by death. The father learned the shoemaker's trade during his youth but after his removal to the United States engaged in farming. He took an active interest in public affairs and served as assessor, collector and in various other local offices. Both he and his wife were Congregationalists in religious faith. He passed away about 1878 and she survived until the 8th of May, 1914. To them were born the following children: William, deceased; John; Mary, the wife of Lewis Warren, who resides near Red Oak, Iowa; Thomas, a farmer of Stark county; Samuel; Cora, who married J. S. McGraw, of Dunlap, Illinois; and Bertha, the wife of Henry Klipfer, of Essex township.

John Down was born in Akron township, Peoria County, Illinois, on the 21st of April, 1863, and Samuel Down was born on May 28, 1871, in Valley township, Stark county. Both received their education in the public schools and were early trained by their father in agricultural work. They have never left the home farm, which they are now operating on their own account, and they rank among the most progressive and most practical stock raisers of the county. They

have made many improvements upon the farm, which comprises one hundred and sixty acres, and they derive a gratifying income from their well directed labors.

In 1909 Samuel Down was united in marriage to Miss Cora Duckworth, by whom he has three children, Charles Prescott, Alice Elizabeth and John Henry. Both brothers are democrats in politics and attend the Congregational church. They are connected fraternally with the Woodmen and the Maccabees and are popular within and without those organizations. Their dominant characteristics are such as never fail to command respect and warm regard.

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### JAMES JAY MAHANY.

James Jay Mahany, devoting his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits and to the raising and feeding of stock for the market, is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of productive land on section 1, West Jersey township, this place being known as the old Mahany homestead. It was on this farm that he first opened his eyes to the light of day on the 13th of February, 1887. He is a representative of an old family of Stark county and his father, James Van Buren Mahany, was born in Toulon township, was reared upon a farm and was married in this county to Miss Belle Cairn, who was born in Indiana and there spent much of her girlhood. Mr. and Mrs. Mahany began their domestic life on the farm now owned by their son Jay, the father and his brother owning a half section of land which they converted from a tract of raw prairie into well tilled fields. Not a furrow had been turned when the farm came into their possession and they bent every energy toward the cultivation of the land. James Van Buren Mahany afterward purchased his brother's interest, thus becoming the owner of three hundred and twenty acres. For a long period he was a prominent and influential agriculturist of his community and the intelligent manner in which he directed his interests and his unfaltering activity brought him a substantial measure of success, enabling him in his later years to live retired from business. During that period he resided in Toulon, where he passed away in 1909. His widow still survives, as do their three children: James Jay; Clarence L., who is married and resides in Toulon; and Verina, who is a student in the high school at Toulon.

When a little lad of about six years James Jay Mahany began to apply himself to the mastery of those branches of learning which are

taught in the district schools and subsequently he had the benefit of instruction in the schools of Toulon. His time was divided between the school room and the fields, for through the summer months he assisted in the task of cultivating and developing his father's land. In January, 1909, in Galesburg, Illinois, he wedded Miss Neva M. Smith, who was born and reared in Stark county, a daughter of Oliver Smith. The young couple began their married life upon the farm which has since been their home and he has steadily carried on the work of improvement and development. He has erected a neat house for the tenant, also put up some of the outbuildings and has kept the place in excellent condition, so that it forms one of the attractive features of the landscape. He makes a business of feeding a large number of hogs each year, specializing in the handling of Chester Whites.

Mr. and Mrs. Mahany have but one son, Ralph. Mr. Mahany is a member of the Federal Reserve Life Association. His activities have ever been concentrated upon his business affairs and that he is now one of the prosperous citizens of his community is due to his close application, his diligence and his unfaltering purpose. To him work is no hardship. It calls forth his energy and his best efforts and he finds delight in the correct solution of a business problem.

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### C. A. BOWES.

C. A. Bowes, who is operating eighty acres of land in Valley township, was born upon that farm on the 17th of March, 1882, of the marriage of George and Sarah (Hempson) Bowes, natives respectively of Canada and of England. The father is of English and Irish ancestry. He lived for some time in New York city but at length removed to Stark county and purchased land, on which he still makes his home although it is farmed by our subject.

C. A. Bowes was reared upon the homestead and as a boy and youth gained valuable knowledge through assisting his father. His education, however, was not neglected as he completed a course in the public schools. He is now operating the home farm of eighty acres although he resides in the town of Stark. He is up-to-date and energetic in carrying on all of his work and his well directed labors are rewarded by good crops. He also raises stock to some extent and finds that branch of agriculture likewise profitable.

On the 4th of May, 1912, Mr. Bowes was united in marriage to

Miss Myrtle O'Leary, by whom he has a son, Russell A. Mr. Bowes indorses the principles of the democratic party and loyally supports its candidates at the polls. For six years he has served as town clerk and for one year he held the office of tax collector. He takes a keen interest in public affairs and has made an excellent record as an official. Fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America at Stark and he attends the local church. He is a young man of ability and integrity and has gained the warm friendship of many.

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### FRANK V. ADDIS.

Frank V. Addis, who is serving for the third year as a member of the county board of supervisors as the representative of West Jersey township, ranks not only as a public-spirited citizen but also as a progressive business man and farmer, his home being on section 10, West Jersey township. It was upon this farm that he was born October 7, 1865, and he comes of English ancestry. His paternal grandfather, Simon Addis, was a native of Warren county, New Jersey, born in 1804, and there he remained until after the birth of D. O. Addis, father of Frank V. Addis, on the 6th of September, 1838. It was in 1851 that Simon Addis removed westward with his family to Illinois, establishing his home in Stark county. D. O. Addis was at that time a youth of thirteen years and his education was largely acquired in the public schools of Warren county. He became the active assistant of his father in farm work and remained upon the family homestead in Stark county until after he attained his majority. It was in this county on the 13th of September, 1864, that he was united in marriage to Miss Margaret N. Caskey, a daughter of Silas Caskey, who removed to Illinois from Stark county, Ohio, in 1863, becoming a resident of Stark county, Illinois. Mrs. Addis was born and reared in Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Addis began their domestic life on the old homestead farm and he proved an industrious and enterprising agriculturist. His business affairs were wisely and carefully managed and from time to time he made judicious investments in property, becoming the owner of seven hundred acres of land in West Jersey township. He erected a pleasant residence on section 10, also put up substantial and commodious barns and outbuildings and his time was unreservedly given to his farm work until 1902, when he removed to Toulon, where he purchased a residence, there living retired until his demise, which occurred November 29, 1909. His

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FRANK V. ADDIS





MRS. FRANK V. ADDIS

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business enterprise, his ability and his public spirit made him well known not only in Stark but also in adjacent counties. He was a man of the strictest integrity and honor and enjoyed the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. He belonged to the West Jersey Methodist Episcopal church and served on its official board. Later he placed his membership with the Methodist church of Toulon and was likewise made a member of its official board, so continuing until his death. The influence of his life remains as a blessed benediction to those who knew him and his memory is revered and cherished by those with whom he came in contact.

To Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Addis were born seven children, four of whom are living: Frank V., of this review; Flora O., the wife of Clyde Boyd, of Toulon; Evelyn B., who married John Kayser, of Parkston, South Dakota; and Pearl H., the wife of Arthur Grange, of Toulon. Another son, Alvin W., reached adult age and passed away upon the home farm when a young man of twenty-five years. A daughter, Laura E., died at the age of six years, and another daughter, Grace E., when three years of age. The mother, Mrs. Addis, resides at the old home in Toulon and she has been a loyal member of the Methodist Episcopal church since April 10, 1860.

Frank V. Addis was reared on the old home place and mastered the branches of learning taught in the district schools before entering the Toulon high school. He willingly performed the tasks assigned him by his father, whom he continued to assist in the work of the fields until he had attained his majority. He was a young man of twenty-six years, when, in West Jersey township, on the 9th of December, 1891, he was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Wiley, who was born in Stark county, Illinois. They began their domestic life on one of his father's farms, known as the Hazen place, and there remained for a number of years. In 1901 his father removed to Toulon and Frank V. Addis then took up his abode on what is known as the old Addis homestead. Here he owns in one tract four hundred and eighty-six acres, upon which are two good residences with all the other buildings and improvements of a model farm of the twentieth century. His real estate holdings likewise include another quarter section. He has remodeled the residence, keeps all of the buildings and fences in a state of good repair and in addition to cultivating the fields in the production of large crops of corn, wheat and other cereals he is engaged in raising and feeding stock. He is the administrator of the Addis estate and is a careful and competent business man, readily discriminating between the essential and the non-essential and quickly recognizing and improving his opportunities.

To Mr. and Mrs. Addis have been born three sons. Earl R., who married Miss Maud Chamberlain, is now located on his father's farm, where his father has just completed a modern residence, one of the best in West Jersey township. Orville V. is farming one hundred and sixty acres of the home place. Glenn D., the youngest, is a student in the Toulon high school.

Frank V. Addis devotes his time largely to the management of his farming properties and interests yet finds opportunity to aid in promoting the public welfare. He is a staunch advocate of republican principles and for a number of years served as highway commissioner, while in 1914 he was elected supervisor of West Jersey township and a member of the Stark county board. In 1916 he was re-elected and is now the incumbent in that office, giving earnest consideration to all of the questions which come up in connection with the care of the business of the county. He belongs to the West Jersey lodge of Odd Fellows, in which he has filled all of the chairs and is now a past grand, while for some years he has served as financial secretary. Both he and his wife are connected with the Rebekahs and they are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, Mr. Addis now serving on its official board. He was one of the promoters of the La Fayette Fair Association. His interests are broad and varied and in all of his business career the spirit of enterprise has enabled him to overcome all difficulties and obstacles in his path. He has advanced step by step, securing at every point in his career a broader outlook and wider opportunities and his ability and even paced energy have carried him into important relations.

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#### W. M. GORMAN.

W. M. Gorman, who owns and operates both elevators at Stark, has built up a large trade in grain and tile and is one of the leading business men of the town. He was born in Peoria, Illinois, on the 4th of July, 1863, a son of Edward and Anne (Morrissy) Gorman, both natives of County Kilkenny, Ireland. In 1847 the father emigrated to America and for a time lived in the province of Quebec, Canada, and in Vermont, but at length took up his residence at Peoria, Illinois. In 1881 he located upon a farm in Valley township, Stark county, where he died the same year. His wife has also passed away.

W. M. Gorman received a common school education and remained at home assisting his father until he was about seventeen years old

when he began working as a farm hand. Subsequently he followed agricultural pursuits on his own account, but in the fall of 1897 he removed to the town of Stark and secured a position in the Stark elevator. He has since been identified with that business and now owns the elevator and also the other elevator in Stark. He buys and sells grain and also deals in tile and his reliability and liberal business policy have enabled him to build up a fine business.

Mr. Gorman is a staunch advocate of democratic principles and has served in local offices, being a member of the county board for two years and town clerk for eight years. He is a communicant of the Roman Catholic church at Princeville and fraternally is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America at Stark, in which he is now holding office. His success is well deserved as it is the direct result of his enterprise, initiative and sound judgment.

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#### FRANK W. AND FRED W. HODGES.

Frank W. and Fred W. Hodges, who are successfully engaged in farming and stock raising in Valley township, Stark county, are operating under the firm name of Hodges Brothers. They are twins and were born on the 11th of June, 1878, sons of David and Nancy (Hutchinson) Hodges. The father was born in Kent county, England, on the 25th of February, 1822, of the marriage of Thomas and Mary (Hanford) Hodges. When thirteen years of age he accompanied his parents to the United States and for some time lived in Saratoga Springs, New York. In 1851, however, he came to Stark county, Illinois, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Valley township. He soon afterward returned to New York but the following year again visited Stark county. In 1853 he took up his residence here. He was a practical farmer, and his well directed labors yielded him a good income. He was highly esteemed in his community, and his death, which occurred in 1910, was the occasion of much sincere grief. He was married in 1853, in New York, to Miss Jane Standish, a native of Saratoga county, and they became the parents of two children, Harvey and Joseph. The wife and mother died in 1859 and in 1860 Mr. Hodges was married to Mrs. Nancy Hutchinson, of Chilleothe, Illinois, by whom he had the following children: Otis, Clarke, Sherman, Frank W. and Fred W.

The two last named received a good education in the district schools and early became familiar with agricultural work. Since the

death of their father they have engaged in farming independently under the name of Hodges Brothers and they rank among the most substantial residents of Valley township. They own six hundred and sixty acres of arable land and also a thirty-seven acre tract of timber land. They raise grain to some extent but give special attention to the feeding of stock for market. They are up-to-date and enterprising and receive a handsome income from their well directed labors.

Both brothers are unmarried and their mother has charge of the household affairs. They support the republican party at the polls, and Fred W. has served as road commissioner and as school director. They are identified with the Masonic lodge at Speer, Illinois, with the Royal Arch chapter at Wyoming, and their lives are in harmony with the beneficent teachings of the craft. They attend the Congregational church and take a notable interest in its work. They are highly esteemed wherever known and most of all where best known.

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#### DAVID WEBSTER.

David Webster is one of the few remaining soldiers of the Civil war. He has the right to wear the little bronze button that proclaims him one of the defenders of the Union during the darkest hour of our country's history. He enjoys meeting his old army comrades and recalling the incidents and events which occurred in southern camps and on southern battlefields. He is now numbered among the substantial farmers of West Jersey township, his home being on section 22, where he owns three hundred and eighty acres of valuable land in two adjoining and well improved farms.

Few residents of Stark county have so long remained within its borders, for Mr. Webster is one of its native sons, his birth having occurred in West Jersey township, June 25, 1842. His father, W. W. Webster, was born in Wales and was of English descent. When a youth of sixteen years he came to the United States, joining a sister in Wellington, Ohio, where he resided for a time. Subsequently he was married in Ashland, Ohio, to Miss Fanny Cupp, who was a native of Pennsylvania but was reared at Hackettstown, New Jersey, by Dr. Platt, having been left an orphan at an early age. Following his marriage Mr. Webster engaged in farming in Ohio for a few years and for a time also devoted his attention to the manufacture of potash. In 1832 he arrived in Illinois at a period when the work of progress and improvement seemed scarcely begun. Indeed,

this was one of the pioneer districts of the country and civilization had penetrated but little farther west. He settled in Stark county, preempting three hundred and twenty acres of land on sections 32 and 33, West Jersey township. Of this one hundred and sixty acres was prairie and brush land, while the remaining quarter section was covered with timber. He cleared away the brush and turned the first furrows upon the place. He harrowed his land, sowed the seed and with the coming of autumn harvested his first crops. He also fenced the farm and erected the necessary buildings upon the place, including a good residence and substantial barns. He likewise set out an orchard and did everything in his power to develop this into a good farm property. Success rewarded his efforts and his industry made him in time a prosperous citizen. For twenty-four years he continued to develop his land and then passed away on the old homestead July 8, 1856. His wife survived him for a number of years, her death occurring in 1871.

David Webster was reared upon the old home farm in West Jersey township and had reached the age of twenty years when, on the 13th of August, 1862, he placed his name on the roll of Stark county volunteers, joining Company F, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Infantry, under Colonel Henderson. The regiment went south into Kentucky and participated in a number of hotly contested engagements. Mr. Webster was in the battle of Resaca, in the campaign against and the capture of Atlanta and with his command was afterward sent back to Nashville, following which he participated in the battles of Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee, and Greensboro, North Carolina. At the last named place he was mustered out and upon returning to the north was honorably discharged in Chicago, July 6, 1865, after serving for almost three years as a private. He sustained three slight wounds but was not disabled for duty. He then returned to the old home farm, which he operated for his mother, caring for her until her demise.

It was on the 16th of March, 1876, that David Webster married Miss Margaret Craig, who was born in Maryland but was reared in Knox county, Illinois. Her parents emigrated to America from Scotland and became early settlers of Knox county. Mr. and Mrs. Webster have continuously resided upon the home farm on section 22, West Jersey township, and the visible evidence of his life of thrift and industry is seen in the substantial dwelling and the good barns and outbuildings which he has erected. He has also put up fences which divide the farm into fields of convenient size, has set out an orchard and planted ornamental trees and as the years have gone on

he has increased his farm from time to time until the eighty acre tract has been expanded into a farm of three hundred and eighty acres. Annually he gathers golden harvests as a reward for the care and labor which he bestows upon the fields and he raises a good grade of shorthorn cattle and also good horses and he likewise feeds and fattens cattle and hogs for the market, the various branches of his business returning him a substantial financial income.

Mr. and Mrs. Webster have become the parents of four sons and a daughter. Robert, who is married and has two children, now follows farming near Toulon. Francis M., who is engaged in farming near Shelbina, Missouri, is married and has two sons. D. R. is married and has one son. James is at home. The daughter, Maud, is the wife of Ward Hotchkiss, of West Jersey township.

The father and sons are all members of the Odd Fellows lodge of West Jersey, in which Mr. Webster has filled all of the offices and is now past grand. Mr. and Mrs. Webster and their daughter are connected with the Rebekah degree. Politically Mr. Webster has been a lifelong republican, indorsing the principles of the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. Locally, however, where no issue is involved, he casts an independent ballot but he has never been ambitious to hold office. He is interested in the educational progress of the community, however, and for some time served on the school board. The Websters are numbered among the earliest families of this part of the state and from pioneer times the name has been synonymous with progress and improvement in West Jersey township. They have ever stood for advancement, not only in a material way, but in connection with the intellectual and moral progress of the community, and their efforts have been of distinct worth and value in promoting the welfare of Stark county.

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#### R. J. REWERTS.

R. J. Rewerts owns and operates two hundred acres of good land on section 27, Penn township, and gives special attention to the raising of high grade stock. His birth occurred in Peoria, Illinois, on the 26th of August, 1860, and he is a son of John R. and Fanny (Westerman) Rewerts, both natives of Germany. They came to the United States in early manhood and womanhood and were married in Peoria in the '50s. After living in that city for a time they took up their residence upon a farm near Dunlap and later came to Stark





R. J. REWERTS AND FAMILY

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county, locating west of Castleton. After farming there for a time they removed to what is now known as the Fred Tess place. Subsequently they removed to a farm north of Castleton, which belonged to Elijah Holmes, but at length the father purchased a tract of good land a half a mile from the Lincoln schoolhouse. The farm was totally unimproved when it came into his possession, but at the time of his death it was one of the well developed places of the locality. He was survived by his wife for several years.

R. J. Rewerts received his education in the schools of Penn Center and remained at home until twenty-eight years of age. He then took up his residence upon his present farm, which comprises two hundred acres, and the fine improvements upon the place testify to his energy and efficiency. He grows the usual crops and also raises high grade stock and derives a gratifying financial return from both branches of his business.

In 1888 occurred the marriage of Mr. Rewerts and Miss Bertha Stange, by whom he has had six children, namely: John, a resident of Marshall county; Fanny, who is keeping house for her brother John; Fred, at home; Elmer, also at home; Etta, in school; and one who died in infancy.

Mr. Rewerts belongs to the German Lutheran church at Castleton and for many years has held the office of trustee, doing much in that time to promote the interests of the church. Politically he is a republican, and for twenty-three years he has been a school director. He has also served for six years as trustee of the Valley cemetery. He has not only won financial success but has also gained the unqualified respect of all who come in contact with him, and his personal friends are many.

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#### MARTIN B. DOWNEND.

Since his youthful days Martin B. Downend has been a resident of Stark county, where he ranks with the most enterprising and progressive farmers and stock breeders, making a specialty of handling pure blooded registered Hereford cattle, Poland China hogs and Percheron horses. He is a native of the neighboring state of Indiana, born November 22, 1860. His father, Thomas Downend, was born in England and came to the new world with his father, Thomas Downend, Sr., who settled in Ohio, in which state the son was reared. There he wedded Miss Mary Bahtel, who was born in the Buckeye state.

They afterward removed to Indiana, where Mr. Downend engaged in farming for a number of years, during which period five children were born to them. About 1862 they removed with their family to Illinois, settling in Toulon township, Stark county, where Mr. Downend again gave his attention to general agricultural pursuits, thus providing a comfortable living for his family, whom he reared upon the home farm. He died about 1890, while his widow, surviving him for a number of years, passed away in 1913.

Martin B. Downend was but a young lad at the time of the arrival of the family in Stark county, so that the period of his boyhood and youth was spent on the homestead farm. Following the death of his father he cared for his mother throughout her declining years. For some time he worked by the month upon a farm but was ambitious to own land and carefully saved his earnings until he was able to purchase an improved farm of forty acres. He further perfected arrangements for having a home of his own in his marriage on the 21st of December, 1887, in Toulon township, to Miss Anna C. Brown, who was born and reared in this county and was educated in Toulon. She is a daughter of J. H. Brown, one of the pioneer settlers of this county, now living retired in Toulon. They began their domestic life on the little forty-acre farm, which Mr. Downend cultivated for six years. He then sold that property and within the city limits purchased a twenty-three acre tract, upon which he has since resided. Upon the place he has erected a good residence and he now has his land well improved. In addition Mr. Downend owns one hundred and sixty acres on section 29, Toulon township, adjoining at one corner the corporate limits of the city. This is a well improved farm supplied with commodious and substantial buildings and a silo of recent construction. His farm work is conducted along progressive lines. He believes in the rotation of crops, in the use of fertilizers and all other methods that enhance the productiveness of his place. He now has forty-eight acres of alfalfa, from which he cuts three crops per year, averaging four tons per acre. Mr. Downend also owns another small farm of fifty-seven acres which is a well improved place, and he has twenty-three acres in another tract. His holdings now consist of four different tracts, constituting two hundred and sixty-three acres of well improved and valuable farm land. Turning his attention to the breeding and raising of fine stock, he began handling Poland China hogs in 1895. Later he took up the business of raising Hereford cattle, commencing with three head, and he now has a herd of sixty head of registered Herefords in addition to thirty-five head of high grade Herefords. He holds public sales of his registered Hereford cattle and Poland China hogs and he is now well

known as a breeder, dealer and shipper of thoroughbred stock, including Percheron horses. It is evident that success has attended him along the path of life, for in addition to his holdings in Stark county he also owns a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Delaware county, Iowa, and a forty-acre tract in Minnesota, all improved land. What he undertakes he accomplishes, and diligence and determination have enabled him to overcome all obstacles and difficulties in his path.

To Mr. and Mrs. Downend have been born three children: Leslie L., who is married and is engaged in business in Toulon; Florence, who is a graduate of Denison University of Granville, Ohio, and has been a successful teacher in Stark county; and Lucile, now attending school in Toulon.

In politics Mr. Downend has always been a republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and has served as highway commissioner for a few years and also as a member of the city council for two terms but could never be counted a politician in the usually accepted sense. However, he is not neglectful of the duties of citizenship and when in office made a most creditable record by his fidelity and capability. He and his family are all members of the Baptist church and he and his daughter Florence are active workers and teachers in the Sunday school. His life has ever been upright and honorable, measuring up to the highest standards of manhood and citizenship. He has been found trustworthy in every relation of life and his good qualities have gained for him the respect and confidence of all with whom he has been associated.

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### WILLIAM T. DITMON.

William T. Ditmon owns one hundred acres of good land, which is being operated by his son, and is one of the substantial and well known residents of Valley township. His birth occurred in Chilli-cothe, Peoria county, Illinois, on the 1st of July, 1849, his parents being William and Margaret (Kaiser) Ditmon, both natives of Chilli-cothe, Ross county, Ohio. They remained there until 1848, when they removed by wagon to Illinois, reaching Peoria on the day that Zachary Taylor was elected president. They located in Chillicothe, this state, but in 1856 took up their residence upon a farm on section 17, Valley township, Stark county, where they remained until 1878. Then they removed to Wyoming, this county, and the father lived retired until his demise six years later. He held the offices of justice of peace and

school director and was highly esteemed in his community. His wife died April 25, 1877.

William T. Ditmon attended the common schools in the acquirement of his education and remained at home until he was twenty-six years old. He then began farming on his own account and as the years have passed his resources have increased so that he now enjoys a comfortable competence and is living practically retired. Since coming to Stark county he has always resided on section 17, Valley township, and his present farm comprises one hundred acres of valuable land. He has brought the place to a high state of development, and the buildings, which are substantial and commodious, he erected himself. He engaged in raising Poland China hogs and Jersey cattle as well as the usual farm crops for many years but his farm is now being operated by his son.

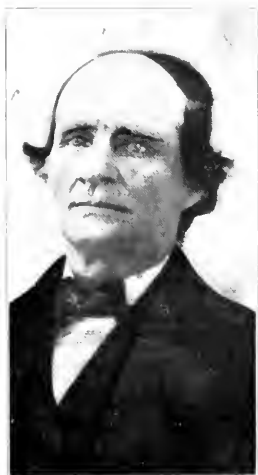
Mr. Ditmon was married in 1875 to Miss Julia E. Jordan, a daughter of John Jordan, who was an early settler of Stark county. To this union have been born two children: John, who is farming the homestead; and Orpha, the wife of G. W. Jackson, of Stark county.

Mr. Ditmon was reared in the political faith of the democratic party as his father supported that organization, and he has loyally supported its candidates since attaining his majority. For fifteen consecutive years he has held the office of treasurer of the school board, and he also is now serving as justice of the peace. Both he and his wife are members of the Congregational church at Stark and he is a member of its board of trustees. In 1876 he was made a Master Mason at Wyoming, Illinois, and has ever since taken a keen interest in the work of the craft. He is also connected fraternally with the Modern Woodmen of America at Wyoming and with the Maccabees at Stark, in which he has served as commander for nineteen consecutive years. In all the relations of life he has measured up to high standards of manhood and is most highly esteemed where best known.

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### ALBERT H. JACKSON.

Agricultural interests find a worthy representative in Albert H. Jackson, who is living on section 18, Goshen township, where he owns and operates a farm of two hundred acres of valuable land adjacent to La Fayette. It was in La Fayette that his birth occurred December 25, 1840, and through the intervening period of seventy-six years



BARNABAS N. JACKSON



MRS. BARNABAS N. JACKSON

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he has lived in this part of the state, being known among its pioneer settlers and representative men.

His father, Barnabas N. Jackson, was born in Goshen, Orange county, New York, in the year 1807, and was a son of Jonathan H. Jackson, also a native of the Empire state. He removed from there to Ohio and became one of the pioneer settlers of the town of Goshen, Clermont county. Barnabas Jackson was reared in that county and was there married to Miss Jane Meeks, a native of Ohio and a representative of one of the early pioneer families of Clermont county. In 1838 Mr. Jackson removed from Ohio to Illinois, making the trip by way of the Ohio river to Cairo, thence up the Mississippi to St. Louis and then up the Illinois river to Peoria, whence he came direct to Stark county and made a permanent location upon the site of the present town of La Fayette. There were few settlers in the county at that time and with the work of pioneer development and improvement he became closely associated. He was elected the first recorder of deeds in Stark county and was otherwise identified with public interests. In 1844 he was elected to the state legislature and served for one term. At La Fayette he engaged in merchandising for ten years and later made purchase of two hundred acres of land, whereon he built a residence, which at the time was the largest and best in the entire county. He also owned another farm in the same district although across the boundary line in Knox county. It was in 1854 that he took up his abode upon a farm in Goshen township, Stark county, and there he successfully carried on general agricultural pursuits, his business ability and enterprise winning for him a gratifying measure of prosperity. Upon that place he reared his family and spent his last years, his death occurring in 1877, while his wife survived only until 1879. In their family were seven sons and two daughters, of whom four sons and one daughter are yet living, these being Albert H., Barnabas M., Charles W., Phineas T. and Lena J., who is the wife of George W. Potter, a retired farmer of Galva. Of this family Phineas has for fifteen years been a business man of Chicago.

Albert H. Jackson was reared upon the old homestead farm and early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He attended the public schools and after his education was completed he gave his entire attention to farm work, assisting his father until the latter's death. He then assumed the management of the old home property and has made it one of the valuable farms of the county. All of the buildings upon the place are kept in excellent condition, the fences are in good repair and each branch of the farm work is carefully, systematically and wisely man-

aged. In addition to cultivating the crops best adapted to soil and climate he also makes a business of raising and feeding stock, largely handling hogs, of which he ships from two to four carloads annually. He has also set out two orchards and the farm is attractive in its various features and is bringing good returns to the three brothers, Albert H., Barnabas M. and Thomas W., who are connected in the conduct of the business.

Albert H. Jackson was one of the promoters of the La Fayette Fair Association and is one of its directors. He is also a stockholder in the La Fayette Hotel Company, and in business affairs he displays sound judgment and unremitting energy. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party but the desire of office as a reward for party fealty has never been his. He has served, however, as a delegate to county and congressional conventions, and his opinions have carried weight in local councils. He has spent almost his entire life upon the home farm whereon he now resides, the only exception being one and a half years passed upon a farm in Knox county. His long residence here has made him widely known; his sterling worth has gained him high regard; and he enjoys the confidence and good-will of the entire community.

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#### WALTER B. FINLY.

Walter B. Finly, who is successfully operating the Hazel Hill Stock Farm on section 35, West Jersey township, has concentrated his energies upon the raising of pure-blood shorthorn cattle and is recognized as one of the most progressive stock breeders of Stark county. His birth occurred upon that farm July 26, 1866, and he is a son of A. J. Finly, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio. The latter was taken from Ohio to Illinois when a child as his father, John Finly, was one of the very first settlers of Stark county. A. J. Finly was reared in this county and was here married in 1850 to Miss Margaret Carter, a native of the county. He became the owner of the old home farm which for many years has been known as the Hazel Hill Stock Farm and made many improvements upon the place. He was one of the first of the county to engage in breeding high grade shorthorn cattle and was influential in the advancement of the stock raising industry here. After residing in this county for many years he removed to Shenandoah, Iowa, but two years later went to San Diego, California, where he now lives. He and his wife celebrated their

sixty-fifth wedding anniversary on October 6, 1915, on which occasion they received the congratulations and best wishes of their many friends. While living in Stark county Mr. Finly was elected to a number of offices and proved capable and conscientious in the discharge of his duties.

Walter B. Finly, who is one of a family of four sons and five daughters, all of whom are living, was reared upon the homestead and divided his time as a boy and youth between attending the district schools and assisting his father. About four years before the latter left the county our subject took charge of the operation of the Hazel Hill Stock Farm and has since managed the place. It comprises about four hundred acres of excellent land and the improvements thereon compare favorably with those on other farms in the county. He has not only kept everything in excellent condition but has also erected a silo and in other ways added to the value of the property. He raises pure-blooded shorthorn cattle and finds no difficulty in disposing of his stock at high prices, and he also feeds cattle and hogs for market.

On the 23d day of May, 1894, at Wyoming, occurred the marriage of Mr. Finly and Miss Nora Alderman, a daughter of Michael and Louise (Joicy) Alderman of that town. Mr. and Mrs. Finly took a trip to the Pacific coast in 1915 visiting the exposition at San Francisco and remained for some time with his parents in San Diego, being present at the celebration of their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary on October 6th, 1915. Our subject was the only one of the children present on that occasion. He is in excellent circumstances financially, and it is generally recognized that his success has been founded upon his industry and his wise management of his affairs. Although he has given practically his undivided attention to his farm work he has never been remiss in any of his duties as a citizen and supports those movements seeking the advancement of his community. In politics he is a republican. His friends are many and his genuine worth is attested by the fact that those who know him most intimately hold him in the highest esteem.

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#### MRS. SARAH J. BOYD.

Among the well known residents of West Jersey township is Mrs. Sarah J. Boyd, who makes her home on section 10 of that township and who came to this state with her father, Jacob Kissel, in 1860. The latter was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and after arriv-

ing at years of maturity he was there married to Miss Hester Clouser, also a native of the Keystone state. He followed farming in Pennsylvania for a number of years, but the opportunities of the middle west attracted him and he left Pennsylvania for Indiana, spending two years in Henry county, that state. Subsequently he became a resident of Wisconsin and after residing in Lancaster for two years he removed to Dodge county, Nebraska, making investment in three hundred acres of land near Fremont. He spent six years there in trying to improve and develop his farm, but the droughts and the grasshoppers rendered it impossible for him to raise crops and he therefore retraced his steps to a point east of the Mississippi, settling in West Jersey township, Stark county, Illinois, in 1860. At first he rented land which he cultivated for a few years and here his labors were rewarded with good harvests, the sale of which brought him sufficient capital to enable him to purchase an eighty acre tract of land. Immediately he began farming thereon and continued to make that place his abode until called to his final rest. His wife survived him for six years and during that period resided with her daughter, Mrs. Boyd.

Mrs. Boyd was born in Stark county and on the 2d of February, 1870, gave her hand in marriage to Robert A. Boyd, who was born in Warren county, New Jersey. When a young man he removed westward and took up his abode in Stark county on land which his father had previously purchased. It was at that time unimproved, but Mr. Boyd broke the sod, planted the fields and carried on the work of development. It was upon the farm where she now resides that Mr. and Mrs. Boyd began their domestic life. To his original tract of eighty acres he added by the purchase of another eighty, thus making his farm an entire quarter section. He also wrought a marked transformation in its appearance by the erection of a good residence and by the building of commodious barns. Industrious, alert and persevering, he won a substantial measure of prosperity and gained recognition as one of the foremost representatives of farming interests in his locality. He continued to reside upon the farm until his life's labors were ended in death in 1891, at which time he was laid to rest in the West Jersey cemetery. Fraternaly he was connected with the Odd Fellows lodge at West Jersey and his life was guided by his religious faith, which was manifest in his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

After the death of her husband Mrs. Boyd employed help and continued to carry on the work of the farm for seven years, proving very successful in the management of her business interests. Later,

however, she rented this farm. She has one son, Clyde H. Boyd, a resident of Toulon, who is married and has two children. She has also reared a niece, Miss Grace Hamilton, who became a member of her household when six years of age and is now a junior in the Toulon high school. Mrs. Boyd is a member of the West Jersey Methodist Episcopal church and was formerly very active in church and Sunday school work. She is widely known in this part of the state and her kindly spirit, her generous disposition and ready sympathy have gained for her the high esteem and warm regard of all who know her.

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### HARRY BARTON.

Harry Barton, reared to the occupation of farming, has always followed that pursuit and is now engaged in the cultivation of one hundred and twenty acres of land, eighty acres of which he owns. The place is situated on section 7, Penn township, and in its neat and attractive appearance indicates his careful supervision and wise control. He was born February 24, 1873, a son of Joseph and Frances (Roper) Barton, both of whom were natives of England, where they were reared and married. In 1872 they came to the United States, settling in Kewanee, Illinois, and there Mr. Barton remained until after the birth of his son Harry. Subsequent to that event the family became residents of Toulon Township, where the father is still living, but the mother passed away November 19, 1912.

Harry Barton obtained a district school education, supplemented by study in the schools of Castleton. At an early age he became familiar with the work of tilling the soil and cultivating the crops and continued to assist his father in farm work until he attained his majority, when he began the cultivation of a part of the old homestead on his own account. After living there for four years he and his brother rented land in Penn township, upon which Harry Barton resided for eleven years. He next purchased his present place of residence, his home farm now comprising eighty acres of land on section 7, Penn township. To this he has added some improvements and now has a clean, well kept farm presenting a most attractive and pleasing appearance. He cultivates altogether one hundred and twenty acres of land, devoting his attention to general agricultural pursuits.

On the 5th of February, 1914, Mr. Barton was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Sterling. Politically a democrat, Mr. Barton has always loyally adhered to the principles of the party and upon its ticket has

been elected to several local offices. For the past five years he has served as supervisor, for two years was assessor and for one year was collector. In each of these positions he proved his capability and fidelity and his course was highly commended. Fraternally he is connected with the Odd Fellows lodge at Castleton, the encampment at Wyoming and the Modern Woodmen camp at Castleton. He has become well known through fraternal, business and social relations and high regard is entertained for him by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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### GEORGE W. PIERSON.

George W. Pierson is a practical mechanic who in early life learned the blacksmith's trade and since 1902 has carried on business along that line at La Fayette. He dates his residence in Stark county from 1867, arriving here when a youth of eleven years. He was born in Warren County, New Jersey, August 4, 1856, and is a son of Willis Pierson, who was also a native of New Jersey, where he was reared and married, the lady of his choice being Miss Mary Bryan, who was born and reared in New Jersey. The father followed farming in that state for a number of years and at the time of the Civil war joined the Thirty-first Regiment of Volunteer infantry in New Jersey, serving with that command for three years and nine months, after which he was honorably discharged and mustered out following the close of the war. He then returned to his native state, where he again engaged in farming until 1867, when he came to Illinois, making his way direct to Stark county. He took up his abode in West Jersey township, settling on a farm, where he continued to reside until his death. His wife was a resident of this county for more than three decades, passing away in May, 1898.

George W. Pierson was reared in Stark county from the age of eleven years and the public schools afforded him his educational opportunities. Starting out in life he entered a shop in West Jersey and learned the blacksmith's trade, after which he engaged in business on his own account there for thirteen years. In 1902 he disposed of his interests at West Jersey and went to La Fayette, where he purchased a lot and built a large shop, in which he is now engaged in blacksmithing and repair work. He does wood work as well as blacksmithing and repairs wagons, buggies, etc. His business has been developed to large proportions and brings him a substantial annual

income. He is industrious and energetic and whatever he undertakes is carried forward to successful completion.

Mr. Pierson was married at West Jersey, December 19, 1875, to Miss Laura Scantlin, a native of this county. They have become parents of five children: Frank, who is engaged in blacksmithing at Castleton; Jesse, who is married and is engaged in business at Williamsfield; Mary, the wife of Clyde Schmedaker, a farmer of South Dakota; Belle, the wife of Archie Wapple, of Oneida, Illinois; and George, who completes the family.

The parents are members of the La Fayette Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Pierson takes a very active and helpful interest in church and Sunday school work and has acted as superintendent of the Sunday school. Mr. Pierson belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge and he and his wife are connected with the Rebekah degree. He has served as noble grand and has been representative of the local organization of the grand lodge. Politically he has always been identified with the republican party and he has served for three years as a member of the village board of La Fayette. He was one of the promoters of the La Fayette Fair Association, of which he is a stockholder. He stands at all times as an advocate of those progressive movements which feature in the welfare and upbuilding of the district in which he lives. He has ever worked hard, is a self-made man and his record indicates what may be accomplished by persistent energy and honorable dealing.

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### W. W. WRIGHT, JR.

The history of W. W. Wright, Sr., appears elsewhere in this volume and W. W. Wright, Jr., is certainly "a chip off the old block." He was born in Toulon and his entire life has been spent here except the few years when he attended the University of Illinois and the Law School of Boston. He will be thirty-eight years of age on the 12th of August, 1916. His wife was Miss Phoebe Robbins of Emmetsburg, Iowa. This happy union has been blessed with two bright-eyed boys, William Wilburforce, who will be six years of age in July, 1916, and John, who is three years of age. William Wilburforce is the fourth in a direct line to be honored by this name.

W. W. Wright is an attorney at law and also a farmer. While caring for his full share of legal business he also cultivates many acres of the best farm land in the state and his fine stock is never

neglected. He resides in a beautiful home in the suburbs of our little city and is one of Toulon's best boosters. His public spirit knows no bounds and his pocketbook always opens when anything is needed that will benefit his town.

The historian regrets that he is unable to get a better biography of Mr. Wright, but the history is published just at the time when farm work and professional duties are both crowding him and the above items were collected from his friends and without his knowledge. But a history of Stark county without mention of the Wright family would be unworthy of the name of a history. Mr. Wright's great-uncle, Samuel G. Wright, was the pioneer minister to locate here, and his father and grandfather were men whose moral influence is still at work. He springs from a family remarkable for unswerving faith in Christianity. Captain William Wright, grandfather of W. W. Wright, gave his life for his country and received his death wound upon the battlefield of Resaca.

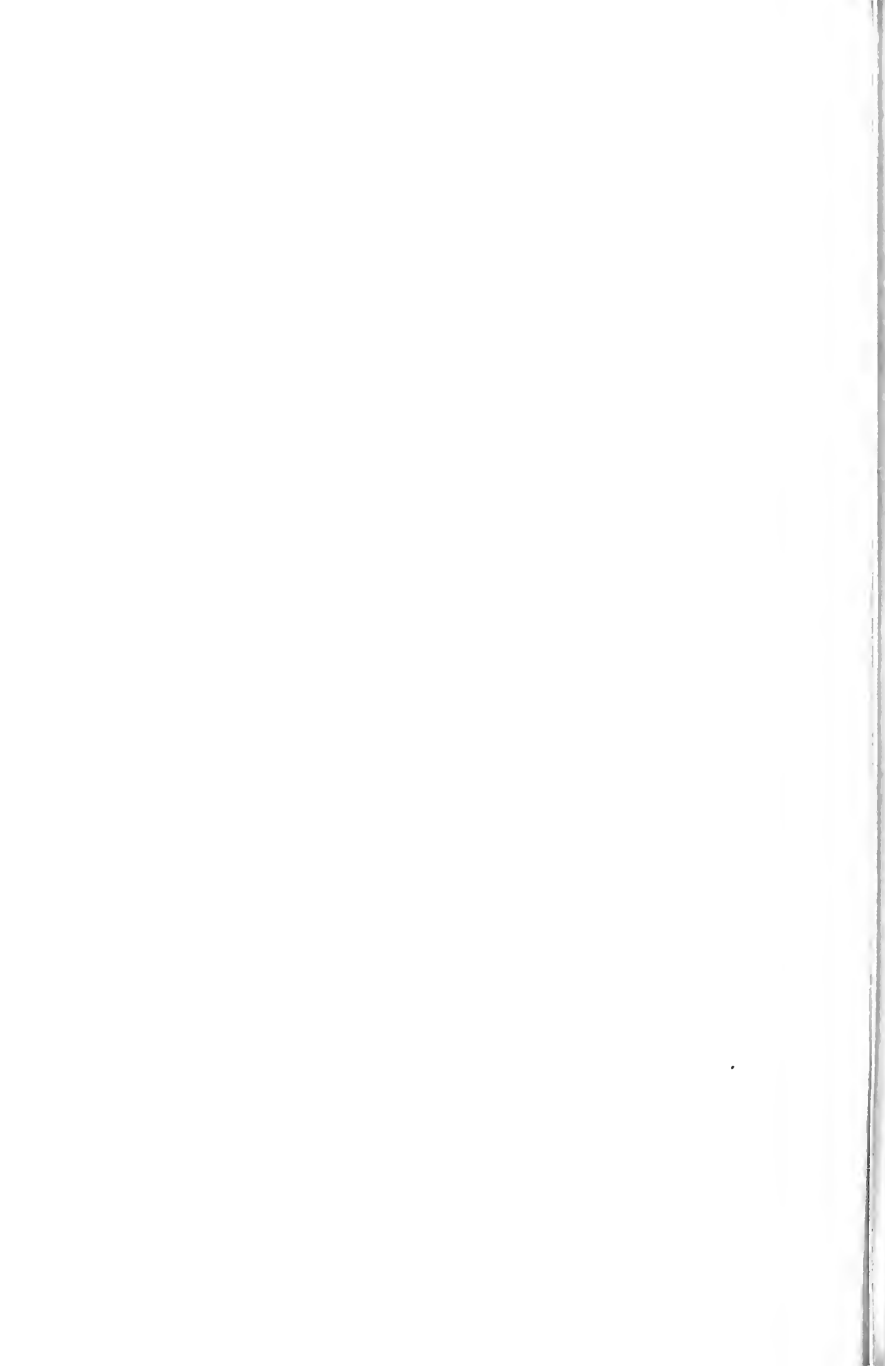


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