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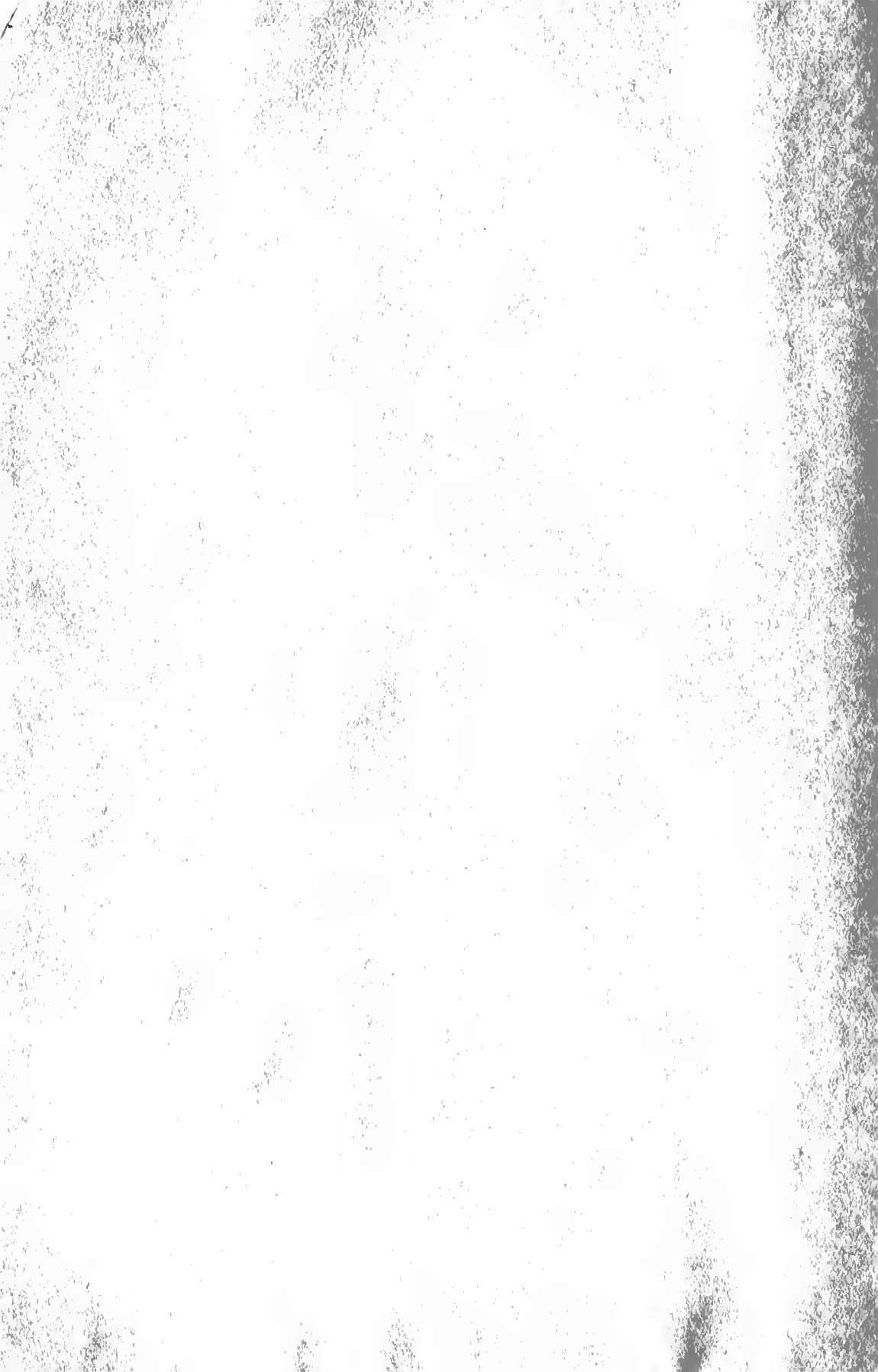
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VOLUME II

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*D J Murphy.*



# BIOGRAPHICAL

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## D. J. MURPHY.

One of the most able lawyers and business men of Waukon is D. J. Murphy, who during the twenty years of his residence here has actively identified himself with the city's professional, financial and public life, winning each year increasing prominence in each field. He is today a leader at the bar and well known as an organizer and a force in local democratic politics, his name standing as a synonym for progress, growth and advancement.

Mr. Murphy has been a resident of Iowa since 1889. He was born in New Diggings, Wisconsin, November 1, 1867, and grew to manhood in that state and was there educated, graduating from the State Normal School at Platteville with the class of 1886. He afterward engaged in teaching, winning prominence in his profession, rising to be principal of the Highland high school, a position which he held for three years. In 1889 he came to Iowa and joined his brother, D. D. Murphy, at Elkader, where he read law until 1891, when he was admitted to the bar. He formed a partnership with his brother and they practiced in Elkader for two years, Mr. Murphy of this review coming in 1893 to Waukon, where he has since been in active practice before the district and supreme courts. His ability and worth have become widely recognized during the twenty years and his success in handling important and difficult litigation has placed him in a leading position at the Allamakee county bar.

It is not alone along professional lines, however, that Mr. Murphy has achieved success and prominence, for he is an able and far-sighted business man connected through investment or official service with various important enterprises in the city. He built one of the finest business blocks in Waukon, the lower floors of which are occupied by a large department store, while the upper story is fitted up into fine offices. Mr. Murphy has his own suite of three rooms here, tastefully furnished and equipped with one of the finest law libraries in this section of the state. He was one of the organizers of the Peoples National Bank and is now a large stockholder and member of the board of directors. He is a stockholder and director in the Citizens State Bank and aided in forming the company which opened up and developed the iron mines in this vicinity. He was elected president of the concern and still holds the office. All of his business affairs are conducted in an able and discriminating way and the success to which he has attained is entirely the result of his own talents and powers which have been intelligently and worthily used.

In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on November 8, 1894, Mr. Murphy was united in marriage to Miss Agnes Hay, who was born at Mineral Point, that state, and

who acquired her education in Platteville. For a time she was a teacher in the public schools of Milwaukee. Mr. and Mrs. Murphy have three children: Lorna, who is a student at Mount St. Joseph's College of Dubuque; Robert H., also a student in St. Joseph's College in the same city; and James P.

Mr. Murphy has been affiliated with the democratic party since casting his first vote and is prominent in the party's councils. In 1912 he was a candidate for the office of district judge and, although not elected, was proud of the vote which he polled, carrying his home county by a majority of six hundred and eighteen, in the very center of a republican stronghold. Mr. Murphy is a member of the Roman Catholic church and his upright life and sterling qualities of character have gained him the respect and esteem of all who are in any way associated with him.

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#### WILLIAM HARRIS.

Among the residents of Postville who were at one time closely associated with the agricultural interests of Allamakee county and are now enjoying the fruits of their former toil in honorable retirement is William Harris, who was born in Morgan county, Ohio, June 19, 1847, a son of Elisha and Margaret (Patterson) Harris, both natives of Morgan county, where the father followed farming until 1854, when he came to Iowa. He was one of the first settlers in Lybrand, Post township, where he located on a farm which he continued to develop and improve until his death, which occurred about the year 1896. He was born in 1819 and was seventy-seven years old when he died. His wife died August 2, 1885. In their family were fourteen children, of whom the subject of this review is the second in order of birth.

In the acquirement of an education William Harris attended district school at Lybrand and when not engaged with his books aided his father with the work of the farm. Until he was twenty-one years of age he remained upon the homestead and he then began his independent career, buying land in Post township and turning his attention to its development. There he resided until 1904, transforming the property during that time into a rich and productive farm supplied with modern equipment and accessories. The place comprises five hundred and twenty acres and is neat and well ordered in every particular. Mr. Harris has the distinction of having brought the first Aberdeen Angus cattle to this vicinity and for about eighteen years he was one of the most extensive breeders of that breed of cattle in Allamakee county. He continued his personal supervision and practical work upon his property until 1905, when he moved into Postville, where he has since made his home.

In 1869, Mr. Harris was united in marriage to Miss Charity McDonald, who was born in Postville, January 1, 1849. She is a daughter of Duncan and Jane (Green) McDonald, the former of whom was born in Union county, Ohio, June 30, 1818, and the latter in Rensselaer county, New York, March 18, 1827. The father, who followed farming as an occupation, went to Wisconsin at a very early date and his marriage occurred in Monroe, that state. He and his wife came to Iowa in 1849, settling on the present townsite of Postville, where they

resided for many years before removing to the vicinity of Nevada, Missouri, whence they went to Lawrence county. In that section of the state both passed away. They were the parents of three children, of whom Mrs. Harris is the first in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Harris have six children. Herman Howard, born October 7, 1869, married Miss Christina Willman, of Postville, and they have one child, Ossa, who was born February 20, 1896. Bertha, born January 12, 1871, married Darius Orr, a farmer in Post township, and they have become the parents of four children: Ethel, born October 29, 1891; Edith, born September 13, 1892; Esther, born February 27, 1896; and Eva, born November 14, 1899. Edith, born May 16, 1875, married Ernie Churchill, a plumber in Monroe, Wisconsin, and they have one child, Charlotte, born May 6, 1906. Edna, born March 18, 1879, married Fred Oehring, a jeweler in McGregor, and they have a daughter, Esther, born June 3, 1911. Glessner, born March 25, 1889, is the wife of Arthur Webster, an electrician in Postville. Adelaide, who completes the family, was born October 23, 1893, and resides with her parents.

Mr. Harris gives a general allegiance to the republican party but votes independently when he feels that the best interests of the community demand independent action. Although he has never sought nor desired public office he served for two terms on the Postville city council and discharged his duties in a most able and effective manner. He is a stockholder in the Bank of Postville and is well known in fraternal circles, holding membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His wife is a member of the Royal Neighbors. He is well known in this community as an industrious, far-sighted and capable man who enjoys the confidence and respect of his neighbors. He resides in a modern and attractive home in Postville, where he is spending his retired life in the enjoyment of rest, earned by his long season of honest and successful labor.

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### JOHN KRAMBEER.

Among the many sturdy, straightforward and reliable citizens whom Germany has given to America is numbered John Krambeer, now engaged in general farming and stock-raising upon a fine tract of land in Post township. He was born in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, on the 2d of November, 1854, and is a son of John and Dora (Schultz) Krambeer, also natives of that part of Germany, the former born on the 6th of December, 1831, and the latter on the 2d of June of the same year. The father owned and operated a small farm in Germany, which he sold in 1866 and came to America, settling on a farm in Garnavillo township, Clayton county, Iowa, in the same year. Upon this he continued to reside for a number of years, disposing of it finally in order to buy another tract of land one and a half miles north of Clayton Center, a property which he continued to develop and improve until his death, which occurred about 1881. His wife survived him some time, making her home with her son until 1900, when she passed away. To them were born five children, of whom the subject of this review is the second in the order of birth.

John Krambeer was twelve years of age when he accompanied his parents to America and his education was largely acquired in the public schools of Garnavillo township, Clayton county, and in the German school of that locality. From an early age he assisted with the work of the homestead and afterward worked at farm labor in the employ of others until he was twenty-six years of age, when he assumed management of his father's property. After one year, however, he purchased a farm near Hardin, in Post township, Allamakee county, upon which he continued to reside for eight years, selling it in order to buy his present farm, which was then known as the old Jamison property. He resided here until 1903 and then retired from active life, moving into Postville. However, after four years he returned to his farm and has since continued to make his home upon it. At one time he owned three hundred acres of fine land, upon which he carried on general farming and stock-raising, but he has since disposed of the greater part of this property, his son buying the portion containing the residence and his son-in-law purchasing the greater part of the remainder. Mr. Krambeer is living practically retired, although he has important business interests in Postville, being a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Store and the canning factory.

On the 18th of March, 1881, Mr. Krambeer was united in marriage to Miss Ida Harnack, who was born on the 12th of December, 1862. To them have been born five children: Bertha, whose birth occurred on the 6th of December, 1881, and who is now the wife of H. C. Meyer, mentioned elsewhere in this work; Matilda, who was born on the 10th of December, 1882, and married Rudolph Bugenhagen, residing on a portion of the Krambeer homestead; John H., who was born December 18, 1885, and who is now operating a portion of the home farm; Emma, born July 3, 1890; and Hilma, born February 3, 1894.

Mr. Krambeer does not affiliate with any particular party, voting independently according to his personal convictions. He is interested in public affairs, especially in the cause of education, and did able work in its promotion during his two terms as director of the school board and his three terms as its secretary. He is well and favorably known in Post township, where he has so long resided, and is now enjoying the reward of many years of active and well directed labor in the promotion of the agricultural advancement of the county where he makes his home.

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#### GEORGE W. SHERMAN.

George W. Sherman is numbered among the pioneers in Allamakee county, his residence here dating from 1857. From that time until his retirement he was a force in agricultural development, his individual prosperity constituting an element in the general advancement. He is honored as a veteran of the Civil war, having served three years in that conflict, and in all the relations of life has proved loyal, courageous and straightforward. Mr. Sherman is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Erie county, February 8, 1834. He grew to manhood on a farm in that section and acquired his primary education in the public schools, supplementing this by a course in Albion Academy. He fitted himself

for teaching and after laying aside his books followed that occupation for three terms before he was twenty-one years of age. In the spring of 1855 he left Pennsylvania and came west, settling first in Monroe county, Wisconsin, where he taught in the public schools for two years. He there married and came with his wife to Iowa, making a permanent location in Allamakee county in 1857. He was one of the pioneer teachers in this section of the state and for several years after his arrival followed his profession during the winter months, engaging in farming during the summers. He purchased forty acres of land near Rossville and this he improved and developed until August 11, 1862, when he enlisted in the Union army, joining Company A, Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry. His regiment was sent to Dubuque, where it drilled for two or three months, and at the end of that time was transferred to Fort Snelling to assist in driving off the Indians at that point. It was later ordered to Memphis, Tennessee, and took part in many skirmishes, battles and forced marches, participating in the Red River expedition and the battles at Pleasant Hill, Fair Oaks, Fort DeRussy, Little Rock and Nashville. During all of this time, however, Mr. Sherman never carried a gun, having been detailed to hospital duty, serving for the first two years as nurse and for the remainder of his term of enlistment as acting hospital steward. With the exception of a thirty-day furlough he was continuously in service from the time of his enlistment until his discharge at the close of the war, having never lost a day's time through sickness or from any other cause.

After the close of hostilities Mr. Sherman returned to his old home in Erie county, Pennsylvania, and spent a few months visiting his old friends and neighbors. However, in November of the same year he returned to Iowa and in 1866 resumed farming, engaging also in drilling and sinking wells. He has the reputation of having constructed the first drilled well in Allamakee county. After a time he sold his farm near Rossville and purchased one hundred and sixty acres just adjoining the corporate limits of Waukon and this property he developed and improved for many years, his practical methods, his knowledge of farming, his industry, energy and success winning him a place among the substantial and representative agriculturists of the county. Eventually, however, he sold his farm, disposing of it in five acre tracts, and retired from active life, moving into Waukon, where he purchased the home in which he and his daughter now reside.

In Monroe county, Wisconsin, Mr. Sherman married Miss Katherine Round, who was born and reared in that section. She was a daughter of Zina Round, a pioneer in Wisconsin, having come to that state in early times from Vermont. Mrs. Sherman passed away in 1873, leaving four children: J. D., who is engaged in farming near Waukon; Lida L., who makes her home with her father; Mrs. Maggie E. Roberts, of Mason City, Iowa; and Lela, the wife of E. W. Goodykoontz, who is engaged in business in Waukon.

Mr. Sherman keeps in touch with his comrades of the Civil war through his membership in John J. Stillman Post, No. 194, G. A. R., of which he has served as quartermaster for eighteen years. During the period of his residence in Allamakee county he has taken an active part in local politics, having served as assessor and tax collector, as census enumerator and in various other positions of public trust and honor. He and his daughter are members of the Baptist

church and the latter is active in church and Sunday school work. A resident of this section for fifty-six years and continuously identified with its growth and development, Mr. Sherman has become widely and favorably known in the locality as a man enterprising in business, progressive in citizenship and faithful to all the ties and obligations of life—one of Allamakee county's most honored pioneers.

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### O. J. HAGER.

O. J. Hager occupies a notable place in financial circles of Waukon as president of the First National Bank, while his connections with other leading institutions through investment or official service make him also one of the country's most conspicuously successful financiers. He is a native son of Iowa, born in Allamakee county April 7, 1867, a son of Fred Hager, who was among the early settlers in Iowa and who came to this section of the state in 1849. He married here Miss Wilhelmina Helming and after the wedding took up a claim some six miles beyond Waukon which he cleared, broke and fenced and upon which he made many substantial improvements, replacing his original farm dwelling by a good brick residence and making his property one of the finest and most valuable in the section. When he left the farm he moved into Waukon and there spent the last years of his life, passing away November 4, 1909, having survived his wife since 1891.

O. J. Hager was reared upon his father's farm and acquired his primary education in the public schools, supplementing this by a three years' course in Decorah College. After laying aside his books he taught for four years but at the end of that time came to Waukon, where he aided in organizing the First National Bank with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Hager was made cashier and he served in that capacity for five years, advancing afterward to the position of president, an office which he still holds. The bank purchased an old building which they tore down and replaced by the present modern and commodious structure which is complete in furnishings and equipment and a worthy competitor with the finest financial institutions in the state. The capital stock has been increased to one hundred thousand dollars and an extensive and growing patronage has been built up, much of the success of the concern being due to Mr. Hager's able and far-sighted management. He is connected in an important way with various other banks in this vicinity, being president of the Waterville Savings Bank; vice president of the New Albin Savings Bank, and a stockholder and director in the Dorchester Savings Bank. He is connected in a similar way with the Brownsville State Bank of Brownsville, Minnesota, and has come to be known as one of the authorities on finance in this part of the country, his standing being based on twenty years of able work along financial lines.

Extensive and important as are his banking interests, Mr. Hager has yet found time to devote to other lines of activity and during the period of his residence here has been prominently connected with many profitable business enterprises. He is a real-estate dealer on an extensive scale, buying and selling Iowa





O. J. HAGER



and Minnesota lands and specializing in improved and unimproved farm properties, in which he has valuable holdings.

On September 20, 1900, Mr. Hager married Miss Ella Stevens, who was born, reared and educated in Waukon. She is a daughter of Peter Stevens, one of the original settlers in Allamakee county and for a number of years a prosperous farmer. He later moved to Waukon. Mr. and Mrs. Hager are the parents of two daughters, Helen and Anna. The family are members of the Presbyterian church and are well known in religious and social circles. They occupy a modern and beautiful residence in Waukon which Mr. Hager erected and which they have made a center of hospitality for their charming circle of friends. Fraternally Mr. Hager is connected with the Knights of Pythias and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. A man of high worth and sterling integrity, he is widely known throughout Allamakee county, a community which has known him during his entire life.

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#### HON. JOHN F. DAYTON.

There is scarcely a phase of legitimate activity in Allamakee county in which Hon. John F. Dayton is not successful and prominent and to the advancement of which he has not by his ability, industry and enterprise made substantial contributions. He is one of the county's political leaders, an able and successful member of the bar, a force in the development of the fruit growing industry and each year of his activity since he came to Waukon in 1873 has witnessed his growing prominence in all of these fields of endeavor.

Mr. Dayton was born in Saratoga county, New York, January 10, 1849, and is a son of Dr. Simon N. and Lydia (Houghton) Dayton, natives of New York. Dr. Dayton spent his youth and early manhood in that state and afterward moved to Illinois, locating in Rockford, where he engaged in the general practice of medicine until 1890, when he returned to New York and located in Corinth, where he spent the last years of his life, dying there in the fall of 1899. His wife survived him only a few months, passing away in February, 1900.

John F. Dayton grew to manhood in Rockford, Illinois, and acquired his education in the public schools, graduating from the Rockford high school with the class of 1867. He was afterward a student in Beloit College for three years and when he left that institution read law in Rockford. In 1873 he came to Iowa and settled in Waukon, where he was admitted to the bar. In the same year he formed a partnership with his uncle, Hon. Henry Dayton, and their association has continued since that time, the firm being today one of the strongest in the county, connected through its patronage with much important litigation. Mr. Dayton served as county attorney for two years and in public life proved as able, far-sighted and progressive as he is in the private practice of his profession.

Aside from his work in the general practice of law Mr. Dayton is also well known in Allamakee county as an extensive fruit grower. In 1878 he planted almost forty acres of land in grapes, strawberries and raspberries and later added a nursery, where he specializes in raising apple trees and others bearing

the hardy fruits. He issues an annual catalogue and does a large mail order business, shipping his products by express and freight. He owns a neat and well improved property of sixty acres, just outside the corporate limits of Waukon, and is numbered among the successful farmers and business men of the locality.

On the 14th of October, 1875, Mr. Dayton was united in marriage, in Rockford, Illinois, to Miss Laura Hewitt, born and reared in that city, a daughter of John Hewitt, a pioneer of Winnebago county, who settled in that section in 1833.

Eminently public-spirited and progressive in citizenship, Mr. Dayton has since taking up his residence in Iowa been continuously identified with public life in the state and is an active and able politician. He was the first mayor of Waukon, giving to the city a constructive, efficient and businesslike administration, and he was afterward elected to the state legislature, serving in the twenty-second, twenty-third and twenty-fourth general assemblies. During his term of office he was connected with much constructive legislation, his vote and influence being always on the side of right, reform and progress. He was a member of a number of important committees, including the committee on railroads and commerce, and so efficient, far-sighted and businesslike was his work that he was named as the democratic candidate for speaker of the house in the twenty-fourth general assembly. His public career has been varied in service and faultless in honor and the work he has accomplished in the interests of the community is destined to find a place in its history. Fraternaly he is connected with the Knights of Pythias and has served through all the chairs of that organization, being now past chancellor. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and is one of the most popular men in Waukon, known to his personal friends as "Frank." In all respects his life has been exemplary and useful—the life of an upright, honorable and straightforward man and a progressive and public-spirited citizen.

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#### ROBERT FREDERICK HECKER.

Robert Frederick Hecker, proprietor of a large carriage factory in Postville, which he conducts in connection with an automobile repair shop, is one of the representative and successful business men of his community and his labors during the years of his active career have been potent forces in general industrial development. He was born in Baden, Germany, November 15, 1852, a son of Christian and Veronica (Gerder) Hecker, natives of the same section of the fatherland. The father, who engaged in farming all during his active life, died in Germany and after his demise his widow and son crossed the Atlantic to America, locating in New York city in 1861. After one year they came west to Lansing, Iowa, where the mother married again, dying in this section about the year 1899.

Robert F. Hecker completed an education, begun in Germany, in the public schools in New York city and in the district schools in the vicinity of Lansing, and continued to reside with his mother until he was twenty years of age. At that time he began learning the wagon-making trade and after two years went to Dubuque

and thence to Davenport, where he spent one year engaged in that occupation. He then returned to Lansing but at the end of six months came to Postville, where he engaged in business for himself, manufacturing wagons and conducting a general repair and blacksmith shop. In the early days he made spring wagons, buggies, sleighs, etc., but he now does all kinds of automobile repair work and vulcanizing. The business has grown steadily during the passing years and is now one of the important enterprises in the city, the credit for its rapid growth being entirely due to Mr. Hecker's untiring efforts. As his sons grew older and left school they were taken into the business and they now relieve their father of a great deal of the active work, so that he has more time to devote to his other interests. He has a fine farm of four hundred and twenty acres in Post township, which is rented on shares, and he is the owner of a great deal of valuable property.

On the 6th of January, 1876, Mr. Hecker was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hupp, who was born in Lansing, October 11, 1854, a daughter of Joseph Hupp. Her father was a native of Hesse, Germany, and her mother of Bavaria. They emigrated to America about the year 1853 and although the father was a stonemason by trade he engaged in farming in Allamakee county. Mr. and Mrs. Hecker became the parents of five children. John C., born November 12, 1876, is now associated with his father in business. He married Miss Lena Bedenbender, a native of Laporte, Iowa. Robert M., who was born December 2, 1878, is also in partnership with his father. Joseph M., born September 22, 1881, has also a share in his father's business. Josephine, born February 8, 1885, married Lowell Moody, manager of a large dry-goods store in Montana. Mary passed away at the age of seven years.

Mr. Hecker gives his political allegiance to the democratic party but has never sought nor desired public office. Although reared in the Catholic religion he is not now a member of any denomination. Fraternally he is connected with the Masonic order and is also a member of the Turner Society. In all the relations of life he has been honorable and straightforward and his example is well worthy of emulation. Prosperous in his business connections, he proves what may be accomplished by earnest and persistent labor, for he has worked his way steadily upward, improving every opportunity for advancement and standing today among Postville's substantial and representative citizens.

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#### ROBERT WAMPLER.

Robert Wampler, honored as a pioneer in Iowa and as one of the few remaining veterans of the Civil war, has been a resident of Allamakee county since 1852. He has, therefore, witnessed almost its entire growth and development and has borne an honored part therein, his work along agricultural lines having constituted one of the forces in local agricultural development. He was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, May 22, 1842, and is a son of Eli Wampler, also a native of the Keystone state. The father grew to maturity in Westmoreland county and there married Miss Mary Jane Luek, a native of the same section. They moved west in 1850 and settled as pioneers in Jackson county, where they resided for two years, moving in 1852 to Allamakee county. The father, however,

never arrived in this section for he died of cholera on a Mississippi river boat upon the journey, while two of his sons and one of his daughters died of the same disease after reaching Lansing, Iowa. Mrs. Wampler with her surviving children located on Clear creek, where she later married again.

Robert Wampler remained with his mother until the outbreak of the Civil war, when, on October 15, 1861, he joined Company B, Twelfth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. The regiment was soon afterward sent to Dubuque, where it was organized and drilled for some time, and afterward it went to St. Louis, where it remained during the winter months. In the spring of 1862 it was sent down the river to Fort Henry, where Mr. Wampler was for the first time under fire. He later participated in the battle of Shiloh, where he was wounded in a peculiar manner. Having put his hand to his head to pull down his cap behind, a ball cut off his finger and gave him also a scalp wound across the back of his head. He was taken prisoner with General Prentiss and taken to Memphis, and later to Mobile and Montgomery, where he contracted typhoid fever so severely as to bring him near death and was placed in a hospital until his recovery. He was then paroled and sent to Chattanooga with about eleven hundred other soldiers to be exchanged, but it was not until October of that year that the exchange was completed in Richmond. Upon his exchange he went to St. Louis, where he drew some money and received clothing and through the influence and kindness of Colonel Earl his company was sent home on a furlough to recuperate. After six weeks he returned to St. Louis and rejoined his command at Benton Barracks, the regiment being later ordered to Vicksburg. It participated in the siege preceding the fall of that city and also in the battle at Jackson. It later returned to Memphis and afterward took part in the raid at Holly Springs. Mr. Wampler was in the thick of the battle at Tupelo, Mississippi, fighting in a hotly contested engagement of three hours' duration. He later returned with his regiment to Memphis and from there to Eastport, where he remained in camp several months, returning to Memphis at the end of that time. The regiment was later sent down the river to New Orleans and after two weeks spent in Fort Jackson aided in the attack on the Spanish Fort. In that engagement Mr. Wampler was wounded by a shell, which exploded over him, a piece, one and a half inches long and three quarters of an inch wide, striking him in the back. His wound not proving serious, he returned to his regiment after a few days and served until the close of the war, when he was mustered out at Memphis and returned to Iowa, receiving his honorable discharge in Davenport on January 20, 1865.

With this honorable military record Mr. Wampler returned to Allamakee county and purchased a forty acre farm, to which he later added the forty acres adjoining. For sixteen years he cultivated and developed this property and his practical and progressive methods were rewarded by success, his farm becoming one of the best improved and most valuable in this section of the state. Finally Mr. Wampler retired from active life and moved into Waukon, having earned leisure and rest by many years of honorable and worthy labor. He purchased a comfortable residence in the city and makes his home therein, having disposed of all of his farm property.

While home on a furlough during the Civil war Mr. Wampler married, April 11, 1864, Miss Margaret Duff, a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, who was reared and educated in Allamakee county. Mr. and Mrs.



Wampler have five children: Eli M., who is a resident of Sioux City, Iowa; L. O., of Waukon; Ella, married J. E. Mills, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Mary Agnes, the wife of L. F. Seelig, of Waukon; and Lillian, who was married December 25, 1912. Two sons born to Mr. and Mrs. Wampler have passed away. James grew to maturity and married. He died in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1901. Warren met death by accident, having been killed by a horse when he was a young man of seventeen, his death occurring in 1892.

Politically Mr. Wampler is identified with the republican party and has been for many years an active worker in its ranks. He has been a delegate to numerous republican conventions and served for a number of years as city assessor. He is prominent in the affairs of the Grand Army of the Republic, being connected with John J. Stillman Post, No. 194, of which he has served as commander and of which he is at present chaplain. Since he was a lad of ten years he has been a resident of Allamakee county and now at seventy-one can count among his friends many who have known him from boyhood. As a public-spirited and progressive citizen he has borne his part in the work of development and progress, displaying in all business, public and private relations of life the same loyalty and courage which marked his service on the southern battlefields.

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#### GOTTFRIED STAADT.

Gottfried Stadt, a well known druggist of Postville, conducting a profitable and growing business, was born in Post township, Allamakee county, February 21, 1857. He is a son of Anthony and Pauline (Verver) Stadt, natives of the Rhine Province, Germany, the father born January 7, 1821, and the mother, February 28, 1813. Anthony Stadt crossed the Atlantic in 1851, before his marriage, his future wife landing in New York a few months later. Their marriage occurred in that city and the father was afterward employed in a drug store there for a short time, retaining his position until he went to Wisconsin, settling in the vicinity of Sheboygan. In 1854 he came to Iowa, locating on a farm in Post township, two miles east of Postville, and this property he continued to improve and develop for twelve years, at the end of which time he turned his attention to business pursuits, opening a drug store in Conover. In 1866 he came to Postville, establishing a drug store in this city, which he continued to conduct successfully until his death, which occurred in December, 1902. He was well known in local politics and was especially interested in school affairs, serving for several years as president of the school board. He had long survived his wife, who passed away January 3, 1890. They were the parents of two children: Anthony, who was born October 28, 1853, and who died in Milwaukee, December 16, 1871; and Gottfried, of this review.

After acquiring an education in the public schools of Post township and Postville, Gottfried Stadt, at the age of sixteen, began his independent career, joining his father as a partner in the drug business in this city. He retained this connection until after his father's death, when he assumed entire charge of the enterprise, which he has since conducted alone. He carries a full stock of drugs and in addition has paid particular attention to his popular lines, which include

toilet articles, paints and oils. His excellent business and executive ability has contributed in a large measure to the success which has attended this enterprise, making it one of the largest and most important pharmacies in the city. He is also a stockholder in both of the banks of Postville and is a director in the Postville State Bank. He is connected with the Postville Clay Product Company and is the owner of some valuable farming property in Clayton county.

Mr. Staadt married, on the 9th of February, 1893, Miss Anna Welzel, born in Grand Meadow township, Clayton county, September 13, 1872, a daughter of John and Savina (Thoma) Welzel, natives of Bavaria, Germany. They came to America in early life and were married in Grand Meadow township, where the father turned his attention to farming, although he had been a meat cutter in his native country. He later retired from active business life and moved into Postville, where he died on December 18, 1906. His wife survives him and makes her home in this city with her daughter, Mrs. Staadt. He was active and prominent in local public affairs and held various important offices, including that of school treasurer, in which he served for a number of years. Mr. and Mrs. Staadt became the parents of four children: Anthony, born January 24, 1894, a graduate of Postville high school; Pauline, born January 16, 1896, who was graduated from the same institution in 1913; Edward, born October 23, 1899; and Catherine, born July 2, 1908.

Mr. Staadt gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and served for one term as a member of the city council. He is especially interested in educational matters and has done a great deal to promote the spread of public education in Postville through his long period of service as secretary of the school board, a position which he has held since 1885. Fraternally he is connected with the Masonic lodge, of which he is treasurer, with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is a member of the Turner Society and president of the Maennerchor. A resident of Postville during practically all his life, he is recognized as a representative and enterprising citizen of the community and is widely known by reason of the excellent establishment with which he is connected. His business methods have been such as neither seek nor require disguise, being at all times straightforward and honorable.

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#### JAMES M. BARR.

Not only has James M. Barr seen Allamakee county grow from a wilderness with only a few inhabitants into a rich agricultural district containing thousands of good homes and a number of growing towns, but he has participated in the slow, persistent work of development which was necessary to produce the change which has been so complete that Allamakee stands in the front ranks of the leading counties of the state of Iowa. Mr. Barr is numbered among its most honored pioneers and is further entitled to a place in this volume as a veteran of the Civil war, to whom the country owes a debt of gratitude that can never be forgotten and never fully repaid.

Mr. Barr was born in Glasgow, Scotland, June 26, 1843, and is a son of John C. Barr, of English ancestry but a native of the north of Ireland. The father was reared in Scotland and there married Katherine Allen, also a native of that country, coming from a long line of Scotch ancestors. John C. Barr emigrated to America in 1852 and went by way of New Orleans up the Mississippi river to Dubuque, where he worked in the lead mines for some time. He later came to Allamakee county, locating in Hanover township, where he took up two hundred and forty acres of raw land, which he cleared, fenced and improved, opening up a new farm, upon which he resided until his death.

James M. Barr's childhood was spent amid pioneer conditions and it was he who aided his father in breaking the raw prairie land. He had a five yoke team of oxen and a large breaking plow, which cut an eighteen inch furrow, and with this he accomplished a great deal of the initial work in the improvement of the homestead. When he was eighteen years of age, in August, 1861, he joined the Union army, enlisting in Company H, Ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, as a private. With his command he went south to St. Louis and into Benton Barracks, where the regiment was drilled and its organization completed in preparation for active field duty. It later followed General Price through Missouri and was first under fire at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, under command of General Curtis. There Mr. Barr received a slight gunshot wound in the left shoulder and the next day was wounded in the right leg. Though disabled for a time he did not leave the field. During his term of service he participated in thirty-three different battles besides the guerilla fights through Arkansas to Helena. He was in the thick of battle at Vicksburg, Jackson and Meridian, met the enemy again at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge and under General Sherman marched to the sea, fighting every day until Atlanta was reached. The regiment helped to drive General Johnson out of Resaca and was in the battles of Rome and Kenesaw Mountain. In the latter engagement Mr. Barr was wounded for the third time when a cannon ball struck the top of the rebel fortification knocking down a large log which struck Mr. Barr, causing serious and almost fatal injuries. He was confined to his tent for six weeks under treatment and was at death's door a number of times. However, he responded to roll call every day, his captain and comrades nursing and caring for him and answering to his name. This was not the only time Mr. Barr just escaped death, for in the charge at Vicksburg he received five bullets through his clothing, the shots coming so close that his skin was burned but not broken. He aided in taking Jonesboro and Atlanta and participated in the Carolina and Virginia campaigns. After Lee's surrender the troops marched to Richmond and thence to Washington, where they took part in the grand review at the close of the war. Mr. Barr was later sent to Louisville, Kentucky, where he was mustered out, receiving his honorable discharge at Clinton, Iowa, July 26, 1865.

After the war Mr. Barr returned to Allamakee county and purchased a threshing machine outfit, which he operated here, wearing out three machines before he abandoned that line of work. Eventually, however, he purchased land in Hanover township and opened up a new farm of one hundred and sixty acres, upon which he continued to reside for a number of years. When he disposed of it he removed to Howard county, where he purchased a wagon and blacksmith shop, which he conducted until 1900, when he refitted the place

for his sons, who now carry on the business. Mr. Barr resided in Howard county nineteen years but at the end of that time sold his interests there and removed to Duluth, where for two years he made his home with his daughter. At the end of that time he purchased forty acres of wild land in Douglas county, Wisconsin, on Eau Claire lake, a body of water clear as crystal, five miles in length, with a smooth and beautiful shore. Mr. Barr built a neat cabin near the lake and furnished it completely, making it an ideal summer retreat. He spends every summer on the lake shore, fishing in Eau Claire lake and hunting in the adjoining woods. In 1911 he purchased a lot in Waukon and upon it built a neat and comfortable home, in which he now resides, taking great delight in working upon and improving his place. He is his own house-keeper and has proven an excellent one, keeping his home neat and attractive in every respect. His leisure hours are spent in reading and his life is quiet, peaceful and happy, a fitting crown to his many years of honorable and useful labor.

In Hanover township, in 1871, Mr. Barr married Miss Anna Anderson, who was born in Christiania, Norway, but who was reared in Iowa. They became the parents of seven children. John C. is an extensive landowner in Wisconsin. Robert T. is a plumber in Osage, Iowa. Alfred is engaged in merchandising in Leonard, North Dakota. Ella K. grew to maturity and married, but has passed away, leaving two daughters, Mabel and Mary Flo. James died at the age of twenty-five years in Denver, Colorado, and Nellie died in Wisconsin at the same age. Aldine died December 1, 1910, when he was also twenty-five years of age. Mrs. Barr passed away in Howard county, July 26, 1903.

Mr. Barr was formerly a member of the Knights of Pythias, having helped to organize the lodge at Elma, Howard county, and he was also at one time identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He belongs to John J. Stillman Post, G. A. R., and thus keeps in touch with his comrades of the Civil war. His life record has at all times been a creditable one and in matters of citizenship he has displayed the same patriotic spirit which he manifested as a soldier on the battlefields of the south. In politics he has always been a staunch republican since reaching manhood.

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#### HON. WILLARD CHAUNCEY EARLE.

Probably no man is better known and more highly respected and esteemed in Waukon and throughout Allamakee county than Dr. Willard Chauncey Earle, for he is not only one of the pioneer physicians of this section of the state, but throughout a period of residence here covering fifty-nine years has been one of the greatest individual forces in its financial, commercial, political and moral development. His activities have touched and influenced in an important way practically every phase of municipal and county advancement and his great success has rewarded a life high in its purposes, beneficial in its effects and upright and honorable in all its relations. Had he no other claim to the respect of his fellow citizens, his long and loyal service in the Civil war would constitute a valid and lasting one.



WILLARD C. EARLE





Dr. Earle has been a resident of Waukon since 1854 but was born in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, October 7, 1833. His family is of old English origin and the line can be traced back directly to a Saxon ancestor who lived in Great Britain before the Norman conquest. It is also of old American establishment, its first representative in this country having settled in Newport, Rhode Island, as early as 1634. Members of the family were prominent in that state for a number of years, later moving to Massachusetts where Calvin Earle, father of the subject of this review was born February 1, 1790, his birth occurring in Hubbardstown. He there married Miss Betsy Foster and they later moved to Pennsylvania, locating in what is now Honesdale, that state. The father built the first house on the site where now stands a flourishing community of three thousand inhabitants. Calvin Earle made his home there until 1840 when he returned to Hubbardstown where he remained until he came west in 1858, joining his son Willard C. in Waukon. He here spent the remaining years of his life, dying in October, 1872.

In the acquirement of an education Willard Chauncey Earle attended public school in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts and later under a private tutor prepared to enter Brown University. He was obliged to abandon this intention on account of poor health, however, and instead joined his elder brother, J. W. Earle, and came west to Tiffin, Ohio, where both engaged in railroad work. In 1854 Willard C. Earle came from Ohio to Iowa and in June of that year located in Waukon, where he has since maintained his residence. His first investment here was in a sawmill and for some time thereafter he engaged in the manufacture of lumber in association with a partner. He afterwards purchased his partner's interest and conducted the business alone with great success until 1860.

Dr. Earle was among the first to respond to President Lincoln's call for volunteers for service in the Civil war and in October, 1861, joined Company B, Twelfth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, being elected captain. The regiment was sent to Dubuque, where it was drilled for a time, later going to St. Louis and thence to the southern battlefields. He participated in numerous important engagements, among which were the battles of Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Jackson, Black River Bridge, Champion's Hill and Vicksburg. After the latter engagement Captain Earle was ordered to raise a regiment of colored troops, the headquarters of which were to be with General Joseph Mower. He carried this work forward to successful completion and, much to his surprise, received the commission of colonel of the regiment, which was entirely unsolicited on his part. He afterward learned that it was at the request of Colonel J. J. Woods, of the Twelfth Iowa Infantry, and through the influence of General James Tuttle and General Mower that this honor had come to him. General Mower laid Colonel Earle under many and great obligations for advice and instructions in organizing this regiment, the general being a graduate of West Point, an ideal and efficient officer and a true-hearted patriot. The regiment participated in the battle of Natchez and in the campaigns along the Mississippi river and remained in active service until the close of the war. Colonel Earle has always found the greatest satisfaction in the thought and it is the sweetest memory of his life that he was able to help Abraham Lincoln to destroy the most powerful and infernal labor trust ever conceived by man

and, moreover, he finds his reward in the thought that the black man continues in his upward development as the years roll on and that as times passes the civilized world will better and better appreciate the magnificent grandeur of thought and beauty of soul of that honest and remarkable man, Abraham Lincoln, as he expressed and exemplified them in his life and actions.

With a creditable military record marked by brave, able and loyal service in the Union cause, Colonel Earle received his honorable discharge and returned to Waukon, whence he went to Chicago in order to enter Rush Medical College. He took a course of lectures in that institution in 1865-1866 and during the following winter spent some time at the Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia, where he completed his studies, graduating with the class of 1867. After receiving his degree he returned to Waukon and formed a partnership with Dr. I. H. Hedge, beginning the general practice of his profession in this city. His partner, who was one of the earliest physicians in Waukon, had built up an extensive patronage here and in the vicinity, and to Dr. Earle as the younger man fell a large portion of the long rides and midnight calls incident to a country practice. The two physicians later established a drug store and conducted it successfully for some time. Dr. Earle later purchased his partner's interest and in 1870 added to his stock a fine line of general merchandise, rapidly securing a lucrative trade. So steadily did this branch of his business expand that after seven years he erected a fine brick business house, in which he continued to conduct a separate mercantile concern for a number of years. Even at this time, however, this was not his only business connection, for as early as 1867 he had formed a partnership with his brother in the buying and shipping of stock and grain. J. W. Earle remained the active manager of this enterprise until his death in 1885 when the business was taken over by the subject of this review who continued to carry it on for some years.

Ever since beginning his active career Dr. Earle has been one of the leaders in all work of public development and many of the most important business and public institutions owe their inception and continued growth to his ability and enterprise. He was one of the promoters of the Waukon & Mississippi Railroad Company, which was built by subscriptions from Waukon and Allamakee county citizens. Dr. Earle gave largely of his time and means to promote this project and was one of the greatest individual forces in its successful completion. In Waukon he has built and is still the owner of a number of substantial business houses and has a comfortable residence in the city besides valuable holdings in Allamakee county farming land. All of his business interests are carefully and conservatively conducted and in their management he has met with that success which always results from ability, enterprise and well directed organizing power.

During his half a century of residence in this city Dr. Earle's interests have not been confined to lines of business development, for he has for many years been active in local politics, his influence being always on the side of progress and reform. After the close of the Civil war he identified himself with the republican party and supported its principles and policies for a number of years. In 1884, however, he allied his interests with democracy and, representing that party, was nominated and elected to the lower house of the nineteenth general assembly, receiving a majority of five hundred votes over his nearest oppo-

ment. After serving one term he was elected to fill out an unexpired term occasioned by the election of Mr. Larrabee to the office of governor, and he discharged his important duties with honor to himself and to the satisfaction of his constituents and friends. His political activity has always been of a constructive and progressive kind, and his public service has been beneficial and far-reaching in its results.

On January 1, 1860, Dr. Earle was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Augusta Hedge of Waukon, a daughter of Dr. Isaiah H. Hedge, one of the pioneer physicians of Allamakee county and one of the best known practitioners in Waukon for many years. Dr. and Mrs. Earle became the parents of three children. The eldest, Minnie Charlotte, is the wife of Grant C. Hemenway, for some time a lumber dealer in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and now a resident of Paris, France. They have three children, Charlotte, Willard and Genette. Dr. Earle has one son Carlton Hedge, who is a prominent business man in Waukon, where he is well known as cashier of the Citizens' Bank. William Allison Earle, youngest son in this family, died April 21, 1866.

Among the forces which have directed the growth of Waukon, and which have been the greatest contributing elements in the general advancement, Dr. Earle's fifty-nine years of continuous and well directed activity are of utmost importance, for they have affected politics, business and public morality and have elevated standards along all lines. Dr. Earle is well known and highly esteemed in the community where he makes his home and his name stands for all that is honorable and loyal in citizenship and upright and worthy in business relations.

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#### CARL HOLTER.

Mercantile interests of Postville find a progressive and able representative in Carl Holter, who for many years past has been closely connected with the clothing, gentlemen's furnishings and shoe business in the city, controlling today a large and representative enterprise. A native of Norway, he was born in Christiania, June 30, 1847, a son of Ole and Martha (Oleson) Holter, both born in the vicinity of that city. The father spent his entire life farming in Norway, dying in that country in 1860. The mother afterward crossed the Atlantic to America, settling in Postville in 1873, and continuing to make her home in the city until her death, which occurred about the year 1903.

Carl Holter supplemented an education acquired in the public schools of Norway by one winter's attendance after he came to America. He had, however, begun his independent career before crossing the Atlantic, having secured a position as clerk in a government office in his native country. After two years in that capacity he went to Christiania and was there employed in a grocery store, later becoming connected with a hat store in that capital. He came to the United States in 1869 and pushed westward to Chicago, where he remained for four months working at anything which would bring him an income. Having studied English while in Norway he had one advantage over many of his fellow emigrants and found that his knowledge of the language of the

country was a valuable asset to him in the beginning of his career here. From Chicago he went to Memphis, Tennessee, and there worked for six months in a large bakery, returning at the end of that time to Chicago. After two months he came to Postville, working upon a farm near the city for two years thereafter and then securing employment in a general store, a connection which he retained for ten years, although he spent one year during that time in River Falls, Wisconsin. Being ambitious to engage in business for himself, he founded the firm of Holter, Schultz & Welzel but after one year withdrew from this connection and established the clothing firm of Armstrong & Holter. This association continued from 1883 to 1892, at which time Mr. Holter purchased his partner's interest and assumed entire control of the business. He has conducted it alone since that time and controls an important and growing trade accorded him in recognition of his full and complete line of goods, his modern and progressive business methods and his courteous service. Always a progressive and public-spirited citizen, he has taken a great interest in the growth of Postville's business institutions and aided in the organization of the Citizens State Bank, of which he is now a director. He has not, however, varied outside interests, preferring to devote all of his attention to the conduct of his store, with the result that he is numbered today among the substantial merchants of the community.

On the 22d of May, 1883, Mr. Holter married Miss Mary Marston, who was born in Post township, October 26, 1854, a daughter of James C. and Nancy Maria (Fisher) Marston, natives of New York state. The father was a prosperous farmer and also a local preacher. He came as a pioneer to Post township, he and his wife being among the first settlers there, and both died in the community where they had so long made their home. Mr. and Mrs. Holter are the parents of a daughter, Edna, born April 23, 1884. She is the wife of W. H. Burling, an attorney in Postville, and they have one son, Carl Frederick, born November 21, 1912.

Fraternally Mr. Holter is connected with the blue lodge of Masons, in Postville, with the chapter at Elgin and the commandery at West Union. He was formerly connected with other important fraternal organizations but has now withdrawn from membership. He is a progressive republican in his political views and for twelve years did straightforward, able and businesslike work as a member of the Postville city council. He is one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of the community where he has so long resided. His record is, indeed, a commendable one and the most envious cannot criticise his business or political accomplishments. His course has been characterized by the strictest fidelity to principle and in social relations he displays an unflinching courtesy and cordiality which have won for him many friends.

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#### CARL WILLIAM MEIER.

Carl William Meier is one of the enterprising merchants of Postville, where he is conducting a large dry-goods store, and this and his other business interests combine to make him a leading and enterprising citizen of the community, his alert and progressive spirit enabling him to carry forward to successful completion

whatever he undertakes. He was born in Clayton county, May 14, 1850, and is a son of Christian J. and Elizabeth (Runger) Meier, natives of Germany, the former born in Prussia, May 13, 1825, and the latter in the province of Hanover, January 7, 1827. In early life the father turned his attention to farming. On coming to America he located in Ohio, near Portsmouth, in 1845 and engaged in digging iron ore until he came to Iowa. He met with an accident while chopping wood, injuring his ankle and becoming incapacitated for heavy physical labor. He was therefore compelled to learn a trade and engaged in shoemaking for a time. It was in 1849 that he came to Clayton county, Iowa, and purchased land, but he lived upon the farm only a short time, returning then to Ohio. In April, 1850, he again took up his residence in this state and continued to reside on his first farm until January, 1866, when he bought another place, living thereon until he retired from active life in 1884. He spent his last days in Postville, where his death occurred in September, 1911. He had survived his wife since 1906. They were parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this review is the oldest.

Carl W. Meier attended school in Farmersburg township, Clayton county, and supplemented this by one term at National. He remained at home until 1873 and then purchased a farm, engaging in agricultural pursuits upon that property until 1883, when he removed to Allamakee county, locating on an excellent tract of land in Post township. In 1892 he rented his farm and removed to Postville, where he engaged in the furniture business for two years, selling out in the fall of 1895 and conducting a similar establishment in Farmersburg for about one year. Turning his business over to his son at the end of that time, he returned to his farm in Post township but in 1902 again located in Farmersburg, where he conducted a large and important general merchandise store until 1908, when he disposed of his interests and came again to Postville. Here he purchased the remnants of a general stock of merchandise and he has since added to his store and enlarged his stock, carrying now a full and complete line of goods, his enterprise being one of the largest and best managed in the city.

Mr. Meier was married, September 8, 1871, to Miss Louisa Hedeman, a native of southern Illinois, born February 29, 1852. She is a daughter of Frederick and Helena (Brenner) Hedeman, natives of Oldenburg, Germany. The father crossed the Atlantic in the late '30s but after a few years returned to Germany, making his second crossing with his wife about 1843. For ten years thereafter they lived upon a farm in southern Illinois but in 1853 came to Garnavillo township, Clayton county, Iowa, where the father became an extensive landowner and a prosperous farmer, giving all his attention to agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred about 1893 or 1894. His wife survived him two years, her death also occurring upon the homestead. They had six children, of whom the wife of the subject of this review is the fourth in the order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Meier became the parents of six children: Louisa, the wife of F. L. Eaton, proprietor of a restaurant and cafe in Spencer; Christian, ex-county treasurer of Clayton county and now a prosperous farmer in Montana; Amanda, the wife of Alonzo Phillips, clerking in the store of our subject; George J. and Irene M., who reside at home; and Wilbur, deceased.

Mr. Meier gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has held various important local offices, serving as trustee of Post township for three terms and for a number of years as constable. He belongs to the Masonic order at Farmersburg and is connected also with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. All of his life has been spent in Iowa and although his career offers no spectacular chapters, he yet belongs to that class of substantial and representative citizens who constitute the real strength of any community by reason of their business activity, their loyalty in citizenship and the honor and integrity of their private lives.

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#### GILBERT SWENSON.

Among the progressive and enterprising young farmers of Allamakee county is numbered Gilbert Swenson, who owns and operates a fine property in Post township. Upon this he has resided since he was seven years of age and its excellent condition at the present time is largely due to the care, skill and practical knowledge which he has displayed in its management. He was born in Franklin township, this county, on the 25th of February, 1878, and is a son of Jargen and Mary (Gilbertson) Swenson, natives of Norway, the former born on the 10th of May, 1839, and the latter in Christiania on the 22d of October, 1848. The father crossed the Atlantic when he was twenty-two years of age and, locating near Madison, Wisconsin, worked in the employ of others for about one year, after which he came to Iowa, settling in Grand Meadow township, Clayton county, in pioneer times. He rented land in that locality and after a number of years purchased a farm in Franklin township, just across the line from Post township, and there he resided for ten years, becoming one of the representative and prosperous agriculturists of the community. Eventually, however, he removed to South Dakota, taking up his residence near Chamberlain, that state, but at the end of three months he returned to Iowa, settling on the farm where the subject of this review now resides. In October, 1912, he retired from active business life and removed to Clermont, where he still resides.

Gilbert Swenson acquired his education in the West Grove district school of Post township. He has lived upon his present farm since he was seven years of age and from his childhood assisted with the work of its cultivation, early becoming familiar with the best agricultural methods. At twenty-three he rented and assumed the management of the home farm and in the fall of 1912 bought the property, whereon he has continued to reside to the present time. Being progressive and enterprising, he has carried on its cultivation along modern and practical lines and has made substantial improvements upon it, erecting a modern residence, fine barns and outbuildings and installing the necessary machinery. He carries on general farming, giving a great deal of attention to the raising of cattle, horses and hogs, and his business interests, being carefully and capably conducted, have brought him a gratifying measure of success. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Store and the canning factory in Postville and is connected also with the Luana Creamery Company and the Elgin State Bank.

On the 24th of October, 1912, Mr. Swenson was united in marriage to Miss Tillie Gunderson, who was born in Clermont township, Fayette county, Iowa, on the 21st of October, 1888. She is a daughter of Arney and Anna (Gunderson) Gunderson, natives of Norway, the former born on the 22d of February, 1848, and the latter on the 24th of February, 1845. At the age of nine the father crossed the Atlantic with his parents and located with them in Fayette county, where he grew to manhood, becoming an extensive landowner and a prosperous farmer. He served as county supervisor for one term and was also representative from his district to the state legislature. He is still prominent and active in public affairs and is doing capable and progressive work as a member of the school board.

Mr. Swenson gives his political allegiance to the republican party and, although not an office seeker, is interested in the growth and development of his native county. He is still a young man but is already numbered among the progressive and successful agriculturists of Post township, and his record is a credit to a name that has been honored and respected in Allamakee county since pioneer times.

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#### PETER J. BEUCHER.

Peter J. Beucher, mayor of Postville and connected with business interests as the proprietor of a profitable real-estate enterprise in Postville, is a native son of the city, born just across the line in Clayton county, May 17, 1865, his parents being Mathias and Louisa (Koevnig) Beucher, both of whom were born in Trier, Germany, the father, May 10, 1830, and the mother, December 8, 1835. They came to Allamakee county in 1856 and were among the early settlers in this section, settling near what was then the early Old Mission, or Sixteen. The father turned his attention to farming, later moving to Springfield, where in connection with the conduct of his farm he operated a small brewery. In 1866 he came to Postville and was in charge of the city schools for some years, conducting also a profitable hardware store until 1885, when he put aside the cares of active life and lived retired until his death, August 1, 1901. His wife survives him and makes her home in Postville, being now in the seventy-eighth year of her age.

Peter J. Beucher was reared in Postville and acquired his education in the local schools. At the age of twenty-one he began his independent career, establishing himself in the hotel business, in which he continued for a short time, eventually trading his hotel for land. At the same time he purchased a dray line which, after operating it for three years, he sold, turning his attention at that time to the butcher business. In this he engaged for a year or two, after which he became identified with the real-estate business, buying and selling city property and farming lands. He handles a great deal of city property and, being an excellent judge of land values as well as a resourceful and far-sighted business man, has made his enterprise profitable not only to himself but to his clients also. For fifteen years he was a wholesale dealer of Pabst beer but he has now abandoned that line of business. He is a director in the Citizens State

Bank of Postville and is connected with five other financial institutions, most of which are located in Iowa. He has extensive holdings in Minnesota lands and city property in Postville and recently disposed of a large tract in Fayette county. His business interests are conducted in a capable and progressive way and his success places him in the front ranks of the substantial men of this community.

In December, 1886, Mr. Beucher married Miss Lena Olson, who was born in Norway in February, 1866. Her father died when she was still an infant and her mother married again, coming to America soon afterward. Mrs. Beucher died May 1, 1909, leaving six children. Louisa, born September 17, 1887, married Lynn S. McEwen, cashier of the Citizens State Bank of Postville. Otto J. operates a dray line in this city. Leo is paying teller in the Citizens State Bank. Charlotte lives at home. Harry and Helen are attending school.

Although Mr. Beucher has been very successful in business affairs he has not by any means confined his attention to this one line of work but has constituted himself also an active force in local politics. He gives his allegiance to the democratic party but is capable of independent action when the occasion demands it. He is now in the second term of his service as mayor of Postville and is giving to the city a straightforward, progressive and constructive administration. Fraternally he is connected with Decorah Lodge, No. 443, B. P. O. E., and with Postville Lodge, No. 204, F. & A. M., being thoroughly in sympathy with the principles of brotherly love upon which these orders are founded. He is a man of high integrity and business and political honor and he enjoys in the highest measure the respect of all who know him. That many of his staunchest friends are those who have known him from childhood is an evidence that his has been an honorable and upright life and that he is in every way worthy of the respect and esteem in which he is uniformly held.

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### JOHN H. HALE.

One of the early residents of Waukon and a man who has many claims to the honor and respect of his fellow citizens is John H. Hale, who came to the city in 1865 after a long and honorable period of service in the Civil war and who from that time to the present has been a central figure in mercantile circles here. For almost half a century he has witnessed the work of development and progress which has transformed the community and to an important extent has been identified with it, working along constructive and progressive lines through many active and honorable years until today he stands among the substantial and successful men of the city he aided in upbuilding.

Mr. Hale was born in Hartford, Connecticut, September 26, 1838, and acquired his education in Wilson Seminary in Massachusetts. He took a course in civil engineering and after completing it came west to Wisconsin in the fall of 1856, locating in La Crosse on the 10th of October of that year. He there engaged in important engineering work on the Milwaukee Railroad and afterward was identified with the construction of the Root River Valley Road. In 1859





JOHN H. HALE



he went to Texas and practiced his profession there until the outbreak of the Civil war. In 1861 he enlisted in the Union army, joining Company D, Thirteenth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and as a private was sent to the front. He participated in numerous engagements, including the battles of Shiloh, Chickamauga and Mission Ridge and was with Sherman on his march to the sea. At Chickamauga he received a gunshot wound in the leg. He came to Waukon and married in February, 1864, and almost immediately afterward returned to the front and, rejoining his command, served until the close of the war. He won promotion from the rank of private to that of second and then first lieutenant and was afterward captain and acting major through the Carolinas. He marched with his regiment to Washington, where he took part in the famous grand review, afterward receiving his honorable discharge at Jackson, Michigan, on July 25, 1865. John H. Hale was related to Nathan Hale of Revolutionary fame.

With this credible military record Mr. Hale came to Waukon and soon afterward engaged in merchandising, an occupation with which he has now been identified for forty-eight years. Under the firm name of J. H. Hale & Company he established a small business which he enlarged with his increasing trade until he now has one of the largest dry-goods concerns in the city. For years C. W. Jenkins was a member of the firm and since his death the name of the firm has been J. H. Hale & Sons. A few years ago he erected a fine modern building to accommodate his growing patronage and on two of the floors carries an immense stock of goods which is well selected and tastefully arranged. Each year has seen an increase in the volume and importance of his business, which now amounts to more than fifty thousand dollars annually. Many changes have been made in the firm name since 1865, the title being today J. H. Hale & Sons, assumed when Mr. Hale admitted his two sons as partners.

Although he has won notable success as a merchant Mr. Hale has done equally important work in civil engineering during the years of his residence in Waukon. When the Waukon & Milwaukee Railroad was built into the city by private subscription he had charge of the engineering and construction work and he was also assistant engineer in charge of the construction of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy and the Wisconsin Central. In his early years he delighted to leave his store and go into the open to work on engineering projects and he continued his activity in this line until 1905, when he met with an accident, having been run over by an engine and sustaining the loss of his right arm. He is numbered among the notably successful men of Waukon, owning, besides his business and the property upon which his store is located, a fine modern residence.

In February, 1864 Mr. Hale married Miss Henrietta M. Huestis, a native of Nova Scotia, who came here with her parents when young, and they have three children: Emily H., the wife of E. F. Wedary, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work; and Charles J. and W. H., partners in their father's business. Charles J. Hale is married and has four children, three sons and a daughter. Mrs. John H. Hale has since been called to her final rest.

Mr. Hale has been for many years identified with the republican party and is in sympathy with the progressive wing of the organization. He is a member of the Loyal Legion of Honor. His wife belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. He has been at all times interested in the welfare of the city and has

given his active cooperation to many movements for the public good, while his efforts in behalf of general improvement have been effective and far reaching. Living in Waukon for forty-eight years, he is one of the best known citizens in the locality, being widely recognized as a man of tried integrity and worth, of business enterprise and unflinching diligence. His fellow townsmen honor and respect him and wherever he is known he has an extensive circle of friends. Moreover, he deserves mention in this volume as one of the veterans of the Civil war, to whom the country owes a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid.

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#### ARTHUR S. BURDICK.

There is no one more popular or better known in Postville, Iowa, than Arthur S. Burdick, who for the past twelve years has been the faithful and efficient postmaster of that place of which he is a native son, born July 18, 1875. He has been identified throughout his entire life with the interests of that locality, where he attended the public schools as a boy, worked at various occupations and served an apprenticeship in the office of the Postville Review. He also took a course at Valder Business College to round out his education. Shortly after the death of his father, who was then postmaster of Postville, he was appointed to that office, having the unique distinction of being the youngest man ever called upon to fill such a position by presidential appointment. Mr. Burdick was first appointed by President McKinley, was reappointed by President Roosevelt and received his third appointment at the hands of President Taft. Conscientious, capable and painstaking, he is accurate in the performance of his duties and accommodating in his ways with the public. He is intensely loyal to Postville, and has taken an active part in various enterprises which have gained for his city the reputation of a live and progressive community.

Mr. Burdick is a son of William Nelson Burdick, without mention of whom no history of Allamakee county would be complete. One of the pioneer editors of this district, the father was a man of more than local fame, for his influence in politics and journalism was felt throughout the state, especially among newspaper men, and he was readily recognized as one of the strongest and most able editorial writers in Iowa. His command of English, his clear thought and fearless expression marked him as one of the great writers of the country press and it is not too much to say that for many years Postville was largely known throughout the state of Iowa as the home of Burdick, of the Postville Review. Mr. Burdick was born near Buffalo, New York, in 1835, and migrated with his family to Illinois when still a youth, later coming to Iowa and settling near West Union. Later he removed to New Oregon, Howard county, at a time before the railroad had penetrated that section and all supplies were brought by team from McGregor. When the railroad came Mr. Burdick removed with other inhabitants of New Oregon to the new town of Cresco, of which he became the first postmaster and where he began his remarkable career as a publisher, editing the Howard County Times. He later published the Wineshiek County Register and in 1875 moved to Postville, purchasing the Review

and there beginning the work which gained him such a reputation among the thinking people of the state.

While in Cresco W. N. Burdick was married to Miss Amy E. Halstead, the loving helpmate who survives him and who was to him such a loyal, helpful and intelligent coworker in all that he undertook. In 1897 he was appointed postmaster of Postville, a position which he filled most acceptably without relinquishing his editorial work until his death, which occurred in 1899. His memory is still revered and held dear by the people of Postville and hundreds of old-time friends in all parts of the state.

Arthur S. Burdick the subject of this review, was, on May 10, 1899, united in marriage to Miss Lillian Riley and their home has been blessed by a son, Edward, who is now a promising lad of thirteen years. A man of strongly marked character, Mr. Burdick has become a forceful element in the business and public life of his community where his sterling traits of character have won him the high regard and confidence of all who have had social or business relations with him. He is a loyal son of his native city, in the advancement and development of which he has been a serviceable factor and which he has served in an official capacity for so many years with faithfulness and with conspicuous ability.

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#### JAMES BRIAR.

Throughout a period of residence of fifty-eight years in Allamakee county James Briar has gained the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens, being numbered today among the section's most honored pioneers. He has been one of the greatest forces in agricultural development for more than half a century, making substantial contributions to the county's resources by opening up and developing two fine farms. He is, moreover, entitled to representation in this volume through his worthy and loyal service on southern battlefields during the Civil war.

Mr. Briar is a native of New York and was born in Albany, October 28, 1838. When he was only five years of age he moved with his parents to Oswego county, where they located upon a farm and where he grew to manhood. He acquired his education in the district schools, attending during the winter months and spending his summers aiding in the operation of the homestead. He gained in this way a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the details of farming and this early experience has been invaluable to him in the course of his later career. In 1855 he came west as a young man and located in Allamakee county, where for several years he worked out on a farm, his principal duties consisting of breaking the prairie land with ox teams. He continued at this occupation until August 13, 1862, when he joined the Union army, enlisting in Company A, Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry. Soon after his company was sent to Dubuque, where its organization was completed and where it drilled for some time, afterward being sent north to Minneapolis as a guard to the paymaster, who brought money to the Indians. The company was afterward sent to Memphis, Tennessee, where it spent the winter, and in the following year it

participated in the siege of Vicksburg and under General Sherman went to Jackson, Mississippi. Returning to Memphis, it was made a member of Banks' expedition up the Red river and it took part in a two days' battle and in numerous skirmishes and minor engagements before it was again sent to Memphis and thence to Tupelo, where it was in the thick of battle. Mr. Briar afterward went with his regiment to St. Louis and was in the raid through Missouri after Price's army, driving that general out of the state. He then returned to St. Louis and from there went down the river to New Orleans and thence to Mobile and Spanish Fort. He aided in the capture of Fort Blakely and was afterward sent to Montgomery, Alabama, where his regiment remained until the close of the war. After Lee's surrender it was sent north to Clinton, Iowa, and there mustered out, Mr. Briar receiving his honorable discharge.

After the close of the war Mr. Briar returned home and for three years engaged in farming, cultivating the old home place. At the end of that time he moved to Waukon, where for five years he engaged in teaming, later again turning his attention to general farming. He purchased a tract of land three miles south of the city, which he farmed and improved for some time, exchanging it finally for a larger place. To this he made substantial additions from time to time, owning finally two hundred acres of productive land. This he fenced into six fields surrounded by barbed wire fences, erected a large residence, a substantial barn and a number of outbuildings, making it one of the best equipped and most valuable farming properties in this vicinity. He continued to reside thereon until 1894, when he moved to Waukon, where he has since made his home. He later sold his farm and retired from active life, having earned leisure and rest by many years of honorable and worthy labor.

In the fall of 1865 Mr. Briar married Miss Sarah A. Gates, a daughter of Samuel Gates and a sister of Mrs. Hugh McCabe, of whom more extended mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Briar was born in Decatur county, Indiana, but came to Allamakee county when she was thirteen years of age. She and her husband became the parents of eleven children, ten of whom are still living; William H., who is in the real-estate business in Mason City; Samuel D., who resides in Sawyer, South Dakota; Joseph H., who is in business in Winona; Julia, the wife of A. P. Denning, of Heyburn, Idaho; James Elmer, who served as bugler in a Waukon company during the Spanish-American war and who is now engaged in farming in Buford, North Dakota; Charles C., of Berthold, North Dakota; Adelia May, the wife of E. R. Pierce, of Idaho; Asa L., who is associated with his brother, Joseph H., in the marble business in Winona; Arthur L., a commercial traveler with headquarters in Minneapolis; and A. J., a farmer in Buford, North Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Briar lost a daughter, Elizabeth, who died in infancy.

Politically Mr. Briar is affiliated with the republican party and has always taken an active part in public affairs. While still upon his farm he was elected township trustee and road supervisor and for many years has been identified with school matters, serving as one of the school directors. He has been a delegate to numerous county conventions and has done able work on the grand and petit juries. Fraternally he is connected with John J. Stillman Post, G. A. R., and is now senior vice commander. His wife is a member of the Women's Relief Corps and has been on the official board for a number of years. Mr.

Briar has resided in Allamakee county for nearly sixty years and his interests are thoroughly identified with those of this section. He has witnessed a great deal of the growth and development of the county and in all work of progress has borne his full share both by his individual labors and his active cooperation in progressive public measures. No man in Waukon is more widely and favorably known than he, whose good citizenship displayed on southern battlefields has survived unabated for over half a century.

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### JOHN HARNACK.

John Harnack, one of the most wealthy and prominent citizens of Postville, where he lives retired, was born in Clayton county, Iowa, October 29, 1857, and is a son of Christ and Dora (Sasz) Harnack, natives of Mecklenburg, Germany, the former born July 21, 1817, and the latter November 11, 1822. Both crossed the Atlantic in the same vessel but did not meet until they reached Clayton county, Iowa, the mother having made the journey with her uncle, who settled in Gutenberg. The father also became a resident of that community and there worked at cutting cord wood during the winters and spending his summers as a laborer in a stone quarry, receiving for this work fifty cents per day. After his marriage he worked for several years in the employ of others but eventually was obliged on account of his failing health to turn his attention to farming. He rented land near Garnavillo, in Clayton county, and remained upon it for a few years, later purchasing an eighty acre tract of land near Elkader. This was entirely unimproved, but with characteristic energy Mr. Harnack set himself to the task of developing it. With a yoke of oxen he made trips to McGregor and there purchased lumber, with which he built the first house upon the homestead, in which he lived five years. There he carried on the cultivation of his farm, facing with confidence and courage the hardships and difficulties incident to pioneer existence. During the first years he was obliged to keep his seed corn under his bed in order to save it from the depredations of the many squirrels which fed upon it if it were left uncovered. Eventually he replaced his first house by a two-room cabin of hewed logs and a few years later he sold the farm for two thousand dollars, having in the meantime cleared and improved it to a remarkable extent. He afterward purchased a one hundred acre farm in the same vicinity and upon it he resided for three years, at the end of which time he sold the property, buying one hundred and sixty acres in the same township near Clayton Center. This he improved and developed until 1878, when he disposed of the land and purchased two hundred and seven and three quarters acres in Grand Meadow township, Clayton county, upon which he resided until 1886, when he rented the farm and moved into Postville, where he has since lived retired. For some time he owned another farm in Fayette county, just across the county line, but this he sold to his son in 1885. He and his wife still make their home in Postville, where they are numbered among the prominent and representative citizens. In their family were seven children: Bernhardt, who died in infancy; John, of this review; Sophia, the wife of August Dahl, a retired farmer living in Postville; Ida, who married John Krambeer, who lives upon his farm in Post township; Anna, the

wife of Joseph Schultz, a farmer of Winneshiek county; Emma, who married Louis Meier, engaged in farming in Post township; and Mary, who after the death of her first husband, Henry Brandt, wedded John Schroder, a retired farmer living in Postville.

John Harnack spent his childhood upon his father's farm, dividing his time in his youth between his studies at the Garnavillo district school and work in the operation of the homestead. He afterward spent two winters in the German school at Clayton Center and was still later a student in the district school near Clayton. He remained at home until after his marriage, which occurred in 1885, and he then purchased from his father eighty acres of land in Fayette county. After one year, however, he returned home and rented his father's homestead, operating both farms for some time and finally selling his own eighty acre tract. He afterward purchased a farm one mile west of Postville, his two hundred acres lying partly in Winneshiek and partly in Allamakee county. Upon this property he carried on general agricultural pursuits for eight years, his industry and practical methods winning for him a gratifying degree of success, and gaining him a place among the representative and substantial agriculturists of the region. At the end of that time, however, he rented out the property and moved into Postville, where he became connected with business interests as an employe of Henry Eckert in the latter's implement concern. He made good use of his time and opportunities, and his industry, diligence and energy resulted in his acquiring a comfortable competence, which enabled him to lay aside the cares of active business life. He now makes his home in one of the most modern and attractive residences in the city and he gives most of his time to the management and supervision of his extensive real-estate interests, which include not only his two hundred acre farm but also his residence and a number of valuable lots in Postville.

On the 14th of April, 1885, Mr. Harnack married Miss Maggie Thoma, who was born in Reed township, Clayton county, June 17, 1864. She is a daughter of Fred and Katherina (Pesch) Thoma, both natives of the kingdom of Bavaria, Germany, who in early life crossed the Atlantic to America, settling in Clayton county on a farm. This property the father operated until about the year 1887, when he moved to Postville, where he lived retired until his death, which occurred in 1893. He had long survived his wife, who passed away in 1878. Mrs. Harnack was one of nine children, two of whom died in infancy. The others are: George, a farmer in Post township; Anna, the widow of Charles Schultz, formerly a retired farmer living in Postville; Conrad, a resident of Chicago; Savina, the wife of Louis Saulsgaber, a resident of Minnesota; Fred, who makes his home in Omaha, Nebraska; and John, also a resident of Omaha. After the death of his first wife the father was again married, and to this union was born one child, Paulina, who married Bruce Klingman, steward of the Elks Club at Clinton, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Harnack became the parents of four children: Sadie K. E., who was born June 8, 1887, and who died November 26, 1894; Libbie, whose birth occurred on the 4th of November, 1888, and who died November 22, 1894; Fred, who was born February 11, 1892, and died November 22, 1894; and Hulda, who was born January 3, 1896, and who is now attending the Postville high school, from which she was graduated in June, 1913.



Mr. Harnack gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and, although he has never aspired to public office, he served for four years as a member of the city council. Fraternally he is connected with the Turner Society at Postville and his religious views are in accord with the doctrines of the Lutheran church. He stands high in the regard of the people of this community and his progressive spirit, his high standards of honor and integrity and his many sterling qualities of mind and character have won him the respect and esteem of all who are in any way associated with him.

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### GEORGE WATERS.

One of the most able, active and progressive of Allamakee county's native sons is George Waters, who now owns and operates a fine farm of one hundred and forty acres in Post township and who in partnership with his brother has other extensive holdings in this locality. No one is better known as a successful breeder and shipper of registered cattle and high-grade horses and the business affairs which claim his attention are all well managed and systematically conducted, bringing to him a prosperity which places him among the men of worth and affluence in this section of the state.

Mr. Waters was born in Ludlow township, this county, on the 21st of August, 1858, and is a son of George and Sophia (Hill) Waters, natives of County Wicklow, Ireland, the former born October 23, 1824, and the latter July 29, 1832. In early life the father was a member of the police force in County Wicklow but in 1854 crossed the Atlantic to America, settling first in Pennsylvania, where for four years he worked in the coal mines. In 1858 he came west to Iowa and purchased a small farm of thirty acres in Ludlow township, Allamakee county, which he improved and cultivated for a number of years. In the spring of 1870 he disposed of that property and removed one mile north in the same township, engaging in farming there until his death, which occurred January 4, 1887. His wife survived him some time, dying October 3, 1910. In their family were eleven children, of whom the subject of this review is the third in the order of birth.

George Waters acquired his education in the district schools of Ludlow township and from an early age was a practical and able agriculturist, having aided in the operation of the homestead and afterward working at farm labor in the employ of others. When he was about twenty-four years of age he operated a threshing machine throughout his locality and afterward purchased eighty acres of land, which he cultivated and improved for two years. At the end of that time he sold his property and rented his present farm, afterward purchasing this tract of land, upon which he has resided continuously since that time. This comprises one hundred and forty acres and in addition Mr. Waters is a partner with his brother Edward in the ownership of the Willow Lawn Stock Farm, a highly improved property of three hundred and forty-nine acres. The brothers are extensively engaged in the cattle and horse business here, breeding registered Hereford cattle, which they ship to all parts of the United States, their principal markets being the central states. They are also large

buyers and shippers of all kinds of horses and both are reliable, enterprising and successful business men, managing capably the important concerns with which they are connected. In addition to his work as a stock-raiser and agriculturist Mr. Waters is also a professional auctioneer and has attained a wide reputation in this field, being frequently called to other states. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Company at Postville and in the Citizens State Bank of that city and his activities, extending to many fields, are important as elements in the general advancement.

On the 13th of December, 1882, Mr. Waters married Miss Eliza Eaton, who was born in Post township on the 13th of December, 1861. She is the daughter of Wells and Mary (Wood) Eaton, natives of Nova Scotia, Canada, the former born March 2, 1822, and the latter April 14, 1825. The father in early life worked at calking vessels in Nova Scotia but in 1845 came to the United States, locating in Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming. He was also a pioneer in Iowa, coming to this state in 1853 and locating upon a farm in Post township, Allamakee county, whereon he continued to reside until his death, which occurred on the 6th of May, 1881. He was one of the leading promoters and organizers of Bethel church, was elected a member of its first board of trustees and served in that position until his death. His wife afterward removed to Postville, where her death occurred May 14, 1904. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom the wife of our subject is the eighth in the order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Waters have two children: Cloy E., who was born April 27, 1894; and Eaton A., born July 29, 1902.

Mr. Waters is a member of the American Hereford Cattle Breeders Association of Kansas City, Missouri, but beyond this has no fraternal or club affiliations. He is a man of exemplary character and genuine personal worth and his long residence in this part of Iowa has brought him success in business and the respect, confidence and regard of all who are associated with him.

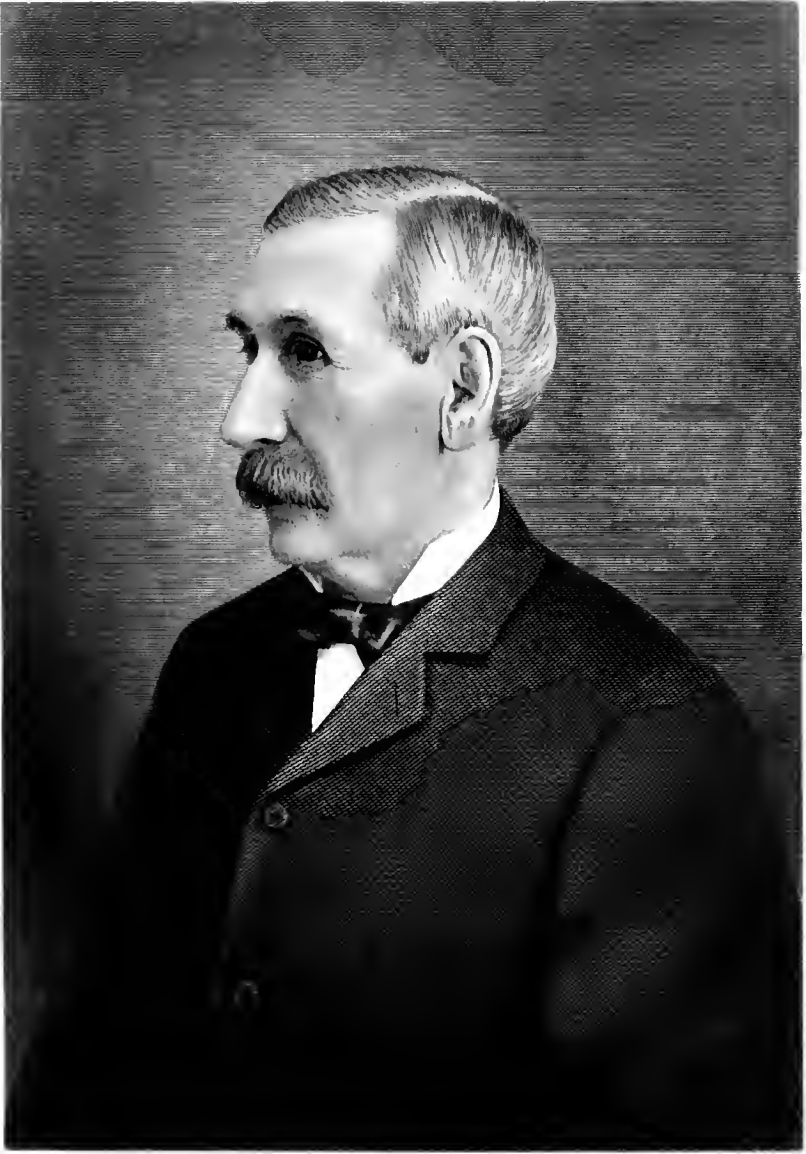
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### JAMES McEWEN.

On October 31, 1912, occurred the death of James McEwen and thereby was removed from the life of the city of Postville a man greatly beloved and greatly trusted. As financial adviser and friend he stood in the same relation to the people as does a family physician or spiritual adviser. They gave him their entire confidence and he never betrayed a trust or failed a friend, for the keynote of his character was scrupulous and conscientious honesty. He was quiet, kindly, liberal in his views, conservative in action and staunch in the support of what he believed to be right.

The story of his life is an interesting one. It began in Canada, at River Rouge, in the province of Quebec, July 25, 1830, his parents being William and Catherine (McClaren) McEwen, both of Scotch descent. The parents were of the plain people but they bequeathed to their son those good old traits of Scotch character—thrift, industry, hardiness, honesty and enterprise.

James McEwen worked with his father in his early youth, taking advantage of the public-school courses offered in the vicinity and at the early age of sixteen



*Jas M. Brown*

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engaged in teaching. In 1854 he came to the United States, spending his first year in Wisconsin working on various farms, and in 1855 came to Iowa, after which time his life was identified with the history of Winneshiek, Clayton and Allamakee counties. The next few years were spent in teaching during the winter months and in work for various people during the summer. In 1860, like many another adventurous youth, he became inspired with the desire to go to the west and court fortune in a search for precious metals. He spent a year prospecting in the vicinity of Pike's Peak and it was there that fortune stood at his elbow, but he knew it not. Working with meager results, he became dissatisfied and sold for five dollars a claim which in a short time made wealthy the man who bought it. What would have been Mr. McEwen's history had he worked that claim but a few days longer, no man may know, but this we do know—that while this good fortune was withheld from him, it was still reserved for him to lead an honored, helpful and useful life and fill an important place in the history of development of Allamakee county.

Returning to Iowa, the next winter found him at Milliken's Bend, Mississippi, chopping wood, for he was not afraid of work, and teaching, for that was second nature to him. This time, however, he taught little colored children and the children of the planter with whom he lived. It was unlawful to teach the negro children in the state of Mississippi in those days, but he did it, and we believe he never regretted that he broke the law. At this time came the outbreak of the great war. It was unsafe for a northern man and an abolitionist, such as Mr. McEwen was, to remain in the south, and upon the friendly advice of the planter, he hastened to leave Mississippi, running the blockade on the last boat that came north. He returned to Iowa and resumed his former work. He was not a naturalized citizen of the United States at that time and he did not feel it his duty to enter the army. He attended Fayette College for a short time, being in the same class with Hon. D. B. Henderson, but war conditions closed the school and Mr. McEwen returned to work.

On the 17th of October, 1863, Mr. McEwen was married to Miss Maria Styles, a daughter of Timothy and Hannah (Shaw) Styles, well known pioneers of Allamakee county. They were from New York state and Mrs. McEwen was born at Whitesville, that state. At the time of her marriage to our subject the family lived at Henderson Prairie, a postoffice in Fayette county. The young people went to housekeeping on a farm, Mr. McEwen still engaging in teaching during the winter months. In 1867 they purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres about a mile east of Postville and here they lived and prospered, moving to the city in 1878. Mr. McEwen entered into two partnerships about this time. Under the name of Styles & McEwen he became interested in a drug business which was conducted at Postville for about a year, when the stock was removed to Calmar. At the same time he was also interested in a dry-goods store under the firm name of Skelton & McEwen in Postville. To this latter enterprise he gave his personal attention, succeeding well as a merchant. In 1887 several business men of Postville established the Northeastern Iowa Loan & Trust Company and Mr. McEwen succeeded to the management of this concern, which was in successful operation for about five years. At the end of this time the charter expired and the business had grown to such an extent that it was considered best to carry on its affairs through the medium

of a bank, and the Citizens State Bank of Postville was accordingly organized, Mr. McEwen being made the cashier upon the establishment of the institution and serving as such to the time of his death. He gave to the bank his personal and careful attention and there was no detail connected with the business too unimportant to be solicitously considered. He became one of the foremost financial men and one of the largest factors in the life of Postville and could always be found in the front rank of those promoting the interests of the city—material, moral or intellectual—although he was too modest to seek political honors and too philosophical to care for their possession. However, he never shirked responsibility and, being especially interested in the cause of education, served his community faithfully and well as a member of the school board for thirty-five years, as mayor of the city, as alderman, and in many capacities, gaining him the confidence of the people. All these offices came to him unsolicited, it being a case of the office seeking the best man available. His influence was always for good and helpful measures. He was liberal in his support of civic improvements, church and school. He was a deep reader, but not only a reader of books but also a reader of human nature and a student of life.

It was in the year 1877 that great grief came into his life, a grief which tinged all his succeeding years, although time ameliorated its cutting edge, making him a tenderer, truer, more sympathetic man than he had even been before. It was before the discovery of antitoxin had robbed diphtheria of much of its terror that the black "scourge" fell upon the land, fifty little graves in the Postville cemetery marking the visitation of the grim destroyer and three of these marking the resting places of his beloved children: Frederick Eugene, in his fourteenth year; Bertha May, aged eight, and Omar Lee, aged five, all of whom were taken within three weeks. It was one of those staggering, unfathomable blows of fate that time may mellow but cannot cure, and only faith and hope can mitigate. Two children remained to them in the later years: Mrs. Ethel Marsh, of Chicago; and Lynn Shaw McEwen, now assistant cashier of the Citizens State Bank.

It was in the afternoon of October 31, 1912, that Mr. McEwen died. In the midst of a busy day he sat down to read and rest; a favorite magazine was in his hands, and the wife, loved companion of so many years, was close beside him, when there was a little gasp and life had flown, bringing to an end a career rich in usefulness, rich in attainments—a life which had contributed much toward elevating the fellow spirit in humanity.

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#### BRADSHAW W. RATHBUN.

An excellent farming property of one hundred and thirty acres stood as an evidence of the industry and well directed efforts of Bradshaw W. Rathbun when on March 4, 1910, he was called to his final rest after many years devoted to agricultural pursuits. Practically his entire life was spent in this part of Iowa, in either Winneshiek or Allamakee counties, for he came here as a child, grew to manhood here and became known as a man of excellent business ability, sound judgment and high standards of honor and integrity.

He was born in New York state in February, 1836, but when still a mere boy was brought by his parents to Iowa, the family settling on a farm three miles west of Postville. In the district schools of Winneshiek county he acquired his education, studying during the winter months and in the summers aiding his father with the operation of the homestead. In this way he early became familiar with the best agricultural methods and was a practical farmer before he reached maturity. After the death of his parents he became the sole owner of the farm and continued to carry forward the work of its development, his success coming as the logical result of industry, energy and perseverance. As he was able he added to his property holdings until at the time of his death he was the owner of one hundred and thirty acres of rich and valuable land. He also owned extensive tracts in Canada which, however, he sold before he died. He early realized the fact that labor is the basis of all success and his close application and sound judgment enabled him to acquire a competency which left his family in the comfortable circumstances they now enjoy.

Mr. Rathbun was twice married. He wedded first Miss Libbie Hall and six children were born to their union: May, who resides in Los Angeles where she is assisting her brother who is in the mercantile business; Hall, a merchant in Los Angeles; Fred, who makes his home near Ossian where he works in the employ of others; Bessie, who became the wife of Welton Cornell, a farmer near Ossian; Blake, who resides on the home farm; and Charles Herbert, who is engaged in general farming five miles northwest of Postville. Mr. Rathbun married for the second time in July, 1900, when he wedded Mrs. Florence Lozette (Clark) Miller, who was born in Waukon, a daughter of John Thompson and Elizabeth (Blakesley) Clark, natives of New York. The parents were married in that state and in the late '30s came west to Iowa, where the father took up the study of law. He was admitted to the bar and took up the practice of his profession in Waukon where he remained until 1849 when he went to California, making the journey overland. After two years, however, he returned to Iowa, having been unsuccessful in the California gold fields, and in this state again began practicing law, being located at different times at Lansing, Decorah, Fort Atkinson and Waukon. He never made a permanent location, always following where favoring opportunity led the way, and thus he became well known throughout the state, building up a large, representative and lucrative practice in criminal law of which he made a specialty. That he was well known and favorably regarded in professional and public circles of the state is evidenced by the fact that he was chosen a member of the committee appointed to draw up the first Iowa constitution. Until within a short time before his death he was practicing at Cresco but when he became ill he came to Postville where he died about the year 1883. He was at one time an extensive landowner in this part of the state, but before he passed away disposed of all of his holdings. His wife survived him for four years, dying in 1887. In their family were ten children of whom Mrs. Rathbun is the youngest in the order of birth. She was reared in this section of Iowa and in 1880 married Thomas M. Miller, a native of Ohio, born February 20, 1848. When he was a mere boy he came to Iowa with an older sister and her family and in this state grew to manhood, learning the carpenter's trade which he followed for many years. He afterward turned his attention to sawmilling and engaged in this occupation until his death

which occurred in May, 1881. He was at that time a resident of Postville, where he owned a comfortable home, a number of town lots and the mill property. By this marriage Mrs. Rathbun had three children: Emma, who was born January 10, 1881, and who became the wife of Frank Handgartner, a farmer residing five miles southwest of Postville; Katie, who was born August 16, 1883, and who married John Laros, who with his father and brothers owns a carriage factory in Grinnell; and Florence, who was born January 10, 1887, and who is a teacher in the Onawa high school, making her home with her mother. Fraternally Mr. Miller was affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Legion of Honor and the Modern Woodmen.

Mr. Rathbun gave his allegiance to the democratic party but he never desired political honors, as his interests centered in his farming operations, which under his able management brought him a gratifying and richly deserved success. His great business ability would have won him prosperity in any vocation that attracted his interest and in the one which he chose he made substantial contribution to growth and development. He was a kind parent, a true friend and a firm upholder of the law—a citizen whose life and work made a lasting impression upon those with whom he came in contact and upon the progress of the region where he had so long resided.

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J. C. LEWIS, M. D.

Dr. J. C. Lewis, one of the most prominent and deservedly successful physicians and surgeons in Waukon, has been a resident of the state of Iowa since 1864. He is, however, a native of Wisconsin, born in Dunkirk, April 20, 1858, a son of U. F. Lewis. The father was a native of New York state and went as a pioneer to Wisconsin, where in the early days he engaged in carpentering. He there married Miss Eliza J. Stillwell, a sister of C. S. and H. H. Stillwell, of Waukon. In 1864 U. F. Lewis moved to Iowa and located at Buckland, where he worked at his trade for some time, later establishing himself in the grocery business there. He continued to make his home in Buckland until he moved to Waukon, where the last years of his life were spent. His wife survived him only a short time. In their family were two children: Dr. J. C., of this review; and Jessie M., who is well known in educational circles of this county as one of the most efficient teachers in the Waukon schools.

Dr. Lewis was still a child when he came with his parents to Waukon and he was here reared and educated, supplementing a course in the public schools by four years' attendance at the State University, where he completed a medical course, graduating with the degree of M. D. in 1889. He immediately afterward located in Ridgeway, in Winneshiek county, where he began the practice of his profession and where for twenty-two years he continued to reside, becoming well known as an able and successful physician. While still a resident of that city he served as a member of the town council and as mayor and was for some time a member of the board of health. In 1911 he returned to Waukon where he has since been engaged in the practice of his profession. He has demonstrated his skill in the successful handling of a number of complex medical problems



and has already built up a good practice. Dr. Lewis is a far-sighted business man as well as an able physician and has made some excellent investments in Florida lands as well as in Waukon city property and in Iowa farms, and has now extensive and important real-estate holdings.

In 1886 Dr. Lewis was united in marriage to Miss May B. Lowe, who was born, reared and educated in Waukon. She is a daughter of Hosea Lowe, a pioneer merchant in that city, who was identified with the hardware business here for a number of years. Dr. and Mrs. Lewis became the parents of two children. The elder, Laura J., was educated in the Ridgeway high school, where she finished the course and was graduated. She died August 18, 1908, at the age of seventeen. The other daughter, Elizabeth M., is now a student in the Waukon high school.

Dr. Lewis is a Master Mason and well known in the local lodge of the fraternity. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, Mrs. Lewis being a member of the auxiliary societies and an active Sunday school worker. Dr. Lewis is a member of the official board and is also acting as steward. He is a man of exemplary life, of generous standards and high principles, and his industry, ability and enterprise have found a rich reward in the high esteem his acquaintances place upon him as a man and a physician.

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#### JAMES W. STEELE.

One of the most prominent of the younger business men of Postville is James W. Steele, now engaged in the conduct of a large restaurant and confectionery store in the city. He was born here, January 2, 1880, and is a son of Joseph and Margaret (Ryan) Steele, natives of Illinois, where the father followed farming for many years. The parents came from that state to Iowa and located on a tract of land about one mile and a half northeast of Postville, where the father still owns and operates a farm, to the conduct of which he gives his entire time and attention. His wife passed away March 2, 1913. They were the parents of thirteen children, of whom the subject of this review is the fourth in the order of birth.

James W. Steele acquired his education in the district schools of Post township and in his childhood divided his time between his studies and work upon his father's farm. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-eight years of age and then went to South Dakota, where for two years he engaged in farming. When he returned to Postville at the end of that time he established himself in the restaurant and confectionery business, to which he still gives his entire attention. By close application, energy and careful supervision of his business he has secured a large patronage and is now the proprietor of one of the leading restaurants in the city. The confectionery department has also proven profitable and is an important source of income to him. The entire enterprise is carefully and systematically conducted and has brought to Mr. Steele a degree of success which places him among the representative and substantial business men of his native city.

On the 25th of April, 1911, Mr. Steele was united in marriage to Miss Frances Bromelkamp, a native of Monona, Clayton county, born April 29, 1882. She is a daughter of Bernard and Christina (Miller) Bromelkamp, natives of Hanover, Germany, whose marriage occurred in McGregor, Iowa, six weeks after the father's arrival in America in the spring of 1881. He worked in a carriage factory for one summer and then turned his attention to carpentering, later removing to a farm in Clayton county, where he and his wife still reside. In their family were four children, of whom Mrs. Steele is the eldest. Mr. and Mrs. Steele have one son, Joseph Bernard, who was born February 25, 1912.

Mr. Steele is a member of the Roman Catholic church. Politically he is identified with the democratic party and, although he never takes an active part in public affairs, is yet loyal in matters of citizenship. He devotes his entire time, however, to his business and, although he is still a young man, he has already gained that success which follows earnest, persistent and well directed labor.

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#### WILLIAM LEUI.

Banking interests of Postville are ably and well represented by William Leui, one of the prominent and progressive citizens of that community and the president of the Postville State Bank. Forceful, active and aggressive, he is giving the large interests, of which he is the head, the strictest and most careful attention. A native of the neighboring county of Clayton, Mr. Leui was born in Grand Meadow, September 5, 1856, and is a son of Jacob and Susan (Shield) Leui, well known and highly respected pioneers of Clayton county, where he was reared on his father's farm. In the acquirement of his education he attended the schools of the neighborhood and in his leisure hours and vacations helped his father with the work of the farm until he was nearly grown to manhood. However, there was in him a desire for better things and, always wishing for a better education than the locality afforded, he realized his ambition when he spent one year at Fayette College, taking a business and commercial course, from which he graduated, and also spending six months at the State University at Iowa City. Better prepared for life's battle, he returned to Postville, where he clerked for four years in the general store owned by F. W. Roberts and then formed a partnership with Frank Orr, engaging in the hardware and implement business. He was so engaged for a number of years, during which time the firm prospered, and created for himself a splendid reputation among the people of the community. It was during this time that he bought his first farm of one hundred and thirty-seven acres, constituting part of the old home farm in Grand Meadow upon which he was born. His means increasing and expanding, he purchased two years later an additional one hundred and fifteen acres and the management of these farms and his other business interests kept him busily and successfully engaged until January 1, 1912, when he became president of the Postville State Bank. Under his able supervision the institution has continued to prosper and expand in remarkable degree and in May, 1912, one of the best business locations in the city was purchased and the ground broken for a fine two-story brick bank building to take care of the increased business of the

institution. This building is now occupied by the Postville State Bank and gives it the very best quarters in the city besides adding greatly to the improvement and appearance of the community. An outlay of fifteen thousand dollars was necessitated for the completion of the new building, which stands as evidence of the stability of the institution, the bank being one of the strongest in this section and deservedly popular with the people, who have every confidence in it and its officers. It has a capital of fifty thousand dollars, and an undivided surplus of an even amount makes it one of the most responsible financial enterprises of this part of the state. Its deposits now exceed four hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars and are rapidly approaching the half million mark.

Mr. Leui was married in 1886 to Miss Jennie Orr, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Orr, highly respected pioneers, who came to Allamakee county in 1855 and who are now residents of Postville. To Mr. and Mrs. Leui two daughters have been born, Hattie S. and Helen M. Their home is one of the handsome residences of the city and there they often meet their extensive circle of charming friends, who delight to partake of their hospitality. In his political affiliations Mr. Leui is a progressive republican and although he is not active in politics, takes that interest in the affairs of the government that should be demanded of every right-minded citizen and is an ardent champion of all movements and measures undertaken in the interests of Allamakee county, his locality, and his city. As he is progressive in politics he is progressive in business, although he lets not one interfere with the other. The rapid advancement and development of Allamakee county is largely due to the individual efforts of such aggressive men as Mr. Leui, who by their efforts have made this one of the most prosperous sections in the country—a locality which not only excels for material wealth but which also carries high the banner of moral and intellectual advancement.

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### JOHN PEARL ELLIS.

John Pearl Ellis is the owner of a large and complete blacksmith shop in Postville and his success in the conduct of this enterprise is the natural result of his industry and enterprise. He was born in the city where he now resides, June 18, 1878, and is a son of Jonathan and Lydia A. (Dow) Ellis, the former born in Ohio in 1813 and the latter in New Hampshire in 1842. In his early years the father engaged in the hardware business in Postville but later turned his attention to dealing in real estate, becoming afterward identified with agricultural pursuits in Post township. He continued farming until 1885, when he returned to the city and lived there retired until his death, which occurred in 1901. The mother survives him and makes her home in Postville. They were the parents of two children: Gertrude, the wife of W. Kranbeer, a blacksmith in Charles City, Iowa; and John Pearl, of this review.

In the acquirement of an education John Pearl Ellis attended public school in his native city but his advantages along this line were extremely limited, for he has been earning his own livelihood since he was fourteen years of age. The independence and self-reliance which his early life engendered in his character have remained among his most prominent qualities and constitute one of the

chief sources of his present success. Before he was sixteen years of age he began learning the blacksmith's trade and after he had mastered it worked in the employ of others for about eight years and a half, at the end of that time embarking in business for himself with a partner. Their association continued for over five years and then Mr. Ellis purchased his partner's interests, becoming in this way sole proprietor of a large and well equipped establishment. He makes a specialty of horseshoeing and plow repairing but he does also all kinds of repair work, employing two skilled mechanics to assist him. His shop is equipped with all the newest gasoline and electrical appliances, for he keeps constantly in touch with the trend of modern progress along the line of his business and never allows the work done in his establishment to be inferior because of insufficient equipment. A progressive and able business man and in addition a specialist in his chosen field, he has been accorded a large and liberal patronage and this is constantly increasing as the quality of his work becomes more widely known.

Mr. Ellis was married on the 2d of July, 1901, to Miss Carrie J. Taylor, a native of Lincoln, Nebraska, and a daughter of Harland and Jane (Bray) Taylor, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Iowa. The father was for many years employed by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad but is now a resident of Hopkins, Minnesota. His wife has passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis became the parents of five children, Lyle, Clifford Keith, Kenneth, Ruby Evelyn and Naomi, all at home.

Mr. Ellis belongs to Brotherly Love Lodge, No. 204, A. F. & A. M., and is identified also with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Brotherhood of America. He is one of the prominent business men of Postville, identified with its growth and development, and he is well known in Allamakee county as one of its progressive and public-spirited citizens.

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#### EDGAR R. A. BRAINARD.

During his life Edgar R. A. Brainard was widely and favorably known in Allamakee county as one of the foremost agriculturists near Postville, where he owned a valuable farm of two hundred and fifteen acres which he successfully cultivated until death claimed him December 5, 1909. He was one of the first in this section to engage in bee culture and proved that such an enterprise could be profitably prosecuted here. The success that came to him was entirely brought about by his own efforts, for he started out in life at the age of sixteen and unaided made his way in the world to a position which brought him the confidence and good-will of all who knew him.

Edgar R. A. Brainard was born in McHenry county, Illinois, near Huntley, May 9, 1851, a son of Isaac and Arvilla (Austin) Brainard, natives of New York state, both born in Washington county. The date of the father's birth was April 5, 1816, and that of the mother, August 13, 1824. During his active life Isaac Brainard always followed farming and he and his wife came to Iowa on June 1, 1855, locating at what was then known as Cleveland, where he bought land, in the





EDGAR R. A. BRAINARD AND FAMILY

cultivation of which he continued until his death. He passed away September 24, 1880, his wife surviving him until October 11, 1896. In their family were six children, of whom our subject was the third in order of birth.

In the acquirement of an education Edgar R. A. Brainard attended school in Postville township and also a business college at Waukon, having been brought by his parents to this section before he attained school age. He early assisted his father with the work of the farm and when only sixteen years of age began to take charge of its operation, becoming thereby the mainstay of the family. While he devoted the summer months to farming, he taught school for several years during the winter seasons and also worked in the employ of others until his marriage, when he by purchase acquired forty acres of land, still continuing, however, to teach school during the two following winters. He then had the means to build a small house and began keeping bees, being the first in this section to engage in such an enterprise. As his financial means accrued he added to his farm from time to time until he owned two hundred and fifteen acres of land, all of which he cleared and which he developed and brought to a high state of productivity. The buildings upon his farm were substantial and modernly equipped, his residence comfortable, and the latest machinery was provided for labor-saving purposes and in order to increase the yield of the fields. He was considered one of the most substantial agriculturists of his section when death claimed him December 5, 1909. He was closely attached to his farm, having never been away from home with but one exception, when he was called to Dubuque in order to do jury service. Having begun bee culture, he continued along that line, becoming a leader of the industry and being extraordinarily successful therein. As his means increased he invested judiciously in other enterprises and became a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Store and the Cooperative Creamery of Postville. His stock-raising interests were also considerable.

On September 22, 1879, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Brainard and Miss Barbara McWilliams, a native of Scotland, born January 21, 1860. She is a daughter of Nathaniel and Mary (Yule) McWilliams, also natives of Scotland, who crossed the ocean in 1867 and after making their way into the interior of the country, located on Henderson prairie in Clayton county, Iowa, where they resided for several years before removing to Post township, where the father rented land and worked for Mr. Hart. He bought his first land in Post township, where they resided for several years before moving upon the farm near where Mrs. Brainard now lives, but later sold out and removed to Postville, where the father died November 7, 1896, the mother surviving him until February 27, 1905. In their family were nine children, of whom Mrs. Brainard is the eldest. Mr. and Mrs. Brainard became the parents of eight children: Mary, who was born July 22, 1880, and is now the wife of C. A. Simons, a farmer and dairyman in Marengo, Illinois; Millie, who was born May 15, 1883, and is the wife of Martin Vickery, engaged in farming in Post township; James E., who was born February 25, 1885, and died October 30, 1897; Arvilla, who was born August 13, 1887, and is at home; Nellie, born September 28, 1891, also at home; George, born December 18, 1893; Ralph, born April 6, 1898; and Genevieve, whose natal day was December 18, 1905.

Mr. Brainard was a devout member of the United Brethren church, in the work of which he was actively and helpfully interested, having been class leader and trustee of the church, and teacher and superintendent in the Sunday school for many years. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and he gave evidence of his public spirit by serving as school director and treasurer as well as township assessor for two terms. Fraternally he was affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Brotherhood of America. The death of Mr. Brainard was the cause of widespread regret among his many friends who sincerely mourned his loss and still cherish his memory as one whose manly qualities demand respect and esteem. Mrs. Brainard still resides upon the homestead and continues its operation in the same able manner as it had been conducted during her husband's life. In February, 1912, misfortune befell her when the family residence burned down but, undaunted, she erected a new and modern residence more comfortable and convenient than that which had been taken by the elements. She enjoys the highest esteem and good-will of all her neighbors and has many friends in Postville who admire her for her excellent womanly qualities as well as for her business ability in successfully continuing an extensive agricultural enterprise.

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#### JOHN C. BEEDE.

John C. Beede, who is living retired in Waukon after more than fifty years of prominent identification with farming interests in the vicinity, is numbered among the pioneers in Allamakee county, his residence here dating from 1857. He has been one of the greatest individual forces in the agricultural development of this section, has always been interested in its expansion along other lines and for more than half a century has been recognized as a public-spirited and progressive citizen as well as a prosperous and successful business man.

Mr. Beede was born near Augusta, Maine, November 23, 1835, and spent his early childhood in that city. He had no school advantages in his early life and is entirely self-educated, his knowledge coming from his private study and wide reading in mature years. When he was fourteen years of age he went to sea, joining a fishing crew and engaging in cod and mackerel fishing off the Newfoundland coast during the summers and in the winters working in a store. After he was twenty-one he followed a sea-faring life for some time and advanced rapidly, becoming first mate of his vessel. During some period in his early life he had learned the shoemaking trade and this he followed for a few seasons in Maine after coming ashore. He married in that state in 1857 and soon afterward moved to Iowa, where he joined his brother-in-law, Chester Caton, in Allamakee county, where he has since resided. They farmed together for two years and at the end of that time Mr. Beede purchased an eighty acre tract of raw land in Union Prairie township which he proceeded to break, fence and improve. Upon it he built an attractive residence, a good barn and substantial outbuildings and did everything in his power to make it a valuable and productive property. Here for over half a century he carried on general agricultural pursuits, each year with increasing success, becoming at length one



of the prosperous and successful farmers of the community. By well directed labor and practical methods and strict adherence to high standards of business integrity he accumulated a comfortable fortune which enabled him to retire from active life. Accordingly, in 1910 he sold his farm and moved to Waukon, where he purchased an attractive home in which he now resides.

Mr. Beede has been twice married. His first union occurred in Maine in 1857 and to it were born eight children: Arthur S., now a resident of Oregon; LeRoy J., of South Dakota; Edgar L., also of Oregon; Angie M., the wife of E. A. Heath, of Alaska; Mrs. Cora L. Campbell, of North Dakota; Nellie, the wife of Professor L. W. Abbott, for fourteen years superintendent of schools in Nobles county, Minnesota; Albert W., who lives at home; and Fred, who resides in Williston, North Dakota. The mother of these children passed away on January 15, 1876, and on the 26th of May, 1877, Mr. Beede wedded Miss Mary T. Ryan, a native of Massachusetts, who was reared in Union Prairie township, Allamakee county, and is a daughter of Thomas Ryan, who was one of the pioneers in this part of the state. Mr. and Mrs. Beede have three children: John C., a business man in Waukon; Minnie, the wife of W. J. Raymond, also of Waukon, and Myrtle Irene, who married Ernest Raymond, of Nora Springs, Iowa. One son born to Mr. and Mrs. Beede, William H., grew to maturity and died in 1910, at the age of twenty-nine. They also lost a daughter, Lizzie, who passed away in 1898, when she was twenty years of age.

Fraternally Mr. Beede is connected with the Odd Fellows, which he joined in 1870, and he has passed through all the chairs in the subordinate lodge and is now past grand. He and his wife are members of the Rebekah lodge and Mrs. Beede has served in all of the chairs of the order, being at present past vice grand. W. J. Raymond, Mr. Beede's son-in-law, is now noble grand of the Waukon lodge and his wife is noble grand of the Rebekahs.

Mr. Beede cast his first vote for John C. Fremont in 1856 and since the formation of the republican party has voted for every republican nominee for the presidency. He takes an active interest in local affairs, especially in school matters, and while on the farm was elected in 1858 a member of the school board, serving continuously for fifty-two years. He is numbered among the real builders of Allamakee county, for he has borne an active and honorable part in the work of its development and for more than half a century has consistently supported all progressive public movements. He commands the confidence and respect of his neighbors and well deserves the retirement which he now enjoys, for it is the fruit of long years of honest and successful labor.

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#### MOSES AYERS BOLLMAN.

For more than half a century Moses Ayers Bollman was a resident of Winneshiek county and during the greater part of that period was identified with the farming interests. Although he never sought to figure prominently in public life, he proved his loyalty to his country in the time of her greatest need in the dark days of the Civil war and he was classed with those citizens whose sterling worth, earnest purpose and fidelity to the duties which come day

by day make them valued residents of the community. He was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, January 16, 1837, and was a son of William and Elizabeth (Hardin) Bollman, the former a native of the same section. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, came to Iowa about the year 1853 and located just northwest of Postville, where he purchased land upon which he continued to reside until his death in 1873. His wife survived him several years, dying in 1879.

Moses Ayers Bollman was one of a family of nine children. He grew up on his father's farm, acquiring his knowledge of the best agricultural methods by practical experience, and at the usual age entered the district schools of Post township where he gained an excellent education. He began his independent career at the age of sixteen when he began working as a farm hand, continuing thus until 1861, when, his patriotic spirit being aroused, he volunteered for service in the Union army, joining Company K, First Regular Iowa Cavalry. He saw a great deal of active service, remaining at the front until after the close of hostilities when he was mustered out with honorable discharge, returning to Iowa with a creditable military record. He bought land six miles northwest of Postville in Winneshiek county, whereon he continued to reside until his death, his practical methods, his energy and close application bringing him as the years passed a gratifying measure of success, and his high integrity and honor and his sterling personal worth winning for him the respect, confidence and esteem of all with whom he came in contact.

Mr. Bollman was twice married. He first wedded Miss Nancy Harris, a sister of William Harris, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. Bollman's first wife passed away in 1871, leaving three children: Rena Belle, the wife of Amos McMartin, a farmer in Ellendale, North Dakota; Willard Ellery, engaged in farming in Bruce, South Dakota; and Maggie Ellen, who married Edward Green, a farmer residing seven miles northwest of Postville.

On the 24th of March, 1874, Mr. Bollman was again married, his second wife being Miss Carrie Brown, who was born in Laporte, Indiana, July 3, 1852. She is a daughter of Luther and Mary (Walrath) Brown, both natives of that section, the father born November 1, 1823, and the mother, October 11, 1830. They came to Iowa in 1854 and in that year located on a farm five miles northwest of Postville, whereon they continued to reside until January 5, 1862, when the father died. Mrs. Brown and her children moved into Castalia, where she passed away, October 11, 1865. Their daughter, Mrs. Bollman, is one of a family of four children. She grew up on her father's farm near Postville and attended what was then known as the old red school house, located one mile from her father's home. This school, now called the Oak Ridge school, is attended by her own children. By this second marriage Mr. Bollman had eight children: Fenton, who is engaged in farming near Caldwell, Idaho; Parker, a farmer residing at Basin, Wyoming; Stella, the wife of Hayes Hougland, a farmer and rancher near Republic, Washington; Talcott, who makes his home with his mother; Farrell, a farmer near Cottonwood, South Dakota; Vera, the wife of B. Post, a farmer in the vicinity of Caldwell, Idaho; Vives, a photographer residing in Postville; and Oberton, who is studying butter making at the State Agricultural College at Ames. After the death of her husband Mrs. Bollman sold

the farm and came to Postville where she purchased a comfortable and attractive residence in which she expects to spend the remainder of her life. She is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is affiliated with the Ladies Aid Society, in which she has accomplished much useful and beneficial work.

Mr. Bollman gave his political allegiance to the republican party and was never neglectful of the duties of citizenship, cooperating readily and willingly in all movements and projects for the general welfare. For a number of years he served on the school board and was for some time road supervisor, discharging his public duties in a capable, far-sighted and conscientious way. He was a member of the United Brethren church and his life was ever upright and honorable, commanding the confidence and good-will of all who knew him. He lived to witness a remarkable change in Allamakee and Winneshiek counties during the long period of his residence in this part of Iowa and throughout the entire period his influence was always on the side of progress, truth, justice and right.

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### JOHN M. COLLINS.

John M. Collins, a well known grocery and real-estate dealer of Waukon and one of the early settlers in Allamakee county, was born in Lewis county, New York, July 19, 1843. His parents later moved to Kentucky and resided in Mason county, that state, until 1856, when they moved to Iowa, making a permanent location in Taylor township, Allamakee county. Here the father owned one hundred and sixty acres of land, broke the soil, fenced his property and began the work of development, which he carried on along progressive lines for many years, dying upon his homestead at an advanced age.

John M. Collins was a boy of thirteen when he came with his parents to Allamakee county and his childhood was spent amid pioneer conditions. He aided in the opening up of the new farm and afterward in its improvement and development, spending all of his time when not engaged with his books in agricultural pursuits. He acquired his primary education in the public schools and supplemented this by outside study and reading, fitting himself for teaching, an occupation which he followed for twelve consecutive terms, becoming well known in educational circles of the state. He afterward entered public life, accepting in 1880 the position of deputy county auditor and serving in that capacity for four years. In 1884 he was elected auditor and at the end of his first term reelected, afterward serving for nine consecutive years in the office. He was later again deputy auditor and in all served as deputy and county auditor for seventeen years, his public service being at all times loyal, efficient and disinterested. During his long term in office people from all parts of the county came to Waukon to consult him and to lay before him matters which needed his attention and he was never known to neglect any phase of his public duty. In this way he acquired an extensive circle of friends, all of whom hold him today in the highest honor and esteem. In 1898 Mr. Collins went to Minneapolis and there engaged in the mercantile business, at the same time purchasing a half

interest in a dry-goods store at Prairie du Chien. He gave his attention to the conduct of both concerns for one year and then sold out his interests and opened a grocery store in Waukon which in the course of fourteen years he has made one of the largest and most important institutions of its kind in the city. He carries a complete and well selected line of goods and has secured an enviable reputation as a careful and discriminating man of business whose success is the direct result of the energy, honesty and straightforward dealing by which it was attained. Mr. Collins is also well known as a real-estate dealer in Waukon, for he specializes in the buying and selling of improved Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana and Missouri farming lands. He has made some very judicious private investments and is now the owner of fourteen hundred acres, part of which is improved land. In 1883 he purchased a residence in Waukon and has made it his home continuously since that time with the exception of a year and a half during which time he lived in Prairie du Chien.

On the 1st day of February, 1874, Mr. Collins married Miss B. T. Brazell, a native of Canada, who came to the United States in 1860. They have three sons and two daughters, as follows: John B., who is married and who assists his father in the grocery store; Michael L., a farmer in North Dakota; William J., who is also employed in his father's store; Mrs. Mary Regan, a widow, who makes her home in Minneapolis; and Nellie, who assists in the conduct of the grocery. Mr. and Mrs. Collins had one other son, Albert, who died in 1900 at the age of fifteen years. The family are members of the Roman Catholic church, and Mr. Collins is a member of the Knights of Columbus. For over half a century he has been a resident of Allamakee county and his labors have been a cooperant factor in the development and advancement of the section. He is numbered among the public-spirited and progressive men of Waukon, giving largely of his time, means and influence in the promotion of projects for the general good. He occupies a prominent position in business, social and political circles and has always shown an interest and ability which have made him a valued member of the community.

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#### RONNEBURGER & HOESLY.

Among the foremost newspaper enterprises in Allamakee county and, in fact one which has a large influence in four counties and throughout the state, is the Iowa Volksblatt, a weekly journal printed in the German language at Postville. This paper is a great favorite with the sons of the fatherland located in this section and the citizens of German descent and is housed in a finely equipped office, having a wide circulation, including a large number of readers in Germany. The Volksblatt was established in 1892, by the Rev. John Gass, and later was edited by Dietsch & Brechler, Mr. Dietsch becoming the sole proprietor in 1895. In 1908 it was purchased by the present owners, Paul Ronneburger and Samuel Hoesly, under whose management the paper has enjoyed a history of uninterrupted success and prosperity. Although an important factor in promoting public progress and advancing the interests of the section in which it circulates, it

is independent in politics and devotes its attention largely to the news of Postville and the four counties in which its readers are located.

The senior member of the firm, Paul Ronneburger, is a German born and bred, having first seen the light of day in the capital of the empire, Berlin. He enjoyed the splendid and thorough educational advantages of the German public schools, attended the printers' trade school and became an expert in the printers' art in the fatherland. The year 1892 marks his advent in America, where he worked at his trade in Milwaukee, being for a time employed in the office of the *Vorwaerts*, the well known paper edited by ex-Congressman Victor Berger. After seven years in Milwaukee, Mr. Ronneburger worked for one year with the *Bellville* (Texas) *Wochenblatt* and then became connected with the *Banner* at Mayville, Wisconsin, and subsequently with the *Green County Herald* of Monroe, that state. It was here that he met his future partner, Samuel Hoesly, and the two young men then decided to strike out for themselves, purchasing the *Iowa Volksblatt*.

In 1903 Mr. Ronneburger paid a visit to the old country and on October 26, 1910, he was married to Miss Margarete Wersinger, of Berlin, Germany. Mr. Ronneburger is an ideal newspaper man—a forceful writer, an excellent business man and a strong factor in his community.

Samuel Hoesly, the junior partner in the concern, is of Swiss descent, his father having come to America in 1848, and via New Orleans and up the Mississippi, went to New Glarus, Wisconsin, where he made his home. It was in Clarno, Wisconsin, on December 4, 1876, that Samuel Hoesly was born. He received an excellent public-school education and at the age of fifteen entered the office of the *Green County Herald* of Monroe, Wisconsin, where he learned every branch of the printer's art, remaining with the one office from 1892 to 1908 with the exception of the time he served with the First Wisconsin Volunteers during the Spanish-American war. At that time he was stationed at Jacksonville, Florida, under the command of General Lee, and in all he served eight years with the Wisconsin National Guard.

Mr. Hoesly was married March 9, 1912, to Miss Edna Brouillet, a young lady of French parentage. Mr. Hoesly is highly accomplished in printer's work and has a decided talent for the artistic, the elements in the characters of both partners and their accomplishments giving promise of a most successful future for the firm.

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#### HENRY ORIN DAYTON.

Henry Orin Dayton was born at Hadley, Saratoga county, New York, November 10, 1834, and died at his home in Waukon, Iowa, January 24, 1901, of typhoid fever. His boyhood days and early manhood were spent in his native village. He received his education at Greenwich, New York, and at the seminary at Charlotteville, that state.

In 1856 Mr. Dayton came to Iowa, arriving at Hardin on July 1, where he engaged in surveying, assisting his brother, Joel Dayton, who was county surveyor. His first work was on the town plat of Hardin. He followed surveying

henceforth as his chief occupation, although engaging in various other enterprises. In the winter of 1857-8 he taught the Decorah school, at forty dollars per month. He had one hundred and eighteen pupils enrolled, and one assistant, a Miss Farmer. He proved very successful, and his school exhibition on the closing day, April 2, 1858, drew a very large crowd. In 1858 he taught the summer school at Hardin, after which he again took up surveying until December, when he commenced teaching at Milton, or Village Creek, where he taught three winters, and then took the Lansing school for two years. During the intervals between schools he put in his time surveying.

In the fall of 1864 Mr. Dayton organized a stock company for establishing a woolen factory, and the following year they built a large stone building and commenced operations early in 1866. Severe floods interfered with their work from time to time, and the mill was twice destroyed by fire, the last time in 1875.

Mr. Dayton was often honored with offices of trust. He was county supervisor from Lafayette township two years; county surveyor eight years; and clerk of the district court six years. When elected clerk of the courts in 1874 he removed to Waukon, where he continued to reside until his death in 1901. Here he served several years on the Waukon school board. After his third term as county clerk he operated a creamery at Village Creek, and later at Waukon, where he also established and operated a canning factory. Upon retiring from this he again took up civil engineering, in which he was actively engaged up to the time of his last sickness.

On August 27, 1866, Mr. Dayton married Miss Maria Aldrich, a most devoted wife and mother, and a woman loved by all who knew her. Mrs. Dayton died June 3, 1911. To them were born six children, of whom three remain, viz: Walter, of Salt Lake City; Mrs. Leona Heath, of Dallas, Texas; and Mrs. Anna Davenport, of Clear Lake, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Dayton were members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Waukon, and he was one of the official board for a quarter of a century. It may be truly said that Mr. Dayton was known throughout Allamakee county, in his home life, as a neighbor, as a citizen, and as a public official, and that no man in the county had more friends than he in all the walks of life.

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### JAMES BROWN McWILLIAMS.

With the passing of James Brown McWilliams on March 11, 1896, Allamakee county lost one of its valued pioneers. His career furnished a link between the past, when crude conditions still prevailed, and the more modern era of the coming civilization of the twentieth century. A sturdy agriculturist, he passed practically his entire life in that vocation and attained to success by reason of his industry and energy. Although over seventeen years have passed since his demise his memory is still cherished by the older generation and the seed he has sown as one of those who have been prominent in the agricultural development of his district is still bearing fruit.

James B. McWilliams was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, near Masetown, February 6, 1832, a son of Samuel and Sarah (Huston) McWilliams, both



JAMES B. McWILLIAMS -

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.



natives of Pennsylvania, in which state they passed their entire lives. The father was an agriculturist by occupation and prominent in his district. James B. McWilliams attended school in his native state and there was reared and grew to young manhood, marrying on March 15, 1860, Sarah E. Neeling, who was born at Mount Vernon, Chester county, Pennsylvania, June 22, 1840, a daughter of James and Anna (Cameron) Neeling. The father was also born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, but the mother called Maryland her native state. The father always followed agricultural pursuits and they came to Iowa in 1854, locating at National, Clayton county, where he engaged in the hotel business. Later the parents moved to Algona and invested in land which the father cultivated with such good success that he was enabled to spend the latter part of his life in retirement in Algona, where he and his wife passed away.

The father of our subject had died in his native state when Mr. McWilliams was but two years of age and when about twenty-two, he came to Iowa accompanied by a brother and his wife. He first located at Colesburg, in southern Iowa, but after a few years returned to Pennsylvania. A year later, however, he and a brother returned to Clayton county, Iowa, taking up land in Meadow township, and there he continued until he came to Postville, where for five years he made his home, when a removal was made to a farm near this city, to the cultivation of which he gave the rest of his life. For thirty-seven years he made his home in this district and during that long residence gained a reputation as a straightforward, reliable and honorable man in all of his dealings. He built up a substantial fortune and upon his death left his wife and children sufficient to set them up independently in life. Mr. and Mrs. McWilliams became the parents of ten children, of whom six, four sons and two daughters, survive. Those born to this union were: Huston, who died at the age of eleven months; George, a resident of Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, where he is engaged in the real-estate business and is a large landowner; May, the widow of Edward Clough, residing in Eureka, Montana; Edgar, who passed away in June, 1896, at the age of twenty-five years; Minnie, who died at the age of five; Zilla, whose death occurred at the age of three years; Vergil, an assistant bank cashier, who resides at Chester, Iowa; Carey, a druggist of that city; Emmet, cashier of the German Savings Bank of Chester; and Ethel, the wife of F. J. Thoma, who is engaged in the grocery business at Postville.

The death of Mr. McWilliams occurred on March 11, 1896, and was caused by a lamentable accident brought about through ptomaine poisoning. All of the family were taken sick but Mr. McWilliams was afflicted so severely that he was unable to withstand the shock and after two weeks' illness passed away, deeply mourned by his immediate family and a large circle of friends who had learned to esteem him for his manly qualities of character, his sturdiness, his straightforwardness and for what he had done in promoting advancement and development. His political adherence was at first given to the democratic party but he later affiliated with the republicans, always keeping intelligently informed upon all public questions, although he never desired public office. Fraternally he was a member of the Masonic lodge at Garnaville and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. It was on March 13, 1896, that the last remains of Mr. McWilliams were laid to rest in the Postville cemetery, the Rev. L. S. Hand

officiating. A large gathering of friends and neighbors had come to do the last honors to one who had been much to them and who had ever had their full esteem and confidence. Mrs. McWilliams survives and now makes her home in Postville, where she is highly esteemed and respected for her womanly qualities of character and that sweet, charitable view of life which makes her beloved by all who know her.

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#### CHRISTOF SANDER.

Christof Sander, carrying on general farming and stock-raising upon two hundred acres of land in Post township, comprising one of the finest agricultural properties in the locality, is numbered among the earlier settlers in Iowa, his residence here dating from 1870. He was born in Hanover, Germany, on the 16th of January, 1849, and is a son of Juergen and Dora (Sander) Sander, also natives of that province. They never came to America. The father engaged in farming in his native country during all of his active life, owning a fine property of one hundred and sixty acres in Hanover.

Christof Sander spent his early childhood in the fatherland and attended school there for eight years. When he was sixteen years of age he turned his attention to farming, working at that occupation in the employ of others until 1867, when he left Germany and came to America, landing in New York, May 1 of that year. He pushed immediately westward to Wisconsin and located in Sac county, where he worked upon farms for three years, coming at the end of that time to Clayton county, Iowa, near Postville. His capital at that time consisted of seven dollars. He obtained work as a farm laborer and as such continued for four years, after which he rented land for twelve years. During that time by the exercise of unremitting industry and practical economy he saved enough money to purchase a farm of eighty acres and to this he has since added from time to time, the place now comprising two hundred acres, all under a high state of cultivation. Success has steadily rewarded his well directed labors and his farm is today one of the finest in this section of Iowa, well equipped with modern buildings and machinery and reflecting in its excellent condition his many years of care and labor. Mr. Sander engages in general farming and stock-raising on an extensive scale, keeping hogs, cattle, sheep and horses. He is also interested in chicken raising and is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Store of Postville.

On the 16th of April, 1875, Mr. Sander was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Schultz, who was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, on the 30th of January, 1859, a daughter of Jochen and Katherine (Miller) Schultz, who came as pioneers to Clayton county, Iowa, but later removed to Winneshiek county, the father following farming. Both have passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Sander became the parents of eleven children: George, who was born on the 24th of May, 1876, and is now engaged in farming in Franklin township; Emma, whose birth occurred February 13, 1878, and who married John Dederick, a farmer of Winneshiek county; Ida, who was born on the 12th of April, 1880, and is the wife of Charles Schute, a farmer in Clayton county; Otto, who was born September 14,

1882, and is a carpenter in Postville; Carl, who was born December 27, 1885, and is also engaged in carpentering in that city; and Konrad, born April 23, 1888; Walter, August 30, 1892; Esther, October 14, 1895; Mahala, January 5, 1897; Eldo, January 6, 1900; and Caroline, May 25, 1904.

Fraternally, Mr. Sander is affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Brotherhood of America. A resident of this part of Iowa for over forty years, he is well and favorably known, his business integrity, loyalty in citizenship and sterling qualities of character having gained for him the respect, confidence and esteem of all his associates. He is one of Allamakee county's successful men and his prosperity is the more creditable to him since it has been gained entirely through his own energy, hard work and unremitting industry and is the result of many years of well directed and practical labor.

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#### RAY F. TOPLIFF, D. D. S.

One of the most able and progressive dentists in Allamakee county is Dr. Ray F. Topliff, now practicing in Postville. He is a native of this county, born two miles west of the city, May 19, 1884, a son of John Nelson and Rachel Elizabeth (Reed) Topliff. The father was born in Newark, New Jersey, on the 24th of July, 1836, his parents being Elias and Sarah (Woodworth) Topliff, the former of whom was born August 30, 1801, and died November 26, 1860, while his wife died on the 4th of May, 1854. It was in the fall of 1847 that John Nelson Topliff accompanied his parents on their removal from Milford, Ohio, to Iowa, the journey being made with two two-horse teams and one single horse. They arrived at Monona on the 26th of November, 1847, that being just south of the Winnebago reservation, and Elias Topliff took up the first claim on that reservation before it was surveyed and before they had the protection of the government from the Indians, as the red men did not move from the territory until the following June. In the family of Elias Topliff were six sons and four daughters, of whom three sons and two daughters are still living.

In early life John Nelson Topliff engaged in teaming prior to the advent of the railroad, and during those pioneer days he experienced many of the hardships and difficulties which came to those who settled on the frontier. For two years after his marriage he made his home in Waukon and then removed to the old homestead farm two miles west of Postville, where he resided until 1891, since which time he has lived retired in Decorah, Iowa. In connection with general farming he also engaged in the nursery and fruit business and met with excellent success in his undertakings. On the 2d of January, 1869, he became a Master Mason, joining the lodge at Postville, and has since been an exemplary member of that order.

On the 1st of July, 1860, in Waukon, John N. Topliff was united in marriage to Miss Rachel Elizabeth Reed, who was born in Ohio, June 21, 1841, a daughter of David and Mary (Allen) Reed, the former of whom was born June 27, 1799, and died in March, 1886, while the latter was born May 9, 1814, and died February 4, 1866. Mr. and Mrs. Topliff became the parents of the following children: Charles Louis, born December 28, 1862; John Nelson, Jr., born

November 11, 1863; Anna Grace, who was born July 3, 1868, and died November 25, 1877; Frank Rolla, who was born February 6, 1875, and died October 25, 1877; and Ray F., the subject of this interview.

In the acquirement of an education Dr. Topliff attended the Decorah public schools and after graduating from the high school entered the dental college of the Northwestern University at Chicago, graduating with the degree of D. D. S., in 1906. He began the practice of his profession in West Union, but after one year came to Postville, where he has since engaged in practice. His office is one of the most modern and best equipped in this part of the state and his practice is very large, requiring the constant services of an assistant. He is at present furnishing and equipping a new office in the bank building on Main street and expects shortly to move to his new location. He is a constant student of the modern and advanced methods which are being at all times introduced into the practice of dentistry and he is today one of the most able exponents of these methods. His large patronage is a proof of the excellent results he has already accomplished and in his ability and knowledge he possesses a guarantee of future professional progress.

Dr. Topliff was married on the 10th of November, 1910, to Miss Josephine M. Lennon, who was born in Decorah, August 26, 1885, a daughter of Joseph M. and Alice (Webster) Lennon, the former a native of Racine, Wisconsin, and the latter of Decorah. Her father, who followed farming during all of his active life, came to Iowa in early times and grew to manhood in this state, acquiring his education in the public schools in the vicinity of Decorah. He began his independent career by purchasing land between Decorah and Frankville and became in time an extensive landowner. He retired from active life about the year 1897 and removed into Decorah, where he and his wife still reside, but he still supervises the management of his landed interests.

Dr. Topliff is a member of the Iowa State Dental Society, of the Alumni Association of Northwestern University and of Xi Psi Phi. He belongs to Brotherly Love Lodge, No. 204, A. F. & A. M., and is identified also with the Order of Eastern Star. He is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is well known in social and fraternal circles of the city, where his many fine qualities have gained him high regard, while in his profession he has won that prominence which comes only in recognition of merit and ability.

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#### AARON B. COOK.

In 1907 after more than thirty-eight years' close identification with farming interests in Allamakee county, Aaron B. Cook moved into Postville where he has since lived in retirement, having earned rest and leisure by many years of earnest, honorable and well directed work in the past. A spirit of enterprise and determination has actuated him in all that he has done and his work has been of a high order, touching and influencing the trend of agricultural development in this part of the state. He was born in St. Joseph county, Michigan, September 15, 1840, and is a son of William and Ursula (Burr) Cook, natives of New York, born

near Utica. The father was one of the pioneers in Michigan, going there when the present state was still a territory, and identifying himself with general farming in St. Joseph county where he remained until 1868 when he went to Mottville, where he turned his attention to the real-estate business in which he continued until his death, September 5, 1878. He was prominent in public affairs in St. Joseph county and held various positions of trust and honor, serving for several years as county commissioner. He had long survived his wife, who passed away in 1849. In their family were eight children, of whom the subject of this review is the sixth in the order of birth.

Aaron B. Cook acquired his early education in the public schools of Mottville and was later a student in White Pigeon Seminary. When he was nineteen years of age he began teaching, spending the winter months at this occupation and attending school during the summers. Afterward, however, he turned his attention to farming, buying land in Elkhart county, Indiana, where he remained about two years. He followed this by two years upon his father's farm in Michigan and then, in 1867, came to Iowa, having since continued a resident of the state. At first he rented land in Ludlow township, Allamakee county, but after two years purchased eighty acres in Post township, whereon he resided continuously for thirty-eight years, becoming, in the interval, one of the most prominent and substantial farmers in this section of the state. When he took up his residence upon this property it was wild and unimproved, but with characteristic energy he set himself to the task of clearing and developing it, steadily carrying forward the work along practical and scientific lines. From time to time he bought more land and added it to his holdings until they today comprise two hundred and eighty acres of fine farming land. In connection with the work of the farm, he not only threshed for himself and neighbors during the season—owning successively three threshing machines—but he also taught in the district schools during the winter season, becoming, through his able and successful work, one of the leading educators of the county. He was, as may readily be seen, an indefatigable worker, possessed of the ability to divide his energies without impairing their force and he had, moreover, that knowledge of men and the power of judging their capabilities, which enabled him always to hire efficient and honest employes, a great deal of his success being due to this fact alone. In addition to the activities above mentioned, he was also for some time president of the publishing company which controlled the District Post, the second paper in Postville and known as the greenback paper of this district. Mr. Cook is at present manager of the cooperative Postville canning factory and has proven himself a reliable and far-sighted business man as well as a successful educator and a capable farmer. In 1907 he removed from his farm into Postville and is now living practically retired, giving most of his attention to the supervision of his extensive interests.

Mr. Cook married, on the 1st of April, 1860, Miss Caroline Machemer, who was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, June 20, 1838. She is a daughter of William and Catherine (Seeman) Machemer, natives of that section of the Keystone state. For many years the father followed farming, but in later life turned his attention to the mercantile business, operating a large store in Constantine, Michigan, whither he and his wife went in 1855. There the mother died in 1878 and she was survived by her husband until 1893, his death occurring

when he was eighty-seven years of age. Of their family of eleven children, Mrs. Cook is the sixth in the order of birth. She grew to womanhood in Pennsylvania and acquired her education in the public schools of that state. She and her husband became the parents of seven children. Flora, the widow of O. D. Franklin, of Postville, was born May 7, 1861. She is now a teacher in the Postville public school. James Albert was born December 8, 1862. He is a resident of Keller, Washington, where he is engaged in teaching. He married Myrtle Hoagland, a native of Chickasaw county, Iowa. Carrie L., who was born September 29, 1866, is the widow of Orrin M. Franklin and makes her home in Waterloo, Iowa. Myrtle M., born February 14, 1872, became the wife of Elmer McGhee, of the European Hotel, of Cedar Rapids. Perry E. was born November 25, 1874, and still resides on the home farm. He married Miss Stella Uhl. Charles B. was born October 17, 1877, and died May 21, 1908. His wife was in her maidenhood, Miss Estella Hammel. Gwendolyn, youngest child born to Mr. and Mrs. Cook, was born February 10, 1882. She is the wife of Walter Campbell, secretary of the Cooperative Creamery Company of Postville.

Mr. Cook attends the Methodist Episcopal church, although he is not a member of any religious denomination. He gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and is actively interested in public affairs, being always ready and willing to cooperate in movements for the general welfare. He has held important offices, serving with credit as justice of the peace for sixteen years, as township trustee and as secretary of the school board. In all relations of life he has proved honorable, upright, straightforward and efficient and, in the county where he has resided for almost forty years, his name is a synonym for progressive citizenship, business ability and high standards of personal and political integrity.

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### GEORGE WASHINGTON HANKS.

Through a residence of about thirty years in Allamakee county, George Washington Hanks firmly entrenched himself in the affection and regard of those with whom he came in contact, while his business ability gained him a place among the representative and valued residents of this section of the state. From 1862 until his death in 1891 he resided continuously upon his farm lying partly in this and partly in Clayton county and each year added something to his high standing in the community to the agricultural development of which he made such substantial and lasting contributions. He came to Iowa in 1859.

Mr. Hanks was born in West Almond, Allegany county, New York, on the 8th of October, 1834, and is a son of Rufus F. and Cynthia (Knight) Hanks, natives of Greenwich, Connecticut, the former born, September 4, 1802, and the latter, September 29, 1790. The father was a cooper by trade and an expert carpenter and joiner, as well as a blacksmith, and he worked at all of these occupations, first in Connecticut, and then in Pennsylvania, whither he went in 1837. In that state he also followed farming, owning an excellent property which, however, was largely operated by his sons. He was one of the pioneers in Iowa, locating in Wayne township, Crawford county, in early times and making his residence

there until his death, which occurred in 1880. He had survived his wife only a short time, her death having occurred six weeks previously.

George Washington Hanks was the eighth in a family of twelve children. He acquired his education in the district schools in Pennsylvania and at the same time became a proficient and capable farmer, learning the best and most practical agricultural methods by personal experience upon his father's property. Under his father he also learned the cooper's trade, becoming an expert carpenter, joiner and blacksmith, and he did a great deal of this kind of work in his father's different shops. On the 24th of April, 1859, he left Pennsylvania and came to Iowa, settling in Clayton county where he rented land, turning his attention to general farming. He was very successful and was eventually able to purchase a fine property of his own upon which he moved June 12, 1862, and whereon he continued to reside until his death. For a time he worked at his trade in connection with his farming operations, but later concentrated his attention upon the development of his land, becoming one of the most prosperous and successful farmers in this part of the state. Starting with forty acres, he added to his holdings as his financial resources increased and he owned finally two hundred and seventy-three and one-third acres, one hundred and thirteen of which lay in Clayton county and the remainder in Allamakee. Upon it he made substantial improvements, his progressive and modern spirit leading him to introduce all the newest and best machinery, and to keep the buildings which he erected in good repair. In addition to the development of his fields, he gave a great deal of attention to stock-raising and eventually operated the farm as a general stock farm, whereon he bred and raised pure-blooded animals. It was he who introduced Polled Angus cattle in this vicinity and he did a great deal of important work in improving the breed. For thirty years he steadily carried forward the work of developing his homestead and his well directed and practical labors were at length rewarded by a success which placed him in the front ranks of the county's progressive farmers.

On the 3rd of July, 1856, Mr. Hanks married Miss Mary Ann Banister, who was born in Cherry Creek, Chautauqua county, New York, September 15, 1834. She is a daughter of William and Priscilla (Stewart) Banister, natives of Windsor county, Vermont, the former born August 12, 1808, and the latter, September 12, 1804. They moved across the Green mountains to New York in 1830 and in that state engaged in farming, an occupation which he followed all during his active life. In 1837 he moved to Crawford county, Pennsylvania, and there resided until his death, which occurred November 8, 1890. He had survived his wife since March 29, 1879. Although Mr. and Mrs. Hanks had no children of their own, they adopted a nephew, W. James Hanks, son of the brother of the subject of this review. He was born in Franklin county, Iowa, August 31, 1871, and grew to manhood in this state. He married Miss Agnes Dunn, also a native of Iowa, and they have two sons: George L. and Harry Newell, who reside with their father in Postville. W. James Hanks is engaged in the piano and jewelry business in that city and is one of the progressive and enterprising young business men of the community.

The death of Mr. Hanks occurred upon his farm January 12, 1891, after a residence of nearly thirty years upon the property. After his demise Mrs. Hanks remained upon the homestead until the following December, when she disposed

of the property and moved into Postville, where she has since resided, being well known and highly esteemed in the community. Mr. Hanks gave his political allegiance to the republican party and was progressive and public-spirited in matters of citizenship, cooperating heartily in all measures which he deemed would be of benefit to the county or state. He served for a few years as justice of the peace in Post township and in Postville was a director of the District Fair Association. Mr. Hanks was also a great lover of music and quite proficient in that art. He taught it in early times to the great benefit of the young people, never receiving any remuneration for his work, but teaching with a view of bringing something beautiful into their lives.

He was about fifty-seven years of age at the time of his death which caused deep regret among his many friends who had learned to esteem him for his genuine personal worth and his sterling qualities of heart and character. Although he did not seek to figure prominently before the public, he came to be known throughout the community as an exemplary citizen, a faithful husband and a reliable and trustworthy business man.

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#### WINFIELD S. WEBSTER.

Energy, application and unremitting industry have been the watchwords of the career of Winfield S. Webster, who for many years has been identified with the insurance business in Postville and who is today numbered among the prominent, representative and deservedly successful business men of the community. He was born in Schoharie county, New York, June 15, 1842, and is a son of Daniel D. and Jane (Malick) Webster, also natives of that part of the Empire state. The father was born in 1806 and in early life turned his attention to merchandising, later abandoning this occupation in favor of farming. He was a brigadier general in the New York State Militia and held the rank until 1851, when he left the state and moved west to Iowa, locating in the old town of Moneek, in Winneshiek county, where he purchased land which he developed and improved until he moved to Ossian. While on his first Iowa farm he had also engaged in the insurance business and he now turned his attention entirely to that line of work, continuing in it until his death, which occurred May 10, 1892. He had long survived his wife, who died September 16, 1876. They were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this review is the fifth in order of birth.

Winfield S. Webster acquired his education in Moneek and in the grade schools of Waukon and after completing it remained at home with his parents until he was twenty-two years of age. He began his independent career as salesman for a history of the Civil war which was published at that time but after three months turned his attention to the insurance business, traveling as a special agent through northeastern Iowa, his territory covering a quarter of the entire state. He was thus occupied for two years and at the end of that time came to Postville, engaging in the insurance business for himself, a line of work in which he has been active since that time, building up a large and representative patronage which he has proved very successful in conducting





*W. B. Webster*

*Ellen J. Webster*

THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

He is in addition a dealer in real estate; is a stockholder in the Clay Products Company; the Citizens Bank, which he helped to organize; the local Canning Factory, and he owns valuable city property in Postville and extensive farming lands in the west. A spirit of enterprise and progress actuates him in all that he does and his unremitting industry, his unquestioned integrity and his known reliability have been salient elements in his success.

Mr. Webster married on the 1st of January, 1874, Miss Ellen I. Clark, a native of Rock county, Wisconsin, born September 30, 1847, and a daughter of Andrew and Laura (Bush) Clark. The father, who was a native of Bennington, Vermont, born January 5, 1807, spent his entire active life in farming. He went to Rock county, settling near Johnstown at an early date, and later moved to Albert Lea, Minnesota. From there he came to Castalia, Iowa, and there purchased a farm upon which he resided until within a few days previous to his death. His demise occurred January 12, 1890, in Postville, where he had gone to visit his daughter. He was well known in local affairs, having held some important township offices, and he was known as a representative of one of the oldest families in America, his father having been a soldier in the Continental army during the Revolutionary war. His wife, who was born in Sheridan, New York, August 2, 1812, passed away in May, 1896. They became the parents of ten children, of whom Mrs. Webster is the eighth in order of birth. Four of their sons served in the Civil war and one was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant, dying, however, before he received his commission. Mr. and Mrs. Webster became the parents of three children: Roy Clark, who was born July 7, 1876, and who died December 3, 1885; Ruby W., born December 17, 1877; and Arthur C., an electrician, who was born August 12, 1884, and who married on December 26, 1912, Miss Glessner Harris.

Mr. Webster gives his political allegiance to the republican party but has never sought nor desired public office although he has served ably on the town council. He is well known in the Masonic order, having attained the thirty-second degree in that organization. He has resided for many years in Postville and he expects to spend the remainder of his days in the community, where he is honored as a man who has worked his way upward to success by upright and worthy means and who uses his prosperity not alone for his own benefit but for the best interests of the city at large.

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#### CASSIUS P. SMITH.

A spirit of enterprise and progress actuates Cassius P. Smith in all that he does. He has worked diligently and persistently to develop and improve his farm, which is today an excellent property, lying partly in Allamakee and partly in Clayton counties. He was born in Clayton county, near National, on the 14th of January, 1866, and is a son of Benjamin and Abigail (Wilkins) Smith, natives of Essex county, New York. The father came to Iowa in the early '50s and settled in Clayton county, where he entered government land, upon which he continued to reside for a number of years. His marriage occurred here and he and

his family afterward removed to Post township, Allamakee county, where his death occurred in 1887. His wife survived him many years, dying in 1907.

The public schools of Clayton county and the Postville high school afforded Cassius P. Smith his educational opportunities and when he was not occupied with his books he aided his father with the work of the homestead. After he had attained his majority he rented land in Post township and two years later purchased the farm upon which he now resides. His holdings comprise sixty acres in Post township, Allamakee county, and seventy-seven acres just across the line in Clayton county. However, his son operates the Clayton county farm in connection with his own property. Mr. Smith has made substantial improvements upon his land and engages in general farming and stock-raising, keeping cattle, hogs and horses. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Store and the canning factory in Postville, and his business interests are carefully controlled, so that he has now reached a plane of affluence, being numbered among the substantial citizens of this community.

On the 17th of January, 1888, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Lucy A. Webb, who was born in Post township, a daughter of Henry Webb, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are the parents of two children. The eldest, Leighton, was born in 1889 and is now engaged in farming in Clayton county. His wife was, in her maidenhood, Miss Carrie Swenson. Esther was born in 1895 and is now attending school.

Fraternally Mr. Smith is a member of Brotherly Love Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Postville, and is identified with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Brotherhood of America. He is independent in his political views, voting always in favor of progressive and constructive public measures. His entire life has been characterized by devotion to manly purposes and honorable principles and in business dealings he is straightforward and reliable, enjoying to the fullest extent the confidence and good-will of those who know him.

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#### WILLIAM H. EBENDORF.

William H. Ebendorf, who for the past sixteen years has been one of the leading tailors in Waukon, is a native of Iowa, born in Clayton county, June 11, 1873. He was reared and educated in his native section and after laying aside his books learned the tailor's trade at Elkader, later attending a cutting school in Chicago, where he finished the course, becoming a skilled and expert workman in this line. Upon his graduation he returned to Iowa, settling in Elkader in 1896. He established himself in business there, but remained only one year, coming at the end of that time to Waukon, where he has since remained. His patronage increased rapidly as his fine workmanship and reasonable prices became more widely known and in 1907 Mr. Ebendorf was obliged to purchase his own business house, in which he today conducts a large and growing tailoring concern. In connection with this he does French dry cleaning and has secured a liberal patronage.

Mr. Ebendorf married, January 25, 1898, Miss Anna Beer, a native of Elkader, and they have three children, Lura May, Harry and Herbert. Mr.

Ebendorf is a member of the Masonic fraternity, holding membership in the lodge and chapter, and he has held various important official positions in the organization. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias and is serving as chancellor commander. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and in that organization served as national delegate to the convention held in Buffalo, New York, in June, 1911, and to the Chicago convention held in January, 1912. He is prominent in local republican politics, being now in the third term of his able service as township trustee, his official life being distinguished by the same qualities of energy, enterprise and sterling integrity which form the basis of his successful business career.

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#### HENRY C. MEYER.

One of the most active, progressive and successful farmers in the vicinity of Postville is Henry C. Meyer, who since 1901 has owned and operated a fine property of one hundred and thirty-eight acres, eighty rods beyond the corporation limits. The land lies partly in Clayton and partly in Allamakee counties and is a well improved and valuable property, reflecting in its neat and attractive appearance the careful supervision and careful methods of the owner.

Mr. Meyer is a native of Iowa, born in Fayette county, November 5, 1878, a son of William and Louisa (Meyer) Meyer, natives of Hanover, Germany. As a young man the father crossed the Atlantic to America and, coming immediately to Iowa, located at Guttenberg, Clayton county, where he worked at farming in the employ of others for some time, later removing to Garnavillo in the same county and then to National. He there married, and afterward farmed as a renter for a number of years, removing eventually to Fayette county and purchasing land. Upon that farm he still resides and is active in its cultivation, being the owner of one hundred and sixty acres, substantially improved and well equipped. He and his wife had nine children, two of whom died in infancy. The others are: Minnie, who married Fred H. Brandt, a farmer in Clayton county; William A., a farmer near Castalia; Caroline, the wife of John C. Weike, who is engaged in farming in Grand Meadows township, Clayton county; Henry C., of this review; Anna, who married Fred Kuhse, a farmer in Grand Meadows township, Clayton county; Charley, who resides with his parents; and Bertha, who married Charles H. Schroeder, a resident of Fayette county.

In the acquirement of an education Henry C. Meyer attended the old Henderson Prairie school, named in honor of David B. Henderson, who was a pupil there, and he supplemented this by four months in the German Lutheran school. Until he was twenty-two years of age he remained upon the homestead, assisting his father in its operation, but, March 21, 1901, he purchased land of his own, upon which he has resided since that time. He bought one hundred and thirty-eight acres, eighty rods beyond the corporation limits of Postville, the land lying in Clayton and Allamakee counties, and upon this he has steadily carried forward the work of improvement, erecting modern buildings and installing fine farm machinery. Success has attended his well directed efforts in the cultivation of his land, for his methods are always practical and modern and, therefore, productive

of excellent results. The farm is today one of the finest in this part of the state and its owner is counted among Allamakee county's progressive and substantial agriculturists. He is a stockholder in the Postville Canning Company and in the Cooperative Creamery Company and his business interests are carefully managed and always profitable.

On the 21st of March, 1901, Mr. Meyer was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Krambeer, who was born in Reed township, Clayton county, December 6, 1881, a daughter of John and Ida (Harnack) Krambeer. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer became the parents of four children: Ethel, who was born January 12, 1902, and who, on the 7th of January, 1910, was killed by a train on the railroad crossing near her home; Lawrence, born March 16, 1903; Hilda, born February 17, 1905; and Amy, whose birth occurred on the 21st of November, 1909.

Mr. Meyer is a member of the German Lutheran church and, politically, gives a general allegiance to the democratic party, voting independently, however, when he deems the best interests of the community require such action. He is not active as an office seeker, but is interested in school affairs and is at present acting as secretary of his school district. He is progressive and public-spirited, never withholding his ready and hearty cooperation from movements to promote the general advancement and development and, by his industrious and upright life, has made his name honored and respected in the community where he makes his home.

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#### AUGUST SCHULTZ.

A life of hard and unremitting labor, guided at all times by a great determination and persistency of purpose, has brought August Schultz to a position of prominence among the men who, for the past twenty years, have made substantial contributions to the agricultural development and progress of Allamakee county. At eight years of age he was a hired laborer in his native country—Germany—and his childhood was filled with hardships and privations, while later, his life was filled with hard work and industrious striving after the success which he enjoys today. He owns two hundred acres of land near Postville, which by his practical and modern methods of development he has made a valuable and productive property worthy of comparison with the finest farms in this section of the state.

Mr. Schultz was born in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, on the 28th of August, 1867, a son of Deitrich Schultz, who for many years was employed on a trading vessel on the river Elbe. He served his term of enlistment in the German army and never left his native country.

At the early age of eight years August Schultz was hired out as a farm laborer, spending his summers at this work and attending school during the winter months. This continued until 1884 and, during that period, he became a practical and able farmer, learning the best agricultural methods and all the details of farm operation. In July, 1884, he left Germany and came to America, settling immediately in the vicinity of Postville, Iowa, where he secured employment as a farm hand, and being ignorant of the English language, he spent two winters in school

in order to acquire it. During all of this time he saved money and by frugality and economy, accumulated enough to buy land. He purchased ninety acres in Post township, to which he later added forty acres, carrying forward its cultivation along modern and progressive lines until it was one of the finest farms in that locality. He sold that property in 1911 and bought his present farm of two hundred acres, a mile north of Postville, and this he has also substantially improved, erecting new buildings and installing the necessary farm equipment. Mr. Schultz is a practical farmer, having learned the details of farm operation through many years of hard work in the fields and the results are evident in the excellent condition of his property today. He is a large shareholder in the Cooperative Creamery Company and the Cooperative Mercantile Association of Postville and is known in the town and the vicinity as a reliable, resourceful and far-sighted business man.

On the 25th of December, 1895, Mr. Schultz was united in marriage to Miss Dora Schultz, who, although she bore the same name, is no relative. She was born in Grand Meadows township, Clayton county, near Postville, August 14, 1877, and is a daughter of William and Rieke (Moll) Schultz, natives of Germany. The parents came to America in 1870, locating first in Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania, where the father engaged in railroad work. They moved later to Alabama and then to Iowa, settling in this state about the year 1873. After several years of railroad work, William Schultz purchased a small farm in Clayton county, and from that time to the present has engaged in agricultural pursuits, success steadily attending his well directed labors. He and his wife became the parents of seven children, of whom the wife of subject of this review is the second in the order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. August Schultz have nine children: Velma, who was born March 13, 1897; Bertha, April 8, 1898; Lawrence, September 2, 1900; Roy, May 1, 1902; Milda, April 14, 1903; Elmer, December 1, 1905; Harry, July 2, 1908; Kenneth, July 1, 1910; and Gertrude, February 28, 1912.

Mr. Schultz is a member of the Lutheran church and fraternally is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. He gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. A resident of this locality for more than a quarter of a century, his many sterling qualities of mind and character have become widely known here and his honorable and upright life has commanded the respect and confidence of all with whom he has had business or social relations.

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#### PHILIP H. LETOURNEAU, M. D.

Dr. Philip H. Letourneau, practicing in Waukon along modern and scientific lines, is recognized as an able exponent of his profession and the liberal patronage accorded him is proof of the confidence reposed in him by the general public. He is a native of Illinois, born in Bourbonnais Grove, Kankakee county, April 20, 1860, and is a son of Hon. George R. Letourneau, born in Canada, of French ancestry. George R. Letourneau came to the United States and settled in Illinois, where he was one of the pioneers in Kankakee county. In 1849 he crossed the plains by wagon train going to California, but at Fort Laramie was

seized with typhoid fever and was obliged to remain there for six weeks, his partner and friend nursing him through his illness. Upon his recovery they journeyed on horseback to the gold mines of California and for some time engaged in freighting from Sacramento to the gold fields, a distance of two hundred miles. Mr. Letourneau later turned his attention to mining and after three years returned to Illinois with about five thousand dollars in gold, which he invested in land near Kankakee. He purchased two hundred and forty acres and opened up a new farm, clearing and fencing the property and improving it with a fine residence, a barn and substantial outbuildings. He farmed there for a number of years, eventually selling his property at two hundred and fifty dollars per acre. During this time he also engaged in the grain business in Kankakee, building a large elevator, which he afterward sold. He was one of the prominent men of affairs in Kankakee county and left the impress of his work and personality upon its political history. He served for a number of years as supervisor and was afterward for two terms in the state senate during Governor Altgeld's administration. He made an honorable record in this and other official positions of trust and honor and was county treasurer of Kankakee county at the time of his death. His wife, who was in her maidenhood Miss Elodie Langlois, passed away in 1896, and was survived by her husband until December, 1907. In their family were twelve children, six sons and six daughters, of whom nine grew to maturity.

Dr. Philip H. Letourneau was reared in Kankakee, Illinois, and acquired his preliminary education in the public schools of that section. After completing the high-school course he studied medicine in Northwestern University, graduating from the medical department with the class of 1881, when he was twenty-one years of age. He returned home and spent the following summer in Kankakee county, moving in the fall of that year to Chippewa Falls, where he opened an office and began the practice of his profession. He remained there for twelve years and secured a gratifying and lucrative patronage in recognition of his ability and the excellent results which attended his labors. For the last seven years of that time he was connected with St. Joseph's Hospital and for two years served as county coroner. When he left Chippewa Falls Dr. Letourneau moved to Dubuque, where he practiced his profession for one year, going at the end of that time to Lowden, Iowa, where for one year he managed the practice of one of the old physicians there. From Lowden he came to Waukon and in 1896 opened an office here, where he has since been an honored member of the medical fraternity. From the beginning he was accorded a liberal patronage, which has increased yearly, being now of gratifying proportions. Dr. Letourneau is an earnest and scientific student of the underlying principles of medicine and never considers his professional education complete, keeping in touch with the most advanced medical thought by taking post-graduate courses from time to time. He is an exhaustive reader along professional lines and in his practice his labors have been attended with excellent results viewed from both a financial and professional standpoint. He owns a good home in Waukon and valuable farming property near San Antonio, Texas, upon which Bermuda onions are extensively grown.

Dr. Letourneau married, in 1897, Miss Angelia Dodge, who was born and reared in Wisconsin. Mrs. Letourneau is a member of the Waukon Methodist



Episcopal church and well known in religious and social circles. The Doctor is interested in community affairs and is a public-spirited citizen, who has done effective work for the welfare of the community. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias. A student of the signs of the times, he keeps in touch with the trend of modern thought concerning matters of general interest as well as of professional advancement and has made a creditable record as a member of the medical fraternity.

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#### GEORGE ALBERT McCLINTOCK.

Among the residents of Post township who are numbered among the substantial farmers and representative citizens and who have achieved success and prosperity by their own exertions and persevering efforts, George Albert McClintock occupies a leading place. His industry and enterprise together with good management have enabled him to acquire one hundred and sixty-five acres of excellent land, which he has for many years past kept under cultivation and from which he has derived bountiful harvests.

Mr. McClintock is numbered among Allamakee county's native sons, his birth having occurred in Ludlow township, February 18, 1872. He is a son of William and Ann (Cleverley) McClintock, the former a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the latter of New York state. The father, who spent his entire active life engaged in farming, came to Allamakee county at an early date and purchased land which he continued to develop and improve until he removed to Winneshiek county, where he passed away in September, 1871. His widow disposed of the farm in the following February and purchased land in Allamakee county, but this she has also sold and now makes her home with her daughter Bertha, the wife of Mortimer Deering of Post township. She is the mother of four children, of whom the subject of this review is the youngest. By a former marriage William McClintock had one son, Joseph, who resides at Northwood, Worth county, Iowa.

George Albert McClintock acquired his education in White schoolhouse No. 8, Post township, and in Evergreen school, which he attended for one winter. He began his independent career at the age of fourteen, working as a farm laborer and receiving at first only seven dollars a month for his services. When he was twenty-one he turned his attention to other pursuits, driving the stage between Waukon and Postville for a period of three years and a half thereafter. At the end of that time he formed a partnership with his brother and together they rented a farm near Fort Atkinson, Winneshiek county, which developed and improved for two years. George Albert McClintock then removed into Post township and here purchased one hundred and sixty-five acres of land about a mile and a quarter beyond Postville, a property which he has since operated. He engages in general farming and gives particular attention to stock-raising, breeding high-grade shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. His farm is capably and carefully managed for he is a practical agriculturist, following always the most modern methods and reaping his reward in the neat and attractive appearance of his place and the profitable income he derives

therefrom. He is a stockholder in the Postville Canning Factory and is well known to the business men of that city.

Mr. McClintock has been twice married. On the 13th of February, 1898, he wedded Miss Mary B. Swenson, who was born in Post township, in April, 1872. She was a daughter of Jerdon and Mary (Gilbertson) Swenson, natives of Norway. The father crossed the Atlantic in early manhood and settled in Iowa, where at first he worked at farming in the employ of others, later becoming a prosperous landowner. He now resides retired at Clermont, Fayette county. Mr. McClintock's first wife died February 18, 1910, leaving one child, Fernie, who was born in January, 1899. Mr. McClintock was married on the 28th of August, 1912, to Mrs. Effie (Belcher) Banks, a daughter of John Belcher, who was born in Illinois and came from that state to Story county, Iowa, where he is still engaged in farming. In February, 1898, Mrs. McClintock had wedded James Banks, a native of Iowa, and by their union were born three children: Homer, Ross and Charles, who make their home with their mother and stepfather.

Mr. McClintock gives his political allegiance to the republican party and fraternally is affiliated with the Modern Brotherhood of America. He is a fine type of the self-made man and, always evidencing a willingness to work and ambition to succeed, he has, step by step, made his way upward in the world until he has risen to a position where he is numbered among Allamakee county's substantial farmers and most highly respected citizens.

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#### HON. DANIEL HAMPTON BOWEN.\*

One of the most powerful and virile forces in republican politics in the state of Iowa, one of the most able and successful physicians and surgeons in Allamakee county and one of the biggest, most broad-minded and most generally beloved men of Waukon is, beyond all question, Dr. Daniel Hampton Bowen, who for more than a third of a century has give of his best energies, powers and talents towards the promotion of state and municipal development along professional, political, social and fraternal lines. His success and prominence are only the natural reward of his many years of earnest and well directed labor.

Dr. Bowen was born on a farm near Decatur, Green county, Wisconsin, September 6, 1850, and is a son of Jared Ingersoll and Lacy Ann (Fleek) Bowen, the former of Welsh and Scotch-Irish descent and the latter of Dutch ancestry. The paternal branch of this family has been in America for many generations, its representatives having crossed the Atlantic long before the Revolutionary war. The father was born in Pennsylvania just across the Virginia line and in his youth learned the carpenter's trade which, however, he followed only a short time, most of his life having been spent in farming. He came west in 1844, settling in that year in Wisconsin where the remainder of his life was passed. His wife, still active and hearty at the age of eighty-nine, makes her home at Brodhead in that state.

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\* The sketch of Dr. Bowen was prepared by a friend.



DR. DANIEL H. BOWEN



Dr. Bowen spent his childhood on his father's Wisconsin farm and his youth was passed amid such conditions as usually fall to the lot of the farmer's boy. In the winters he attended district school and in the summer months assisted with the work of the homestead, alternating in this way until he grew to manhood. He was ten years of age at the outbreak of the Civil war but was not too young to have some understanding of the important issues involved, which formed his political belief, in future life. After completing the course in the public schools he turned his attention to teaching, following this occupation for several terms. At the end of that time he took up the study of medicine under the tutorage of Dr. R. Broughton, to whose able teaching he owes much of his professional success. Three years in the physician's office were followed by a course at Rush Medical College in Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1876 with the degree of M. D. Coming west in search of a suitable professional opening he settled at Rossville, Allamakee county. From the beginning he met with a gratifying degree of success, building up a large and lucrative practice and becoming well known as an able physician and surgeon. He remained in Rossville until 1880 when he moved to Waukon where through many honorable and worthy years, filled with useful achievements along professional and public lines, he has since made his home. In the beginning he practiced in partnership with Dr. Mattoon but since their association was discontinued has been alone. He is numbered among the pioneer physicians of Allamakee county, having taken up his residence here long before the railroad reached Waukon and in his practice has had the varied experience which commonly falls to the lot of the country practitioner. Dr. Bowen has been honored by his professional brethren in many ways. He served as president of the Alumni Association of Rush Medical College and also was president of the Allamakee County Medical Society. He is at present a trustee of the Iowa State Medical Society and an alternate delegate to the American Medical Association from the state society. The Doctor was honored by appointment of Governor Shaw to represent Iowa at the international congress of tuberculosis held at London, England, in 1901.

Although he has attained such distinction in professional circles it is not alone along this line that Dr. Bowen has done good work for Allamakee county and for Iowa, for since taking up his residence he has been one of the greatest individual forces in local republican politics, his activities touching and affecting the political growth of the state. In Waukon he has held many offices of trust and honor, having served as alderman and mayor of the city and as a member of the school board, holding the latter position for twenty years. In 1878 he served as county coroner, doing able and efficient work for two terms. His brilliant legislative career began with his election to the twenty-sixth general assembly and he served with credit through this session and during the special session held for the purpose of revising the code of Iowa. At this time he was chairman of the committee on public health and as such was responsible for the amending and codifying of that portion of the laws of the state dealing with questions of health and safety. So well did he accomplish this important work that but few changes, and those minor ones, have been made since that time. In recognition of the importance of his services and their effectiveness in promoting the best interests of the state, Dr. Bowen was reelected to the legislature at the end of his first term and in the twenty-seventh assembly was again made chair-

man of the committee on public health, displaying in the discharge of his duties an integrity, political ability and high conscientiousness which constantly deepened his popularity and gained him a place in the ranks of Iowa's statesmen. Upon his reelection to the twenty-eighth general assembly he was one of the republican candidates for the office of speaker of the house, his opponents being such distinguished Iowans as Hon. M. L. Temple, Colonel W. G. Dows, Hon. Mahlon Head and Senator W. L. Eaton. A spirited contest ended with the member from Allamakee county the winner and it is said of him that no more broad-minded, just and liberal man ever held the gavel in the Iowa house of representatives. Always a staunch and loyal republican and popular with the rank and file of the party, Dr. Bowen became a candidate for the office of alternate at large to the national convention of 1904 and was elected. He was elected in 1908 presidential elector from the fourth district by a majority of twenty-five although the opposing faction carried the district by a majority of four thousand. Thus it will be seen that during the years he has made his home in Iowa Dr. Bowen has been prominent in the councils of his party and has become a well known figure at state and district conventions—a man held in high honor by reason of his personal integrity, his public standards, his ambitions and ideals and by reason also of the usefulness and benefit of his public service.

Dr. Bowen married in Albany, Wisconsin, in February, 1877, Miss Hettie E. Burns, who has proven a worthy helpmate to him on his journey through life, sharing in all his successes, joys and sorrows. They have two children. The eldest, a son, Albert Sidney Bowen was born in Rossville, July 28, 1879, and after completing the course in the public schools of Waukon attended the State University at Iowa City. He afterward studied medicine at Northwestern University, Chicago, and then spent three years as a partner with his father in the practice of his profession. He then took the civil service examination, passing with great credit, and was assigned to hospital service at Colon, Panama. After two years in this service he took examination for entrance into the regular army as a surgeon and was sent by the government to Washington, D. C., where he entered the army medical school, later receiving his appointment as army surgeon. He has served at Fort Snelling, at Fort Sam Houston and is now in the foreign service in the Philippines with the rank of captain.

The other child born to Dr. and Mrs. Bowen is a daughter, Mary Charlotte, and she has had a no less successful career than has her brother. She was born in Waukon, August 14, 1885, and acquired her education in the city schools, later teaching for a time in the public schools of Worth county. She afterward attended the State University where her splendid work won for her not only the degree of B. A. but also a scholarship providing for a year's post-graduate work at the end of which she received her Master of Arts degree. A special course in normal training completed her preparation and she is now employed as a teacher of German and English in the State Normal School at Bellingham, Washington. In his children Dr. Bowen renews his youth, which indeed he has never lost, and he rejoices in their success more than in his own.

Dr. Bowen has also taken an active part in the work of two great fraternities, the Masons and the Knights of Pythias, in which he has held the highest offices within the gift of the local lodges, representing them with credit and ability in

their state conventions. He is widely known and very popular in the sections where he is known and most of all where he is best known. Many friends who love and honor him have grown to depend upon his wisdom and kindly counsel, and their opinion combines with that of the state at large that he is one of the most substantial and loyal-hearted men that Allamakee county has ever known.

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#### AUGUST H. MEYER.

August H. Meyer, who for many years has been influentially associated with farming and stock-raising interests in the vicinity of Postville, owning today a fine farm of two hundred and twenty-six acres, is a native of Iowa, born in Clayton county, September 2, 1860. He is a son of Henry and Dora (Kluss) Meyer, both of whom were born in Mecklenburg, Germany, the former February 14, 1824, and the latter January 16 of the same year. The father worked as a farm laborer in early years, crossing the Atlantic about the year 1854. He located in Clayton county, Iowa, and purchased land near Guttenberg, which, however, he later sold, removing to Post township, Allamakee county. He afterward made his home in Grand Meadow township, Clayton county, where he resided upon rented land until his death in February, 1886. His wife survives him and makes her home in Post township. To them were born two children: Lena, who married Charles Thies, of Clayton county; and August H., of this review.

In the acquirement of an education August H. Meyer attended district school in Clayton county and the public schools of Guttenberg and from his childhood aided in the operation of the homestead, becoming familiar with the best agricultural methods. When he was twenty-one he hired out as a farm hand, continuing thus for four years, after which he rented land in Clayton county, one mile south of Postville. Afterward, however, he removed to Allamakee county, buying the farm he now owns, and since that time he has given practically all of his attention to its improvement and cultivation until it is now one of the finest agricultural properties in the locality. It comprises two hundred and twenty-six acres of land, under a high state of cultivation, equipped with an excellent barn and substantial outbuildings and with modern labor-saving machinery. Mr. Meyer engages in general farming and is also extensively interested in stock-raising, keeping over one hundred head of sheep and also cattle, hogs and horses. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Shipping Company and in the Postville Canning Company.

On the 28th of September, 1886, Mr. Meyer was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Krambeer, who was born in Germany on the 6th of April, 1863, a sister of John Krambeer, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer have become the parents of five children: Amanda, who was born in 1887, and is now the wife of Henry Kruse, of Monona township, Clayton county; Gustav, a farmer in South Dakota, who was born in 1888, and married Miss Elsie Fisher; Bennie, who was born October 26, 1891; Ervin, born February 21, 1893; and Walter, January 26, 1897.

Mr. Meyer is a member of the Lutheran church at Luana and he gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He is interested in the growth of the community, especially in the cause of education, which he has aided in promoting through his two terms of service as a director of the school board. His life has been such as to give him high standing in the eyes of the community and he is generally recognized as a man whose long years of active labor in Post township have not only contributed to his own prosperity but have also been of great value to the community at large.

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OTTO P. MARTIN.

Otto P. Martin, well known in business circles of Waukon as a member of the firm of Martin & Sons, proprietors of a well appointed furniture and undertaking establishment, is a native son of the city, born July 20, 1878. His grandfather, Walter Martin, was born in Prussia and in that country grew to manhood and married. With his family, including his son, Henry Martin, father of the subject of this review, he came to America in 1855 and located in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where his death occurred. Henry Martin was born in Prussia in 1850 and was only five years of age when he accompanied his parents across the Atlantic. He remained in Wisconsin until he was sixteen years of age and then came to Iowa, spending a number of years thereafter upon a farm. Returning to Wisconsin he learned the carpentering trade and worked for two years as a journeyman carpenter, coming at the end of that time to Iowa and locating in Harpers Ferry, where he established himself in the furniture business. After a few years he disposed of his interests there and moved to Waukon, where he rented a business house and established a furniture concern. His business prospered exceedingly and he was soon able to purchase land and build his own substantial and commodious store, two stories of which are occupied by a well selected stock carried by Martin & Sons. In 1873 Henry Martin married Miss Sophia Bieber, a native of Germany, who passed away leaving two children: Otto P., of this review; and Hulda, the wife of Paul Dauenburg, of Sheboygan, Wisconsin. After the death of his first wife Mr. Martin married Miss Barbara Sandry, a native of Germany, and to their union were born three children: Marguerita, who lives at home; and Wayne H. and J. Willard, both of whom are associated with their father in the conduct of the store.

Otto P. Martin was reared in Waukon and acquired his education in the city schools. He practically grew up in his father's store and mastered the business in principle and detail. Since he was eighteen years of age he has shared the responsibility of the conduct of the establishment and in 1899 was made a partner with his father. Wishing to establish an undertaking department in connection with the furniture concern, he went to Chicago, where he attended a course of lectures, later going to Des Moines to further pursue his studies. He was a member of the first class in embalming in the state of Iowa and in 1900 passed his examination and received a license as an undertaker and funeral director. He has now been engaged in this line of work for twelve years and has proved himself thoroughly qualified for the business. Martin &



Sons keep a well selected line of funeral goods and their parlors are well equipped in every particular. They have two hearses and carry a fine line of caskets and funeral supplies, a liberal patronage having been accorded them in recognition of their reasonable prices and straightforward business dealings.

On January 20, 1904, Mr. Martin was united in marriage to Miss Helen Hausmeier, a native of Waukon, and they have two children, Ralph H. and Howard F. Mr. Martin is a member of the Knights of Pythias and both he and his wife belong to the German Reformed church and are held in high regard by all who know them.

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### SANDER O. SWENSON.

One of the substantial, prosperous and deservedly successful farmers of Post township is Sander O. Swenson, who owns and operates a fine property of two hundred and sixty acres of land, upon a portion of which he was born March 25, 1875. He is a son of John and Oline Swenson, natives of Norway, both born in the vicinity of Christiania, the former on the 13th of February, 1845, and the latter on the 23d of July, 1844. Their marriage occurred in Norway in 1868 and they afterward came to America, settling first in Franklin township, Allamakee county. They later removed to Post township and here the father purchased land, buying one hundred and eighteen acres, upon which he carried forward the work of improvement and development until his death, which occurred on the 1st of December, 1891.

Sander O. Swenson acquired his education in the Highland district school, which he attended until he was thirteen years of age. He was still very young when his father died but he afterward assumed the entire management of the farm, which he has continued to further improve and develop since that time. He has added to the improvements made by his father, erecting a number of modern buildings, installing a windmill and equipping the property with all the necessary labor-saving machinery. In addition to the work of the fields he engages extensively in stock-raising and this has come to be one of the most important sources of his income. He is a practical, modern and able farmer, and his labors through the years have been crowned by success, his farm being today one of the finest agricultural properties in this part of Iowa.

On the 18th of October, 1898, Mr. Swenson was united in marriage to Miss Cora A. McGhee, who was born in Franklin township, near Hardin, November 10, 1876, a daughter of Lucius and Ruth (Eaton) McGhee, the former a native of Ohio, born July 17, 1852, and the latter of Iowa, born February 17, 1849. Throughout his entire active life the father engaged in farming, becoming one of the largest landowners in Franklin township and continuing to manage his property there until his retirement. Mr. and Mrs. Swenson have four children: Lloyd Lucius, whose birth occurred on the 12th of March, 1900; Harlin Willard, born July 26, 1903; Ruth May, born November 9, 1904; and Alice Lenora, born March 28, 1908.

Mr. Swenson is a member of the United Brethren church and fraternally is connected with the Yeomen. He gives his political allegiance to the republican

party but has never sought office, preferring to concentrate his attention upon the conduct of his farm. He is one of the most successful and capable business men and substantial farmers of the locality and is a native son of whom Post township has every reason to be proud.

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#### THURE T. ERICSON.

Thure T. Ericson, who is now in the tenth year of his able service as justice of the peace in Waukon, was born in Sweden, April 2, 1862. He is a son of C. J. Ericson, also a native of Sweden, who grew to manhood there and married, his wife having been in her maidenhood Miss Wilhelmina Charlotte Mattsson. They came to America in 1867 and in June of the same year settled in Center township, Allamakee county, where the father purchased a small farm and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. From time to time he bought more land and added it to his original holdings until he owned five hundred acres well improved and developed. Upon that property he raised his family and there died July 3, 1908. His wife survives him.

Thure T. Ericson was reared upon his father's farm and in his childhood aided in its operation. He acquired his preliminary education in the public schools of the section and supplemented this by a course in a commercial school and one term under Professor Loughran. After laying aside his books he carried on general agricultural pursuits upon the homestead for some time, afterward going to LaCrosse, where he secured employment in the lumber mills. While on the farm he gave a great deal of his time to the manufacture of sorghum and during one fall made over four thousand gallons. He spent only two summers in the lumber mills and was afterward for ten years manager of a farm belonging to Dr. W. C. Earle. This property comprised two hundred acres and was conducted as a dairy farm, being equipped with all modern, sanitary and labor-saving machinery. There was a cream separator and a large churn. The output was from one hundred to two hundred pints of cream into butter each week. He made an exhibit of his dairy products at the county fair and took first premium on butter.

Mr. Ericson moved into Waukon in 1902 and at first turned his attention to the real-estate business, buying and selling town property and Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota lands. In the fall of the same year, however, he was elected justice of the peace and has been reelected each succeeding term for ten years, discharging his duties in an able, conscientious and far-sighted way. He still deals to some extent in real estate and owns his own residence on Pleasant street which is comfortable and attractive in every particular.

Mr. Ericson married in Center township, March 16, 1892, Miss Hannah Swenson, a native of Allamakee county and of Swedish parentage, her father, P. J. Swenson, having been born in that country and having come as a pioneer to Allamakee county. Mr. and Mrs. Ericson are members of the Baptist church of Waukon and are well known in religious and social circles of the city. Mr. Ericson is a musician of great talent and ability and is entirely self-educated in this art, having studied it by himself after he reached maturity. He has been

identified with several bands which were well known in this section of the state and for years was a member of a cornet band. He was for three years with the band connected with the Fifty-third Regiment of Iowa and was the organizer of the Center Band, of which he was the director for nine years. This was composed of from twelve to sixteen musicians. Politically Mr. Ericson gives his allegiance to the republican party and is intelligently interested in public affairs, although not a politician in the sense of office seeking. Having lived in this section since his childhood, he is widely and favorably known here, and in the course of an honorable and upright life has gained the respect and esteem of all who are associated with him.

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#### FRED H. STOPPERAN.

Among the younger generation who are making their mark in agricultural circles of Allamakee county is numbered Fred H. Stopperan, who was born in Grand Meadow township, Clayton county, Iowa, January 23, 1879, and who is now conducting an excellent farm near Postville. He is a son of Carl and Elizabeth (Schroeder) Stopperan, natives of Mecklenburg, Germany, the former born in 1835 and the latter in 1845. The father crossed the Atlantic about the year 1860 and located in Pennsylvania, where for some time he worked as a deck hand on a boat. He later came to Iowa, settling in Grand Meadow township, Clayton county, where he rented land, which he developed and improved for four years, later purchasing a farm. He bought at that time one hundred and twenty acres and upon it he continued to reside until 1903, when he retired from active life and removed into Postville, where he died about three months afterward. His wife survives him and makes her home in that city. They were the parents of ten children, of whom eight are yet living, the subject of this review being the seventh in the order of birth.

Fred H. Stopperan acquired his education in district school No. 7, Grand Meadow township, and in his childhood divided his time between his books and work upon his father's farm. He remained in Clayton county until he was twenty-two years of age and then went to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he spent one summer in the employ of others. Returning to Postville, he secured a position as driver of an ice wagon for Mr. Buecher, for whom he continued to work for three years, resigning his position in order to learn the cement and mason's trade. At this he became very proficient and he continued to give his entire time to it for five years, after which he turned his attention to farming, purchasing ninety-seven acres of land, which he now owns. His farm is highly improved, being provided with a fine barn and the necessary outbuildings, together with adequate labor-saving machinery. In addition to tilling the fields he also pays considerable attention to stock-raising and keeps on hand a number of fine cattle and hogs, which he feeds for the market. His fields are very productive and the excellent condition and attractive appearance of the entire farm is an evidence of the careful supervision and practical labor he has expended upon it. He is a shareholder in the Farmers Mercantile Association at

Postville and is well known in the city as a reliable and straightforward business man.

Mr. Stopperan was married on the 17th of March, 1910, to Miss Lena Brockmeyer, who was born in Westphalia, Germany, April 8, 1888, a daughter of Carl and Henrietta (Lampa) Brockmeyer, also natives of that part of Germany, the former born January 28, 1843, and the latter February 13, 1849. The father was a butcher, a farmer and a weaver in his native country but after he came to America in 1896 he gave his entire attention to agricultural pursuits, purchasing a farm in Fayette county, Iowa, and later moving to Post township, Allamakee county, where he and his wife now reside. They are the parents of five children, of whom the wife of the subject of this review is the youngest.

Mr. Stopperan is a member of the German Lutheran church and politically gives his allegiance to the republican party, serving at present as school director. He is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America and is well known in local fraternal circles. He inherited the industry and integrity of his German ancestry and aside from being numbered among the substantial farmers of the community he is also acknowledged to be one of the representative citizens of his township.

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#### EVAN SWENSON.

An unflinching purpose, strength of character, industry and perseverance, combined with a firm determination to achieve an honorable destiny, have actuated Evan Swenson in all the activities of his varied and eventful career and have brought him such substantial and well merited success that today no history of the agricultural development of Allamakee county would be complete without the record of his life. Starting at the bottom of the ladder, penniless, friendless and in a strange country, he has steadily worked his way upward to prosperity, constantly overcoming almost overwhelming obstacles and difficulties and standing today among the substantial and representative farmers and able business men in the vicinity of Postville, where he makes his home.

He was born near Christiania, Norway, on the 20th of June, 1849, and is a son of Swen and Maria (Olson) Swenson, also natives of that country. The father was a tailor by trade and also cultivated a small tract of land in Norway and, although he was crippled from the time he was one year old by the loss of an arm, was a man of remarkable strength and accumulated a comfortable competency. The mother passed away in 1863 and in 1871 the father came to America, locating near Postville, Iowa, on a farm in Post township, where he died in 1898. He had a family of nine children, of whom the subject of this review is the youngest.

Evan Swenson attended school for a short time in Norway but his advantages along this line were limited, for at the early age of fourteen he began working as a farm laborer, and the independence and self-reliance thus developed in him remain important elements in his character at the present time. For a while he received eight cents per day for hard work in the fields, his wages never going

MR. AND MRS. EVAN SWENSON AND FAMILY





above ten cents a day, and after two years he was hired out to a farmer for a period of eighteen months, receiving at the end of that time six dollars in money and a suit of homespun clothes. Afterward he spent a similar period working by the day and then rented a small piece of land, which he operated for one season, giving all of the proceeds of the farm in payment for six months' rent. His crop of hay he did not harvest, selling it all at public auction. The season of 1867 was late and Mr. Swenson did not get in his crops until the 7th of June and when harvested he realized for his summer's work only sixteen dollars. In view of these conditions and the hardships which surrounded his life in Norway he determined to leave the country and, having spent all of the money he had made in the summer for living expenses during the winter, he borrowed in the spring of 1868 enough to purchase a ticket to Quebec, Canada. He left Norway with enough food to live on during the ocean journey and with a little over one dollar and twenty-five cents in money and he landed in Quebec on the 20th of June, 1868, on his nineteenth birthday, without one cent in his pocket. Mr. Swenson was unfamiliar with the English language but borrowing ten dollars, he managed to make his way west to Chicago, the journey consuming ten days, and there met a cousin, who loaned him five dollars and gave him his supper. From Chicago he pushed on to Madison, Wisconsin, where he borrowed seventy-five cents to take him to Black Earth, and from that point he walked twenty miles to Perry township, Dane county, where he hired out to a farmer for twenty-five dollars a month. After two months he received eighteen dollars a month until the winter time and he then continued with his former employer, working for his board and lodgings. During the next season he again received eighteen dollars a month and he continued to hold this position until November 1, 1869, when he came to Iowa, having with the exception of a short time since remained a valued resident of this state. He located in Postville but in the fall of the same year went to McGregor, where he obtained a position chopping cord wood on what is called Bloody Run for Mr. Lonsburg. After three weeks at this work he returned to Postville and made his home with the family who were operating Judge Williams' farm in Grand Meadow township, Clayton county, remaining there until the spring, when he became a hired laborer in the employ of Duncan McDonnell, for whom he worked for two months. In April of the same year he returned to Judge Williams' property, working upon it for one year thereafter at twenty dollars per month, and at the end of that time he re-entered Mr. McDonnell's employ, remaining with him for six months. After spending another period on Judge Williams' farm Mr. Swenson purchased a yoke of oxen and went with it to Rock county, Minnesota, where he took up a homestead claim two and a half miles from the county seat. It was a raw and unimproved tract and Mr. Swenson broke two acres of the soil, dug a well and erected a sod shanty. He, however, did not continue the development of this farm but after a month sold his outfit, gave up his title to the land and walked to Worthington, whence he took the railroad to Mankato and came from there to Postville. In the following fall he took charge of Judge Williams' farm, then comprising twenty-three hundred acres, one of the largest agricultural properties in this section of the country. He continued to superintend this place for two years, earning during that time forty dollars per month, the highest salary he had yet received. He married in 1875 and afterward rented Mr.

McDonnell's farm of five hundred acres for two years and at the end of that time realized a long cherished ambition, buying one hundred and twenty acres for fourteen dollars an acre. He cleared it of scrub and timber and with characteristic energy and ability carried forward the work of its development and improvement for nineteen years, selling it at the end of that time for fifty-three dollars per acre. He afterward bought a farm two miles north of Postville, then known as the Perry farm, paying for it sixty dollars per acre and selling it after a three years' residence at a profit of ten dollars per acre. When he disposed of this property he bought a farm near the Bethel church, the property being known as the J. M. Harris farm, and he paid for this sixty dollars per acre. Upon this property he has since resided, his holdings now comprising two hundred and eight acres, and by his careful management, practical methods and unremitting industry he has made it one of the finest farms in this part of Iowa, his success following many years of earnest and well directed labor. Upon his farm he has made substantial improvements in buildings and equipment and has the entire tract under a high state of cultivation. His attention is given for the most part, however, to his stock-raising interests, which are extensive and important, his high grade shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs commanding high prices and a ready sale upon the market. Mr. Swenson is connected with the Cooperative Creamery Company of Postville and is a stockholder in the Citizens State Bank, and his ability is widely recognized in business and financial circles.

On the 6th of February, 1875, Mr. Swenson was united in marriage to Miss Eliza McWilliams, who was born near Edinburgh, Scotland, on the 6th of December, 1856, a daughter of Nathaniel and Isabel McWilliams. Mr. and Mrs. Swenson became the parents of twelve children: Arthur W., who is operating three hundred and fifty-eight acres of land in Franklin township; Maria, wife of Arthur A. Dresser, a farmer in Post township; John F., who resides near Frankville, Winneshiek county; Harry S., engaged in farming in North Yakima, Washington; Katie, who married Jerome Van Allen, a mail carrier in Chicago; Amy, the wife of Chester B. Davenport, now a resident of Roseville, Illinois, and formerly teller of the First National Bank in Lincoln, Nebraska; Frank L., a soldier in the regular army, stationed at San Francisco, California; Alma, formerly engaged in teaching, who resides at home; Hall L., who is attending the Postville high school; Allison E., a student in the same institution; and Ethel and Lillian, who are also attending school.

Fraternally Mr. Swenson is affiliated with the Masonic order, holding membership in Brotherly Love Lodge, No. 304. He has been a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen since 1875 and of the Modern Woodmen of America for the past seventeen years. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he has always been interested and active in public affairs, rendering his township and county able service in various capacities. He was for thirty years a justice of the peace and has done a great deal of far-reaching and beneficial work on the school board, having served as president and director of that body and now as treasurer. He is one of the most prominent, representative and successful men of this part of Iowa, where he has resided since pioneer times and to the development and upbuilding of which he has made such tangible and substantial contributions. His life furnishes splendid examples of the value of industry, determination and honorable purpose in the achievement of success,



for by his own unaided exertions he has reached the goal of prosperity, his success and the methods by which it was attained having gained him a high place in the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

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### JOHN BARTON JONES.

John Barton Jones needs no introduction to the readers of this volume, for he is well known in Waukon and Allamakee county, where he has resided since 1875. He is one of the active business men and public-spirited citizens of the community, where for a number of years he has been in the grain and coal business, winning in the conduct of his affairs that success which always follows earnest and persistent labor.

John Barton Jones was born in Newport, England, of English and Welsh parentage, and was left an orphan when he was four years of age. At the age of eighteen years a friend of the family from Wisconsin visited England and persuaded him to come to America and he accordingly crossed the Atlantic, accompanying his friend to the vicinity of Bloomington, Wisconsin, where he worked upon the farm. He subsequently clerked for a short time in a store, continuing at that occupation until 1875, when he left Wisconsin and moved westward seeking a favorable locality to make a permanent location. However, not liking the country, he began his return journey to Wisconsin, but on his way east arrived in Waukon. He was at that time obliged to work at anything which would bring him an income. He secured a position as a member of the construction department of the narrow gauge railroad then being built into Waukon and he later worked with Mr. Hale on the surveys, aiding also in important bridge construction work. He continued in this line of employment until the spring of 1876, when he joined C. O. Howard and George Stoddard in the building of an elevator in the city. After the completion of this building he took charge of Mr. Howard's grain business and from 1880 until 1890 worked ably in his interests. In the latter year he resigned in order to enter the county auditor's office and after serving one term was reelected, acting as auditor for four consecutive years. After leaving the office he formed a partnership with M. W. Eaton and they purchased the elevator known as elevator No. 1 in Waukon, Mr. Jones taking charge of the grain and elevator business. The firm also deals extensively in coal and building material and has secured an extensive patronage. Much of the credit for the expansion of the business is due to Mr. Jones' energy and enterprise and he is known in Waukon as a resourceful, far-sighted and progressive business man, whose judgment is seldom if ever at fault.

Mr. Jones married, in Waukon, Miss Ada J. Goodrich, who was born and reared in Allamakee county. Her father, Lyman W. Goodrich, was one of the pioneers in this section of Iowa, having located here in 1852. He was a native of New York, born in Chautauqua county in 1824, and in his early youth moved with his parents to Illinois, residing in Cook and later in Kane county. He married, in 1850, Miss Julia Merrian, a native of Canada, and after his marriage turned his attention to farming, coming in 1852 to Allamakee county,

where he resided until his death. Mr. and Mrs. Jones became the parents of three children: Alfred G., who makes his home in North Dakota; Stella F., who is a teacher in the public schools in Montana; and Lyman B., who died at the age of five years. Mrs. Jones is a member of the Presbyterian church of Waukon.

In politics Mr. Jones is a staunch republican and has supported the party since casting his first vote. Aside from his service as county auditor he has also done able work on the board of township trustees and is progressive and public-spirited in matters of citizenship. Fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Pythias in Waukon and his religious views are in accord with the doctrines of the Episcopal church. He is numbered among the successful and prominent men of Waukon and his prosperity is the more creditable to him since it has been attained through his own determination, energy and enterprise, for he started out in life empty handed and, by the force of these qualities in his character has worked his way upward to success. His business enterprise has carried him forward into important commercial and financial relations and his friendly spirit has gained him the warm and lasting regard of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

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#### CHARLES HERBERT RATHBUN.

Although yet a young man, Mr. Rathbun has already entered the ranks of the landowners of Allamakee county by purchasing, in 1912, an eighty-acre farm, upon which he engages in general agricultural pursuits, giving considerable attention to the raising of high grade shorthorn cattle. A native of Winneshiek county, Iowa, he was born three miles west of Postville, November 4, 1885, and is a son of Bradshaw Rathbun, a native of New York state. His mother, who bore the maiden name of Hall, was born in Iowa. In 1843 the father became a resident of Iowa, locating on the farm upon which our subject was born and on which he settled with his father, Bradshaw Rathbun, Sr., thereby establishing title to the family as early pioneers of the state. Upon this farm the father grew to manhood and there he continued in his agricultural pursuits until he retired to Postville. Mr. and Mrs. Bradshaw Rathbun had six children: May, a resident of Los Angeles, California, where, in connection with her brother, she conducts a mercantile establishment; Hall, of Los Angeles; Frederick, who resides in Winneshiek county, Iowa; Bessie, the wife of Welton Cornell, who owns a farm on the Military road, near Ossian, Winneshiek county; Blake, on the home farm; and Charles Herbert, our subject.

In the acquirement of an education Charles H. Rathbun attended the district school in his home township in Winneshiek county. He remained at home until the age of twenty-one and then worked as a farm hand, saving his earnings so that he was enabled in the spring of 1912 to purchase the eighty-acre farm upon which he now resides and which is highly improved and cultivated. Substantial buildings can be found upon his place and he has installed the latest machinery to facilitate the farm labor. He makes a specialty of shorthorn cattle, as his father did before him, and keeps a number of high-grade stock on

hand. Practically all of his attention is given to the improvement of the farm and he has already succeeded in such a measure that a bright future may be prophesied for him.

On February 23, 1912, Mr. Rathbun was united in marriage to Miss Hattie Nancy Huff, who was born in Clermont, Fayette county, Iowa, January 3, 1890, a daughter of Charles and Ella (Gordon) Huff, both natives of this state. The mother, however, is at present residing in Allamakee county.

The political views of Mr. Rathbun are independent, his support being given to the best candidates available, irrespective of party lines. He shows a deep interest in the cause of education and at present efficiently serves as president of the school board of the Highland district in Post township. Yet a young man, he has already attained to a position of financial independence and is as highly esteemed and respected for the success he has attained thus far as for those qualities of his character which have made that success possible.

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#### FRED J. HEINS.

Among the most prominent, able and deservedly successful of the younger farmers of Allamakee county is numbered Fred J. Heins, who owns and operates a fine property of one hundred and fifty acres in Post township. He was born in Grand Meadow township, Clayton county, Iowa, October 5, 1884, and is a son of Fred and Dora (Schultz) Heins, natives of Germany, the former born in Hanover, September 15, 1847, and the latter in Mecklenburg, May 30, 1851. In his early manhood the father crossed the Atlantic to America and settled immediately in Clayton county, Iowa, where he purchased land. When he disposed of his interests in that section he removed to Allamakee county and here in 1890 he bought the farm upon which the subject of this review now resides, devoting all of his attention to its improvement and development until his death, which occurred on the 31st of December, 1900. He and his wife became the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this review is the sixth in the order of birth.

Fred J. Heins was reared in Clayton county and acquired his education in the district schools. In his childhood he divided his time between his studies and work upon the homestead and when he was twenty-one assumed entire management of his father's farm, having since ably carried forward the work of development and owning today one of the best managed and most valuable properties in the locality. He has one hundred and fifty acres of improved land and in addition to the work of the fields engages extensively in stock-raising and dairying, disposing of his cream to the Cooperative Creamery Company, of Postville, in which he is a large stockholder. He is connected also with the Farmers Cooperative Mercantile Company and the Postville Canning factory and is well known in that city as a thoroughly reliable, straightforward and progressive business man.

Mr. Heins married, on the 27th of February, 1906, Miss Anna Neuhring, who was born in Grand Meadow township, Clayton county, July 16, 1887. She is a daughter of Dietrich and Louise (Fischer) Neuhring, natives of Germany,

who after their marriage came to America, locating first in Clayton county. There the father engaged in farming in the employ of others for a number of years, later renting land and finally purchasing a farm, which he continued to develop and improve until he retired from active business life. He is now a resident of Postville. Mr. and Mrs. Heins became the parents of four children: Edna, who was born on the 3d of May, 1907; Harland, born November 8, 1908; a twin to Harland who died in infancy; and Aurelia, born January 7, 1913.

Mr. Heins gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and is now a member of the school board, being actively interested in educational affairs. He is still a young man but has already left his impress upon the agricultural development of this section of Iowa, and he possesses in his energetic, progressive and enterprising spirit a guarantee of continued progress in his chosen field.

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### JOHN WATERS.

A business turning over a quarter of a million of dollars annually is no small affair and no small man could handle successfully such an enterprise. Therefore, respect is due to John Waters for what he has attained as manager of the Postville Farmers Cooperative Society, which yearly handles this vast amount of business and of which he is the head. Active and popular, he has become known as one of the foremost business men of Postville and his position is based on just claims, for it rests on natural ability and a thorough experience of conditions in Allamakee county—an experience which he has gathered in the fifty-three years of his life which he has spent here, being born in Ludlow township, August 29, 1860. His parents were George and Sophia (Hill) Waters, both of whom have passed away, but are still lovingly remembered by their many old-time friends and neighbors. George Waters was a north of Ireland man and came to America in 1849, living a few years in Pennsylvania, and in May, 1856, came to Allamakee county, where he began his life work on a forty-acre tract which he purchased in Ludlow township. There he spent the remainder of his life on his farm, gradually wresting prosperity from the soil and becoming one of the prosperous and substantial men of his locality.

John Waters was born amid the primitive conditions of the frontier. In winter he attended the old log school and in summer worked on the farm, assisting his father in the hard work of converting timber land into an agricultural property. Remaining at home until he had grown to manhood, he then went on a place of his own, and it was not until he was twenty-nine years of age that he left the farm to engage in the hardware business in Postville. He retired from that line in 1901 and in the same year was elected one of the supervisors of Allamakee county. He served the people so faithfully and well that three years later he was reelected, serving on the governing board of the county for a total period of six years. In 1907 he returned to his early work and for three years engaged in farming, but on January 1, 1910, was elected manager of the Postville Farmers Cooperative Society. Conscientious, ambitious, alert and industrious, he has been very successful in promoting the growth of the business of this institution and enjoys the entire confidence of the members of the

society and of the farmers of the community as a whole, at the same time retaining the good-will of the business men of Postville. Under his able management the business has largely increased, the stockholders receiving good financial returns and every patron being satisfied. While many cooperative societies have failed, or partially failed, in their mission, the one at Postville has thrived and it is but fair that a portion of the credit for this be given to Mr. Waters for the wise direction of its affairs.

The Cooperative Society was founded in July, 1904, with a paid-up capital of one thousand dollars. It was composed entirely of the farmers living near Postville and its chief business was the handling of live stock, which it sold on commission for its members. Today the capital stock is nine thousand, four hundred and fifty-five dollars and it owns its building and deals in flour, feed, coal, salt, cement and similar products in car load lots and its store is well filled with a large stock of groceries and farm necessities. The volume of business last year was two hundred and forty-six thousand, six hundred and one dollars and thirty-two cents, this sum including the handling of one hundred and seventy-three cars of live stock, the shipments being nine thousand and thirty-five hogs, one thousand and ninety-seven calves, six hundred and sixty-five head of cattle and eight hundred and thirty-two sheep. The value of these shipments was two hundred and one thousand, seven hundred and one dollars and ten cents. The officers of the corporation are: G. W. Harris, president; R. J. Laughlin, vice president; J. C. Weihe, secretary; W. J. H. Schultz, treasurer; and F. H. Schultz, R. B. Waters, A. F. Marston, F. W. Meyer, W. H. Schroeder, Albert Ziemann, Arthur Behrens, John Lydon and Frank Haugartner, directors.

John Waters is a kindly and genial man, popular with his fellows and well liked by people in all walks of life. At the same time he is a thorough business man, aggressive in attaining his ends and conservative in his policy, giving careful attention to all details, even the smallest, that come up in the course of the business. He was married, February 5, 1885, to Miss Minnie Early, and theirs is one of the pleasant, hospitable homes of Postville, from which radiates natural, true, warm-hearted hospitality—a hospitality which is cheerfully extended to the many friends which Mr. and Mrs. Waters have in the community.

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#### FRANK H. MOLUMBY.

Frank H. Molumby, who for the past eighteen years has been identified with business interests of Waukon as a furniture dealer and undertaker, has today one of the largest and best equipped stores in the city and controls an important business. He was born in Clayton county, May 22, 1866, and was reared upon a farm in that section, spending his childhood and early youth aiding in the operation of the homestead.

After acquiring a public-school education Mr. Molumby left the farm and began his independent career, obtaining a position as clerk in a business house in Elkader, where he remained for six years, coming to Waukon in 1895. In this city he purchased an interest in a furniture and undertaking business and,

commencing with a small stock, he gradually built up the business until it was a large and profitable enterprise. In order to fit himself more thoroughly for his work Mr. Molumby took a course in embalming and, in 1907, passed his examination before the state board, receiving his license in the same year. In 1909 he moved to his present location, where he occupies a double business house, with two large rooms filled with a complete and well selected stock of furniture and undertaking goods. He has his own hearse and carries a full line of caskets, and both branches of his business are very profitable, for he has been accorded a liberal patronage in recognition of his reasonable prices and his upright and honorable commercial methods.

Mr. Molumby married, in Waukon, in November, 1896, Miss Nellie Fitzgerald, who was born and reared in this county, a daughter of Maurice Fitzgerald, a well known farmer of Allamakee county. Mr. and Mrs. Molumby became the parents of six children: Mary, Pearl, Dolores, Frances and Helen; and Gerald, who died in 1900, at the age of eleven months. The family home is located in one of the finest residence districts of the city and is an attractive and comfortable dwelling, which Mr. and Mrs. Molumby have made the center of hospitality for their many friends. They are members of the Waukon Catholic church and Mr. Molumby belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters. His life has ever been upright and honorable and he has at all times endeavored to deal justly by his fellowmen and to shape his conduct in accordance with the principles of good citizenship.

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#### JOHN H. GERICKE.

John H. Gericke, a successful farmer and expert machinist, owning a fine property of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Postville, was born in Clayton county, near National, on the 3d of July, 1874. He is a son of John and Mary (Klinge) Gericke, natives of Germany, the former born in Prussia and the latter in Mecklenburg. The father crossed the Atlantic about 1869 and settled first in Chicago, where for a short time he worked in the employ of others, later removing to Iowa and engaging in railroad construction work between McGregor and La Crosse, Wisconsin. He abandoned this in favor of agricultural pursuits, working as a farm hand in Clayton county until his marriage, after which he rented land and engaged in farming for himself. Success steadily attended his labors and he was eventually able to purchase a fine property in Post township and to this he has added from time to time until he now owns two hundred and twenty acres. He has of late years laid aside the cares of active life and is living retired, his sons developing and cultivating the farm. He and his wife became the parents of ten children: John H., of this review; Ida, the wife of Chris Meyers, who operates the farm adjoining Mr. Gericke's; Fred, who is engaged in farming in Franklin township; Bertha, the wife of Wendell Wagener, a farmer near Castalia, Winneshiek county; Amelia, who married Otto Sanders, a carpenter in Postville; Matilda, who lives at home; Henry, who resides with his father on the homestead; Amanda, who



JOHN H. GERI KE





became the wife of William Sebastian, a farmer in Franklin township; Senda, who lives at home; and William, who resides on a farm in Post township.

John H. Gericke acquired his education in the district schools of Clayton county and began his independent career when he was eighteen years of age, at which time he formed a partnership with his brother William and purchased a threshing machine, which he operated during the threshing seasons, spending the remainder of his time assisting in clearing the homestead. He continued thus until he was twenty-seven years of age and again in partnership with his brother William purchased a half interest in two hundred and sixty-four acres of land. This property they cultivated for three years, and at the end of that time Mr. Gericke of this review sold his interests to his brother. He then purchased the farm on which he now resides, his one hundred and sixty acres being principally fine timber land, although he has a small tract cleared and under cultivation. In addition to general farming he operates a sawmill, a threshing machine, a silo filler and cutter and a corn shredder and has developed a natural mechanical ability until he is today an expert machinist, never needing any assistance in setting up or operating his machinery.

Mr. Gericke is a member of the Turner Society of Postville and is well and favorably known in that place. His life has been such as to give him high standing in the locality where he makes his home; and he is generally recognized as a man whose industry, ability and well directed labors have not only contributed to his own prosperity but have also promoted the growth and advancement of the community at large.

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#### CARL WILKE.

Through well directed business activity and enterprise Carl Wilke has gained recognition as one of the prosperous farmers of Allamakee county. He owns and operates a highly improved tract of land of one hundred and forty-six and one-quarter acres near Postville. Since 1880 he has lived in this county, during which time his labors have not only contributed to his own prosperity but have proven effective forces in the advancement of the general welfare. Mr. Wilke was born in Germany, December 18, 1860, and is a son of John and Louisa Wilke, natives of Mecklenburg. They never came to America, the father spending his active life working in the factories of his native province.

Carl Wilke acquired his education in the public schools of Germany and as a young man obtained work as a farm laborer in Mecklenburg, retaining that position until he crossed the Atlantic to America in 1880. Coming immediately to Iowa, he worked as a farm hand near Postville for five years and then bought a farm in Franklin township, this county, upon which he resided for eleven years. He eventually sold that property and bought one hundred and forty-six and one-quarter acres near Postville, upon which he still resides. He has made substantial improvements upon the property and upon it carries on general farming and stock-raising, both branches of his activities being well directed and profitable. In

addition to his homestead Mr. Wilke owns one hundred and twenty acres in Franklin township, which is operated by his son.

On the 18th of November, 1887, Mr. Wilke married Miss Louisa Schultz, a native of Mecklenburg, Germany, born February 10, 1864. She is a daughter of John and Louisa Schultz, both of whom have passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Wilke have six children: William, who is married and engages in farming in Franklin township; and Ella, Nora, Bertha, Edna and Thelma, all of whom live at home.

Mr. Wilke is a member of the Lutheran church in Postville. He gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and although he has never sought nor desired public office, has in the promotion of his individual prosperity contributed in substantial measure to the progress and development of this section. He has depended upon no outside aid or influence but has wrought out his own success along well defined lines of labor and achieved his prosperity by industry and perseverance.

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#### CHARLES H. MEIER.

Charles H. Meier has, ever since old enough, been prominently connected with agricultural pursuits and now owns five hundred and fifty-five acres near Postville, which he mostly rents out, although he still retains eighty acres for himself, devoted to hay and pasture. Ever progressive and enterprising, he has become one of the most substantial men of his section and is also largely connected with other enterprises, especially along financial lines. A son of H. William and Minnie (Koster) Meier, he was born in Garnavillo township, Clayton county, Iowa, on February 12, 1862. The father was born in Prussia, March 20, 1836, and the mother in Hanover, Germany, in 1844. She passed away in 1901 at the age of about fifty-seven years. At the age of sixteen the father crossed the ocean to America. During his active life he followed agricultural pursuits, working in the employ of others around Postville for a time, but later he removed to Minnesota and subsequently, having by thrift and industry, acquired the means, bought a farm in Clayton county, Iowa, where he has since resided, now living retired. Charles H. Meier is the oldest of his seven children, there being twenty-six years between his birth and that of the youngest child in the family, and there also is a difference of twenty-six years between his and his father's age.

In the acquirement of his education Charles H. Meier attended school in Garnavillo township, Clayton county. He early assisted his father with the work of the farm and learned methods and details under his able guidance. He worked on the home farm until twenty-two years of age, when he rented his father's land for one year and then bought a farm belonging to him in Post township, Allamakee county. On that farm Charles H. Meier remained until 1903, when he bought eighty acres one and a half miles from Postville and removed to that place. That success has attended his labors is evident from the fact that he now owns five hundred and fifty-five acres of highly improved land in Post township. He operates eighty acres himself, while he rents out the rest

of his holdings, receiving a gratifying income from this source. He has extended his interests to other lines and is a stockholder in various banks in Postville and other places as well as a director in the creamery and the Farmers Cooperative Store.

On September 16, 1884, Mr. Meier was united in marriage to Miss Amelia Splies, a native of Garnavillo township, Clayton county, where she attended the same school as her husband. She is a daughter of Jacob and Christina (Brooker) Splies, the father a native of Switzerland and the mother of Ohio. Mr. Splies, who was a farmer by occupation, located in Garnavillo township, Clayton county, where both he and his wife passed away. In their family were six children, of whom Mrs. Meier is the fifth in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Meier have three children: Vina Hermina, born October 23, 1886, at home; Lester, born July 1, 1890, who died December 17, 1906; and Orma, born June 28, 1892, who resides with her parents and teaches in the district schools of Post township.

It is but natural that a man of the energy and activity of Mr. Meier should take part in the public affairs of his district and he has served efficiently as trustee of Post township and also in the capacity of road superintendent. He gives his allegiance to the republican party, ever upholding its principles and supporting its candidates at the polls. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church, in which he holds membership at Postville. A successful man in every sense of the word, Mr. Meier has not only attained prosperity, but has made many friends in his locality by reason of his high qualities of mind and character, which gain for him the respect and confidence of all who know him.

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#### FRANK W. AMES.

Frank W. Ames, carrying on general farming and stock-raising on sixty acres of fine land in Franklin township, was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, on the 23d of August, 1856. He is a son of Alphonso and Matilda (Wheeler) Ames, the former born in Genesee county, New York, September 23, 1833, and the latter in Erie county, that state, in April, 1837. In early life the father worked as a river lumberman and, possessing great ability in the handling and controlling of men, made a success of that occupation. Later he used this ability as the manager of large gangs of workmen engaged in railroad construction in Pennsylvania. He afterward turned his attention to carpentering, contracting and building, trades in which he had served an apprenticeship, and in 1872 he came west to Iowa, intending to make a permanent location in the southwestern part of the state. However, he never carried out this plan, dying one month after his arrival here. He had been twice married, his second wife having been Mrs. Dorlesca (Hinman) Wilcox, widow of a veteran of the Civil war. She has also passed away. By that union were born two children: George, who resides in South Dakota; and another child now deceased. Alphonso Ames had also two children by his first marriage, the subject of this review being the elder and the only one now living.

In the acquirement of an education Frank W. Ames attended school in Cattaraugus county, New York, studying in the public schools of Little Valley and afterward in those of Hardin, Allamakee county, Iowa. He began his independent career at the early age of fourteen years, working for some time as a farm laborer before and after coming to Iowa. He was later engaged in railroad construction, but at the age of twenty-three rented land in Floyd county, beginning the development of this property on the 1st of September, 1879. After three years he went to Monona township, Clayton county, where he had previously purchased land, and at the end of a similar period of time rented another farm in the same township. Eventually he removed to Chickasaw county and then to Oelwein, Fayette county, remaining in the latter locality for three years. He afterward spent six years in Luana and then bought the farm where he now lives. He cultivated it successfully for two years and then returned to Luana, where he remained for six years, coming back to his farm at the end of that period. Upon this place of sixty acres of highly cultivated land he engages in general farming, success steadily rewarding his well directed labors and practical methods. From 1904 to 1913 he served as rural mail carrier and he is well known throughout this section of Iowa, holding a high position among the respected and able citizens.

On the 21st of June, 1879, Mr. Ames married Miss Allie Wilcox, who was born in New York, August 14, 1858. She is a daughter of Hiram and Dorlesca (Hinman) Wilcox, the latter of whom became the second wife of the father of our subject. Hiram Wilcox was a native of Pennsylvania and at an early date came to Iowa, settling near Monona, from which section he enlisted for service in the Civil war, dying in an army hospital in the south. His first service was in Minnesota, when, as a member of the Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry, he fought against the hostile Indians. Mr. and Mrs. Ames have a daughter, Edna, who was born June 25, 1880. She is now in the tenth consecutive year of her service as a teacher in the public schools, having acted in this capacity in Luana, in Guttenburg and in Hardin, where she is now employed.

Mr. Ames gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has rendered his township excellent service as constable and as road supervisor. He devotes most of his attention, however, to his farm, which he has made the equal of the finest in his part of the county, its excellent condition gaining for him a high place among progressive and able agriculturists.

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#### DARIUS S. ORR.

Still residing on the old homestead which his uncle entered many years ago and which Darius S. Orr subsequently acquired by purchase and where he has gained prosperity, he is not only prominent in agricultural circles of Allamakee county, but has to his credit a long and distinguished service in the National Guard of the state, in which he served for a number of years with the rank of lieutenant colonel. A native of Post township, he has grown up with this section and has not only been a witness of the wonderful transformation that has taken place as primitive conditions have given way to the onward march of

civilization, but has been a helpful and cooperant factor in bringing about the prosperous conditions which the present generation enjoys.

It was in a small log house one mile northeast of Postville that, on June 4, 1859, Darius S. Orr saw the light of day, his parents being James and Margaret A. (Ellison) Orr. The father was a native of the north of Ireland, where he was born March 15, 1829, while the mother was born in New York state in 1834. When a boy eleven years of age the father crossed the ocean with his parents, the family locating in Schuyler county, New York, at the head of Seneca lake, where he grew to manhood. He received his education in the common schools of Schuyler county and at the Plattsburg and Starkey Seminaries and for several winters followed teaching in New York, while in the summers he assisted his father with the work of the farm. In Iowa he also taught for six terms. The year 1855 marked his arrival in Allamakee county and here he was married on January 1, 1856. The home farm upon which the father settled had been entered from the government a year or two before his arrival by a brother, and there James Orr continued successfully in farming and stock-raising until 1898, when he and his wife removed to Postville, where they still live retired. The father has passed the age of eighty-four and the mother is seventy-nine years of age, and both are highly respected and esteemed as among the early pioneers. James Orr was prominent in public life in his days, having held the offices of township trustee and assessor, besides other positions. He and his wife are the parents of seven children, of whom Darius S. is the second in order of birth.

In the acquirement of his education Darius S. Orr attended public school in Postville and after laying aside his text-books, worked for his father until twenty-one years of age. He then rented the homestead for ten years, his labors being attended with such good success that he was enabled to buy the place and there he still resides in the cultivation of two hundred and twenty-five acres of highly improved land. He has added to the improvements by the erection of modern buildings and has installed modern machinery and implements in order to facilitate labor and improve the productivity of the soil. He gives considerable attention to stock-raising, breeding shorthorn cattle and Shire horses, as well as Poland China hogs. Progressive and energetic, he follows the most approved methods and, by scientific rotation of crops and fertilization, keeps his land in the best condition.

On November 26, 1889, Mr. Orr wedded Miss Bertha Harris, a native of Grand Meadow township, Clayton county, born January 12, 1871. Mrs. Orr is a daughter of William and Charity (McDonald) Harris, the former a prominent retired farmer of Post township. In their family are six children, of whom Bertha is the second in order of birth. The others are: Herman Howard, who resides in Postville; Edith, the wife of Ernie Churchill, of Monroe, Wisconsin; Edna, who married Fred Oehring, of McGregor, this state; Glessner, the wife of Arthur Webster, of Postville; and Adelaide, residing with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Orr have four children, as follows: Ethel, whose birth occurred October 29, 1890; Edith, who was born September 13, 1892; Esther, born February 27, 1896; and Eva, who was born November 14, 1898. All are still under the parental roof.

In his political affiliations Mr. Orr is a republican, staunchly upholding the candidates of that party at the polls. Although he never personally aspired to

political honors, he served for some time efficiently as township assessor. He has given a considerable part of his time to a worthy cause by rendering, for twelve years, service in the Iowa National Guard. In the six years after his enlistment he had, by gradual stages, attained the rank of lieutenant colonel and as such commanded the Fourth Regiment. He has ever been interested in matters military and has willingly given his time and attention to that branch of the state government, recognizing its importance and beneficial influence upon the young men. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Viewed from every side, the career of Mr. Orr is worthy of the highest commendation and may serve as example for the younger generation. While he has made himself financially independent by close application to the work on hand, he has been an important factor along lines of progress not only as an agriculturist, but also in moral and intellectual upbuilding. He is recognized as a forceful element in his locality and enjoys the highest esteem and fullest confidence of all who come in contact with him in a business or social way.

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#### EDWIN R. LIVINGOOD.

Edwin R. Livingood has become one of the substantial farmers of Post township, owning a valuable agricultural property of one hundred and eighty-six acres near Postville. He was born in Franklin township, Allamakee county, December 11, 1858, his parents being Greenburg J. and Abigail (Ewing) Livingood. The father was born in Wayne county, Pennsylvania, December 28, 1820, and the mother in Cannelton, Indiana, January 2, 1821. In early life Greenburg J. Livingood followed the trade of cabinet-maker. With his parents he removed from his native state to Ohio and then to Indiana, where he married, and from there came to Iowa in 1852, locating in Ludlow township, this county. Later in the same year, however, he went to Lebanon, Illinois, and did not return to this county until the fall of 1864. He settled on the farm, to the cultivation of which he devoted the rest of his life, passing away in 1898. His wife survived him about seven years, her death occurring in 1905. In their family were four children, of whom two are living, the sister of our subject being Mary Jane, who now resides in Waukon. She was the eldest of this family.

In the acquirement of his education Edwin R. Livingood attended district school in Franklin township and for six months studied at the Elkader high school. Until twenty-one years of age he assisted his father with the farm work, but then took active charge of the place, which he operated until his twenty-fifth year, when he bought the farm, and there he now lives. It then comprised ninety-two acres, but he has since increased its boundaries, his property now consisting of one hundred and sixty-eight acres, all highly improved. He gives his attention to mixed farming and also engages in stock-raising. Here he has resided continuously with the exception of about two years, which he spent in the western part of the state, and he has devoted all of his life to farming interests. Modern and substantially built barns, outbuildings and sheds are provided and the farm is otherwise thoroughly equipped with up-to-date machinery

to facilitate the labor and increase the yield. As prosperity has come to him he has made judicious investments and is now part owner in the Cooperative Creamery at Postville and a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Store of that town.

On October 21, 1882, Mr. Livingood married Miss Matilda Pechia, a native of Post township, born December 9, 1864. She is a daughter of Joseph and Martha (Smith) Pechia, the father a native of Vermont and the mother of Indiana. They were among the earliest settlers of Allamakee county. The mother was a daughter of Reuben Smith, one of the pioneers on the Yellow river. Mr. Pechia became a well known and prosperous agriculturist of Post township and continued in that occupation until his death. He and his wife had ten children, of whom eight are now living and of whom Mrs. Livingood is the fifth in order of birth. Mr. Pechia passed away December 7, 1885, having survived his wife for about five years, her death occurring May 28, 1880.

Mr. and Mrs. Livingood have ten children: Maud Eleanor, who was born June 24, 1884, and married Frank Miller, an agriculturist of Ludlow township; Willard Sidney, whose birth occurred on August 30, 1885, and who married Effie Miller and is farming in Ludlow township on the old Livingood homestead, which was entered as a government claim; Charles B., born February 8, 1887, who married Esther Lee, and is now farming near Detroit, in Becker county, Minnesota; Stella Rosela, whose natal day was July 23, 1888, and who is the wife of Gerald Moose, a farmer of Winneshiek county, this state; Earl Rinaldo, born August 25, 1890, who married Sophia Hager and farms in Winneshiek county; Abigail Blossom, who was born April 8, 1892, and is at home; Cecil Edwin, born May 1, 1897; Caroline Dora, July 13, 1899; Nellie Esther, May 3, 1903; and Lynn Mayhew, April 25, 1906. The five last named are yet under the parental roof.

In his political views Mr. Livingood is independent, giving his support to such candidates as he considers best able to fill the offices. In former years, however, he was a republican. He has done valuable work as an agriculturist in Allamakee county, which not only has brought him success but has been a factor in general development.

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#### PETER RISER.

Upon the role of Allamakee county's honored dead appears the name of Peter Riser, who at the time of his death in 1902 was one of the substantial agriculturists and large landowners of Lansing township. Although born across the water, practically his entire life was spent in Iowa among whose pioneers he is numbered and to whose development and progress he made important contributions through the years.

Mr. Riser was born in Switzerland, May 31, 1838, and when he was four years of age was brought to the United States by his parents who established their home in Illinois. They there remained until their son was fourteen years of age when they came to Iowa settling in Allamakee county in pioneer times. Here Peter Riser grew to manhood, aiding in the clearing, opening and develop-

ing of the homestead and becoming a practical and able agriculturist. At the age of twenty-one he began his independent career, turning his attention to the occupation to which he had been raised and winning success as a general farmer. Upon the death of his father he inherited a farm of one hundred and twenty acres and upon this property continued to reside until his death, each year adding to his prosperity and to the high regard in which he was held by his neighbors and friends. As circumstances justified he added to his holdings, finally acquiring three hundred and sixty acres of land upon which he made substantial improvements, erecting a large barn and all the necessary outbuildings and installing the needed farm equipment. The old log cabin in which the family made their home in the early days still stands upon the homestead, but the present residence is a fine, modern brick structure erected some years ago.

In Allamakee county Mr. Riser was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Marti, who was born in Switzerland, February 4, 1844, a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Blumer) Marti, who came to the United States in 1853. They settled in Allamakee county and here made their home until their death, the father passing away in 1871 as a result of a stroke of paralysis suffered seventeen years before. Mr. and Mrs. Riser became the parents of the following children: Marie Anna, who died October 17, 1871, when she was seven years of age; John Henry, who is engaged in farming near New Albin, Iowa; George William, a farmer of Lansing township; Julius Edward, who passed away on January 10, 1900, at the age of twenty-eight; Emma, the wife of John Babler; and Philip and Barbara Catherine, both of whom live at home.

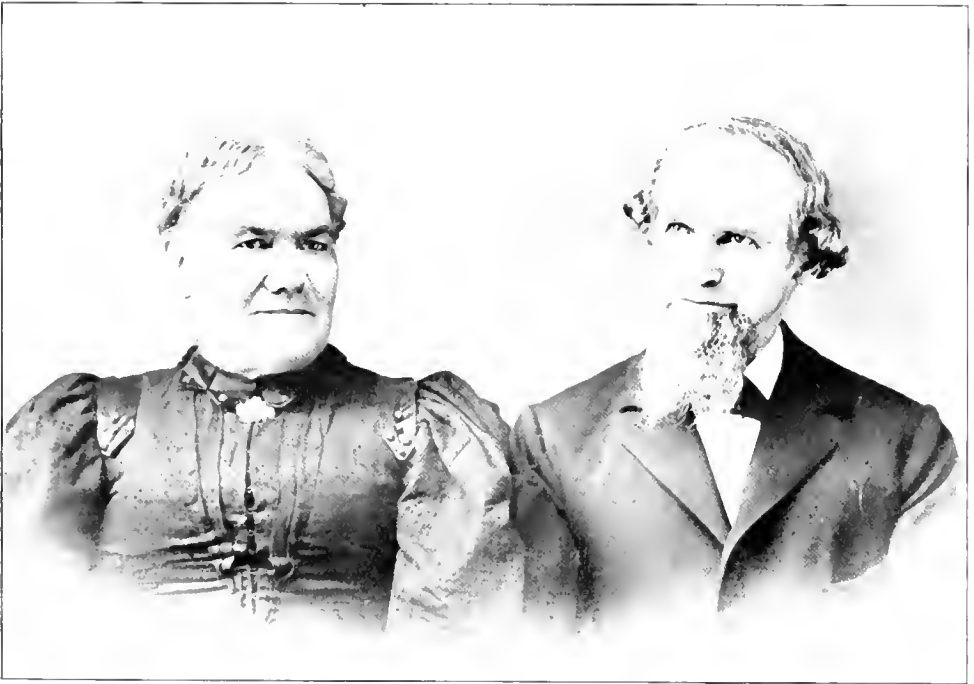
Mr. Riser was ever staunch in his support of the republican party and although he never sought nor desired office took an intelligent interest in community affairs and could always be relied upon to further progressive public movements. He was public-spirited and loyal in all matters of citizenship, cooperating heartily in those measures and projects which had for their object the upbuilding and development of the county wherein he had so long resided. Thus it was that at his death which occurred November 11, 1902, Allamakee county lost one of its representative and valued citizens. Mrs. Riser survives her husband and makes her home on the farm, which is now conducted by her son Philip. She is a member of the Methodist church to which her husband also belonged and is a lady whose many excellent traits of heart and mind have won her the affection and esteem of all who know her.

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#### BENEDICT TROENDLE.

Benedict Troendle has lived in Allamakee county for sixty-one years and he is one of the very few who have so long witnessed its growth and development. During the time he has made substantial contributions towards its upbuilding by opening up and developing a number of fine farms, and by his upright dealings, his high integrity and his honorable and worthy life has aided in raising standards of business and of citizenship. As a result he is known and honored all over this section of Iowa and is today one of the leading and representative citizens of Waukon where he is living practically retired.





MR. AND MRS. BENEDICT TROENDLE



Mr. Troendle was born in Baden, Germany, March 25, 1831, and acquired an excellent education in his native city where he remained until he was nineteen years of age. He became proficient in Latin and French as well as German for he studied for the priesthood, never, however, taking orders. In 1850 he emigrated to the new world, going immediately to Ohio and joining his brother, Sales, in Huron county. There he went to work on a farm, engaging in agricultural pursuits during the summer months and in the winter attending an English school. For two years thereafter he continued as a farm laborer and then in 1852 came with his brother to Iowa and settled in Allamakee county where he has since resided being today one of the earliest living residents. They purchased eighty acres in French Creek township and also twenty acres adjoining, buying this latter tract from a neighbor in order to get the benefit of a spring of clear, cold water which supplied enough for all domestic purposes and also for watering the stock. The land was raw and unimproved but with characteristic energy the brothers set about the task of developing it, clearing it of timber, breaking the soil, and fencing the property into convenient fields. In 1856 Benedict Troendle purchased his brother's interest and continued the work of improvement alone, erecting the necessary outbuildings and tilling the fields in the most practical manner, his progressive methods and well directed industry bringing him a substantial measure of success. He continued upon this farm until 1865 when he disposed of the property and purchased another tract of land of one hundred and twenty acres, slightly improved. He made this also a valuable and productive enterprise, selling it in 1868 and buying in the same year eighty acres in Makee township near Lycurgus. To this he later added another two hundred acres of which a part was improved when it came into his possession, and he cleared this property and fenced it into fields, continuing upon it for twelve years and making it eventually one of the finest and best improved farms in this part of the country. It was during the period of his residence upon it that he was made postmaster of Lycurgus and he held this office for many years, discharging his duties in an able, straightforward and systematic manner. He is numbered among the pioneers in French Creek township and was long a potent force in its development, cooperating heartily in movements for the general good and giving his active support to all progressive public measures. He helped in the organization of the first school, donating a half acre of land for the schoolhouse and also became a leader in founding the first independent school in Lycurgus. Always interested in the cause of education, he gave freely of his time and talents in this direction, accomplishing much far-sighted, discriminating and beneficial work during a long period of service as a member of the school board. Mr. Troendle erected a comfortable residence upon his farm wherein he continued to reside until 1892 when he laid aside the cares of active life, moving into Waukon where he has since lived retired.

On the 29th of July, 1855, Mr. Troendle married Miss Hedwig Nierling, also a native of Germany, born and reared in Prussia. She is a daughter of Anton Nierling, who emigrated to America and made a permanent location in Allamakee county in 1854, purchasing land in Makee township and turning his attention to general farming. Mr. and Mrs. Troendle became the parents of five children: Julia, who married Gus Kerndt, a farmer of French Creek township, passed away in 1910 when she was forty-eight years of age. Caroline became

the wife of J. W. Rice of Waterloo, Iowa. Mary married John Miller of Waukon. Johanna became the wife of Dan Haas. Gustave, youngest member of this family, owns and operates the old home farm in Makee township. On the 29th of July, 1905, Mr. and Mrs. Troendle celebrated the completion of fifty years of a peaceful and happy wedded life, their golden wedding anniversary being attended by their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to the number of thirty-two, who together with over two hundred friends, gathered at the home in Waukon, making the day one of gladness and rejoicing. They presented many tokens as souvenirs of the occasion, endeavoring in this way to express in some slight degree the love and veneration in which they held these worthy people, to whom they were bound by many ties of love and friendship.

Few if any men of Allamakee county are more widely known or more highly honored throughout this section of the state than is Mr. Troendle, who for over sixty-one years has lived in the county and who during all of that period has honorably borne his share in the work of upbuilding and development. Viewed from any standpoint, his life may be termed successful, for he has accumulated a comfortable fortune, has drawn to himself many loyal and faithful friends and has made his name an honored one wherever it is known.

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#### JACOB HIRTH.

Jacob Hirth makes his home on a fine farm of one hundred and seventy-eight acres on section 29, Lansing township—a property which his father purchased in pioneer times and upon which he himself has resided since his childhood. He is one of the earliest settlers in this section, which he has seen develop from a frontier wilderness, and in all of the work of upbuilding he has borne an active and useful part, his labors constituting elements in general agricultural progress. Germany numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Baden, on the 3d of October, 1837. He is a son of John Adam and Margaret (Kircher) Hirth, also natives of Germany, where the mother passed away March 6, 1853. In the same year the father and children crossed the Atlantic to America and, after arriving in this country, came west to Iowa, settling in Dubuque, and thence coming to Allamakee county. Here John Adam Hirth purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land and, with characteristic energy set himself to cultivate and develop it. He built a log cabin upon his holdings and for many years made his home therein, eventually erecting the present frame farm house. The old log cabin, however, still stands—a reminder of the hardships and inconveniences of pioneer times. The father was reared in the Protestant religion in Germany and after coming to America became a member of the Congregational church. He was a democrat in his political beliefs and actively interested in the growth of the community he had done so much to upbuild. He died upon his farm in Lansing township in 1896, having reached the advanced age of ninety-one years. He and his wife became the parents of four children, only one of whom, the subject of this review, survives. Magdalena, who became the wife of Conrad Steibert, has passed away. She and her husband lived for many years in La Fayette township. George was

drowned in the Mississippi river when he was twenty-one years of age. Adam died on the ocean while on the journey to the United States. He was at that time two years of age.

In the public schools of Germany Jacob Hirth acquired his education and after laying aside his books accompanied his father to America and after the family settled in Allamakee county assisted with the work of the farm until after the death of his father, when he assumed ownership and control. Since that time he has steadily carried forward the work of improvement and the results of his many years of care and labor are evident in the neat and attractive appearance of the place. He has increased his holdings to one hundred and seventy-eight acres and upon this carries on general farming, harvesting excellent crops and engaging to some extent in stock-raising.

Mr. Hirth has been twice married. In 1869 he wedded Miss Katie Leppert, by whom he had two children: Johannah, the wife of George Wendel, of Lansing township, who became the mother of five children; and Magdalena, the deceased wife of John Decker, by whom she had one daughter. Mr. Hirth's first wife passed away in 1874 and three years later he married her sister, Josephine Leppert, by whom he has five children: John J., who resides in North Dakota; Clara Emma, the wife of George Wendel, of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa; Charles E., who married Emma Decker; and Roy Andrew and William George, who live at home. Mrs. Hirth is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Hirth is a democrat in his political beliefs and is interested in the growth and welfare of this section of the state, although he never seeks public office. He is numbered among the real pioneers of the county, having come to Lansing township when there were only a few scattered settlements and when the Indians were still numerous on the prairies, while game abounded in the forest and pioneer conditions were everywhere evident, there being no schools and, indeed, no need for educational institutions. He has watched the evolution which has transformed this wilderness into a populous, wealthy and growing community and has been to a great extent identified therewith.

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#### CHARLES B. BACHTELL.

Although a native of Pennsylvania, Charles B. Bachtell has practically spent his entire life in Iowa, where for many years he was prominently connected with agricultural pursuits, actively operating a large and profitable farm of two hundred and forty acres. In 1909, however, he removed to Postville, where he now resides in a handsome residence set in a plat of five acres, still supervising the operation of a two hundred and twenty-five acre farm, which he cultivates by the means of hired help. Mr. Bachtell also has other valuable property in Postville. He was born April 23, 1849, a native of Chester county, Pennsylvania, and a son of David and Susanna (Davis) Bachtell, both natives of the same county of the Keystone state. The father was born December 18, 1818, and the mother, May 6, 1819. In early life the father followed the trade of butcher, but gave up that line in favor of farming when he came to Iowa in 1853.

He settled at National, Clayton county, later buying land and, in the course of years, becoming one of the leading agriculturists of his section. He continued to reside there, near Elkader, and passed away on February 17, 1891, his wife's demise occurring within one month, on March 13. In their family were ten children, of whom Charles B. of this review is the fifth in order of birth.

Charles B. Bachtell was brought by his parents to Iowa when but four years of age and, in the acquirement of his education, attended school at Elkader, making use of such opportunities as were afforded pupils at that pioneer period. He subsequently attended district school near there in Clayton county. At the early age of sixteen Mr. Bachtell tried his hand at farming and, hiring out, worked for others until thirty years of age, carefully saving his earnings during that time with a view toward independence. He then married and bought a tract of one hundred and twenty acres, upon which he resided for thirty-one years, profitably engaged in general farming and stock-raising. As his means permitted, he had added to this farm until he owned two hundred and forty acres. In September, 1909, he removed from there to Postville, buying a commodious residence set in a beautiful five-acre tract. However, he still operates a farm of two hundred and twenty-five acres with hired help. Mr. Bachtell is a stockholder in the Canning Factory and also in the Cooperative Creamery of Postville. Moreover, he is interested in the Citizens Bank of this city.

The marriage of Mr. Bachtell and Miss Carrie Carrithers occurred on February 11, 1879. Mrs. Bachtell is a native of Post township, where she was born August 3, 1859, a daughter of William H. and Elizabeth (Smith) Carrithers. The father was born in Ohio county, West Virginia, on December 29, 1829, and the mother in Indiana, at or near Perrysville, on May 23, 1833. Their marriage occurred in 1851, in Allamakee county, whence he had come in that year on horseback, the mother arriving in 1849. The father always followed agricultural pursuits and here took up government land, which he cleared, improved and developed, spending the balance of his life, with the exception of two years in the early part of his career, in this county. During those two years he worked in a mill in Clayton county. He was prominent and favorably known in his locality and for some years served as county supervisor. His marriage was performed by Judge Topliff, who was the first judge of Allamakee county. Both he and his wife resided in the home which he first prepared for sixteen years, when he built the residence as it now stands and which is known as the Carrithers homestead. He made a specialty of stock-raising in connection with general farming. Mr. and Mrs. Carrithers had three children, of whom Mrs. Bachtell is the youngest. She grew up on the home farm amid the primitive conditions of pioneer life, under the able guidance of her worthy parents and received her educational advantages in the district school of Post township. Mr. and Mrs. Bachtell became the parents of three children: Elmer C., who was born October 11, 1880, and died at the age of eleven months; one child, born in 1882, who died in infancy; and Ralph William, born March 18, 1889, who resides at home.

In his political affiliations Mr. Bachtell is a republican and, at a period about twenty years ago, served efficiently as township trustee of Post township for three terms, doing valuable work in promoting public interests at that early

period. A man of progressive tendencies and sound principles, he has based his success upon determined endeavor and honesty, and the financial independence which has come to him is well merited. Public-spirited and progressive, he has ever been considerate of the general welfare and by his work has done much toward promoting agricultural development. He enjoys the confidence and good-will of all who know him and there are many in the Postville district who are proud to call him friend.

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### HANS SIMENSON.

Farming interests of Hanover township lost a progressive and worthy representative and Allamakee county an honored and worthy pioneer citizen when Hans Simenson passed away on his farm on section 21. He was known and recognized as one of the representative agriculturists of this vicinity—a man whose success was an important element in general development, and he was honored also as a veteran of the Civil war to whom the country owes a debt of gratitude which can never be forgotten and never fully repaid.

Mr. Simenson was one of the many sturdy and industrious citizens whom Norway has given to America, his birth having occurred in that country in 1840, his parents being Ole and Anna Simenson. They came to America in 1851 and settled in Winneshiek county, this state, where the father died in 1876. His wife survived him some years, dying at the home of the subject of this review in 1883. They were the parents of seven children, of whom one, a son, still survives.

When Hans Simenson was eleven years of age he accompanied his parents to America and settled with them in Winneshiek county. Four years later he moved to Allamakee county and here he afterwards began farming for himself, buying land on section 21, Hanover township. For a long period thereafter he improved and cultivated this property, the years bringing him success, prominence and substantial fortune and a place among the prominent and representative agriculturists. From time to time he added to his holdings and finally accumulated three hundred and sixty acres of land, of which one hundred and eighty were in a high state of cultivation. In its development he adhered always to the most progressive and practical methods and his farm became one of the finest in this vicinity, reflecting in its neat and attractive appearance the many years of careful supervision and practical labor which the owner had expended upon it.

In 1869 Mr. Simenson was united in marriage to Miss Patrena Larson, a native of Norway and a daughter of Christian and Anna Larson, who came to America in 1852 and settled in Allamakee county. The father purchased land in Hanover township and operated it until his death. His wife survives him and makes her home in Waukon, being now eighty-seven years of age. They were the parents of ten children of whom four still survive, the wife of the subject of this review being the first in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Simenson became the parents of four children: Sarah, the wife of W. H. Allen, a rancher in California; Oscar C., a farmer in Winneshiek county; Jane,

who married E. W. Allen, engaged in the transfer business in Waukon; and Alfred, who owns the old homestead. The latter has added to his father's holdings, owning now three hundred and seventy-eight acres of land, on which he carries on general farming and stock-raising. Mrs. Simenson survives her husband and makes her home with her son. She is a lady of many excellent traits of mind and character and is widely known and highly respected, her upright life having won for her the confidence and good-will of all who know her.

In the life of Hans Simenson was a creditable military chapter. In 1861 he enlisted in Company H, Ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry and went to the front as a private. He participated in many of the most important engagements of the Civil war, serving four years, and at the close of hostilities was mustered out as corporal. He was always a most earnest and patriotic citizen, manifesting these qualities at home as well as on the battlefield and he was never known to withhold his support from any progressive public project. He served with ability and distinction in almost all of the township offices, considering it the duty of every citizen to serve his fellowmen when called upon to do so. His upright life was guided by the doctrines of the Presbyterian church of which he was a devout member and he kept in touch with his comrades of fifty years ago through his connection with the Waukon Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Simenson's death occurred on his farm in Hanover township, and it deprived this part of Iowa of a representative and valued citizen—a man of proved patriotism, loyalty and uprightness, whose life was guided and directed by high ideals and whose accomplishments were important as factors in the general development of this part of the state.

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#### WILLIAM H. KERNDT.

William H. Kerndt, a successful and prominent farmer of French Creek township and a worthy representative of one of Allamakee county's most honored pioneer families, was born on the farm which he now owns December 19, 1859. He is a son of Herman Kerndt, a native of Schlesien, Germany, born in 1823, and one of five Kerndt brothers who came to Allamakee county in 1853. Herman Kerndt purchased two hundred acres of unimproved land in French Creek township and devoted the remainder of his life to general farming, becoming one of the substantial and representative agriculturists of the community. His first home, a little shanty upon his holdings, was afterward replaced by a log cabin and still later by the frame dwelling now occupied by the subject of this review. This in turn he intends to replace next spring by a fine modern dwelling, for which he has the material already upon his place. The father became a successful and prosperous farmer and as his financial resources grew added to his holdings until his farm comprised three hundred and ninety acres of land lying on section 36. Herman Kerndt married Miss Godlieba Breuer, also a native of Germany, and both passed away upon this farm, the mother dying February 21, 1901, and the father, January 12, 1911. They were the parents of eight children: Alvina, who lives in Lansing; Maria, who is now Mrs. Haas;



Jennie, who died at the age of twenty-two; Charles, who met his death by drowning when he was about twenty years of age; Gustave H., a farmer of Lansing township; Emma, now Mrs. H. R. Weirking, of Mankato, Minnesota; Annie, who is housekeeper for her brother, Gustave H.; and William H., of this review. Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kerndt were devout members of the Congregational church and the father was a staunch supporter of the republican party.

William H. Kerndt was reared upon his present farm and acquired his education in the district schools of Makee township, in the independent district of Lycurgus. During the last years of his father's life he assumed the management of the homestead and after his death bought the interests of the other heirs and has since been the sole owner. There are excellent improvements upon the place, Mr. Kerndt having steadily carried forward the work of development until the farm is today a valuable and productive property.

On the 19th of May, 1891, Mr. Kerndt was united in marriage to Miss Lena Nierling, a native of Allamakee county and a daughter of Anton and Mary (Buck) Nierling, both of whom have passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Kerndt have become the parents of six children: Herman, Maria, Leslie, Theodore, Willard and Clarence, all of whom are at home. The parents are devout members of the Congregational church and are liberal contributors to its support. Mr. Kerndt gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and is keenly interested in local advancement and development, although this interest never takes the form of office seeking. A resident of French Creek township since his birth, he is largely familiar with the history of the county and has an intimate knowledge of the events which have changed its annals and affected its policies. His work and accomplishments entitle him to mention among the representative men of this community.

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#### CHRISTIAN FRAHM.

The history of the pioneer settlement of Allamakee county contains the record of no more honorable, worthy and upright man than that of Christian Frahm, who, landing in America with only one dollar in his pocket, has worked steadily and courageously during the intervening years, winning finally success, prominence and an honored name. He is one of the earliest settlers in Allamakee county, his residence here dating from 1856, and he has borne an active part in the work of progress which has since reclaimed the wilderness for purposes of civilization. He was born in the province of Holstein, Germany, December 23, 1830, and in 1853 took passage aboard a three-masted vessel called Hemisphere, sailing from Liverpool. After a long journey he arrived in New York and pushed westward to Chicago, landing in the latter city with a capital of one dollar. He found employment in Chicago, working at anything he could find to do, his occupations including the plowing of a cornfield which grew where the business section of the city now stands. From Chicago he made his way to Dubuque, Iowa, and there worked on the railroad and at other occupations until he came to Allamakee county, settling in Lansing, November 10, 1856. He proceeded to Waukon, where he spent three months, but in the spring

of the same year obtained a position as a farm laborer on what is now known as Lansing Ridge. He later was employed by his brother in Lansing township and afterward was for seven years on the Adam Hirth farm. Being ambitious, economical and energetic, he saved his money, gradually accumulating enough to rent land. He engaged in farming in this way for one year and then, on the 7th of March, 1864, purchased the farm, buying at that time sixty-two acres, about forty of which could be cultivated. He erected a home upon this property and with confidence, courage and steadfast purpose carried forward the work of development, replacing the old buildings by new ones when necessary so that only one of the original structures now remains. He later added forty acres to his holdings, so that his farm now comprises one hundred and two acres. It is said that in the early days he could plow a straighter furrow across eighty acres of land with a yoke of oxen with no reins nor anything to guide his team but "gee" and "haw" than can be done today with a team of horses and the best plow manufactured. He engaged in general farming for many years, success steadily attending his well directed and practical labors, and he accumulated finally a comfortable competency, on which he was able to retire from active business life. He has given over the management of the homestead to his son and daughter, who care for their father in his old age.

In Lansing township, in 1868, Mr. Frahm married Miss Mary Wessel, born in Hanover, Germany, August 7, 1840. When a young woman she crossed the Atlantic to America, landing in this country after a journey of forty-nine days. After her arrival she worked for wages in order to obtain the money to pay for her passage over, and her life was afterward filled with the hard work always to be found upon a farm. All difficulties she faced with confidence and courage, proving a worthy helpmate to her husband and aiding him materially in his struggle upward to success. She passed away in Lansing township, August 8, 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Frahm became the parents of five children, two of whom survive, Sophia and Henry. They live upon the homestead, Henry managing the work of the farm and Sophia taking charge of household matters.

For the past fifty years Mr. Frahm has been a member of the German Methodist church. He affiliated with the republican party until the election in November, 1912, when he allied his interests with the progressives. He is a splendid example of the self-made man, for, unaided by capital or influential friends, he has worked out his own success. His life of toil and labor has been crowned with a gratifying measure of prosperity and by his perseverance, industry and integrity he has won an honored name as well as success.

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#### CHARLES H. KRUMM.

No citizen in Allamakee county has achieved greater success as a general agriculturist and stock-raiser than Charles H. Krumm, whose attractive homestead lies in Post township and comprises one hundred and eight acres of land. He was born in Mechlenberg, Germany, September 6, 1860, and is a son of John and Caroline (Freil) Krumm, natives of the same locality, where the mother died in 1870. Eight years later the father crossed the Atlantic





CHARLES H. KRUMM



MRS. CHARLES H. KRUMM



to America, joining his son who had located in Iowa some years before. He settled on a farm south of Garnavillo, where he remained for seven years, retiring from active life at the end of that time and making his home with his sons until his death in 1885. In Germany he had served in the regular army, having begun his term of enlistment in 1848. He never neglected any of the duties which fell to his lot as a man and as a citizen, and his death was widely and deeply regretted in the community where his many sterling traits of character had become well known.

Charles H. Krumm acquired his education in the public schools of Germany and when he was eighteen years of age accompanied his father to America, settling in Clayton county, Iowa, where for a number of years he engaged in farming in the employ of others. He was ambitious, industrious and energetic and by the time he was twenty-two had accumulated enough money to rent land, following farming as a renter until he purchased his present property of one hundred and thirteen acres in Allamakee county. Upon this he has since made substantial improvements, erecting modern buildings, installing the necessary equipment and steadily carrying forward the work of development along practical and progressive lines. In addition to this property he owns a five acre timber tract two miles north of his farm and a large amount of stock in the Postville Clay Products Company and in the Cooperative Creamery. Most of his attention is, however, given to his stock-raising interests, which have continually increased in volume and importance and which now form one of the most profitable sources of his income. He makes a specialty of breeding and raising full blooded Poland China hogs and his shipping business has expanded rapidly, his markets last year covering fourteen different states. For a number of years he bred cattle on an extensive scale but he has since discontinued this branch of his business and now raises only milch cows for dairy purposes. His business interests are always carefully and capably conducted, gaining him a gratifying measure of success and a place among the representative farmers and stock raisers in this vicinity.

On the 16th of January, 1882, Mr. Krumm married Miss Minnie Schierholz, who was born in Garnavillo township, Clayton county, November 11, 1856, a daughter of Herman and Anna (Taugeman) Schierholz, natives of Germany, the father born in Oldenburg in 1805 and the mother in the province of Hanover in 1816. Mr. Schierholz came to America when he was twenty-eight years of age, spending three months on the Atlantic. Landing in New Orleans, he walked from that city to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and there secured employment as a cabinet-maker and carpenter, trades which he had learned in the fatherland. Later he removed to Ohio, settling on a farm near New Bremen, whereon he resided until 1845, when he came as a pioneer into Iowa, taking up a grant of government land in Garnavillo township, Clayton county. He steadily carried forward its improvement and cultivation until 1890, when he retired from active life and moved into Garnavillo where he passed away in 1897, at the remarkable age of ninety-one years, nine months and thirteen days. His wife had died in 1891. He was one of the first settlers in Garnavillo township and no man was more familiar with pioneer conditions in that section of the state than he, for he made his first settlement there when it was a mere frontier district and

when the Indians were yet numerous on the prairies. He witnessed the great government round-up of three thousand Indians at Garnaville and he bought the first reaper ever used in this part of Iowa. In his death, Clayton county lost one of her honored pioneer citizens and his passing was sincerely regretted by all who were fortunate enough to come within the close circle of his friendship.

Mr. and Mrs. Krumm became the parents of six children, three of whom are deceased. Those living are: Alice, who was born March 13, 1887, and who married H. F. Schmidt, superintendent for the Johnson Brothers Manufacturing Company at Madison, Wisconsin; Minnie Elizabeth, who was born August 27, 1888, and resides at home; and Effie Roselea, whose birth occurred on the 5th of November, 1894.

Fraternally Mr. Krumm is affiliated with the Masonic order, holding membership in Brotherly Love Lodge at Postville, the chapter at Elgin, the commandery at West Union and the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Cedar Rapids. He is identified also with the Modern Brotherhood, the Yeoman and the Turner Society. His religious views are in accord with the doctrines of the German Lutheran church and politically he is independent, voting according to his personal convictions without regard to party lines. Although he has never sought nor desired public office he was for a number of years treasurer of the school board and during that time did a great deal of important work in school affairs. He is a progressive, enterprising and loyal citizen and, having thoroughly identified his interests with those of this part of Iowa, has made substantial and lasting contributions to its agricultural growth and progress.

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#### THOMAS ELLINGSON.

Among the many upright, able and representative citizens whom Norway has given to America is numbered Thomas Ellingson, whose entire active life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits in Iowa. In association with his wife he owns four hundred and sixty-two acres in Hanover township and extensive holdings in Winneshiek county and he has gained a high place in agricultural circles of this vicinity, where he is recognized as an able and progressive farmer. He was born in Norway in 1869 and with his parents came to America in 1873, settling with them in Allamakee county. The father here turned his attention to farming and continued to engage in that occupation until his death, which occurred in 1893. His wife survives him and makes her home in Winneshiek county. To their union were born eleven children, eight of whom still survive.

Thomas Ellingson remained at home until he was nineteen years of age and then began his independent career, working as a farm laborer for six years thereafter. At the end of that time he began farming for himself and he has since accumulated valuable land holdings, which he owns in association with his wife. The home farm comprises four hundred and sixty-two acres lying in Hanover township and is an excellent and well improved property, equipped with fine buildings and modern machinery. Mr. Ellingson owns also one hundred



and sixty acres in Winneshiek county and his business interests are carefully and capably conducted.

In April, 1894, Mr. Ellingson was united in marriage to Miss Ella Hanson, who was born in Hanover township, this county, in 1873. She is a daughter of Hans A. and Maren Hanson, natives of Norway, who came to America and settled in Allamakee county, Iowa, where their marriage occurred. The father bought a farm on section 29 and gave his entire attention to its development and improvement until 1897, when he retired from active life, purchasing a home in Waukon, in which he resided until his death, which occurred in 1910. He was at that time the owner of five hundred and eighty-two acres of improved land, two hundred of which were in a high state of cultivation. He was very active in local republican politics and held various positions of trust and responsibility, filling almost all of the township offices. His wife passed away in 1898. To their union were born nine children, six of whom still survive. Mr. and Mrs. Ellingson have become the parents of eight children: Harris M., who was born in 1895; Mabel H., whose birth occurred in 1898; Kenneth T., born in 1900; Mildred A., in 1903; Alden E., in 1904; Carl J., in 1907; Lester M., in 1909; and Ella T., in 1913.

Mr. Ellingson is a member of the Lutheran church and is a man of exemplary character, guiding his honorable and upright life by the principles in which he believes. Indefatigable energy is perhaps his strongest characteristic and it has led him forward in his business relations to a prominent place among the successful farmers of his township.

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#### LOUIS HIRTH.

No farmer in Allamakee county has achieved greater success in agricultural pursuits and stock-raising than Louis Hirth, now operating the farm in Lansing township upon which he was born. A spirit of enterprise and progress actuates him in all that he does and his well directed energies have brought him to a place among the well-to-do and substantial men of this community. He was born on the farm where he now resides January 24, 1858, and is a son of Adam and Margaret Hirth, natives of Germany. The father was born in Baden and in 1853 came to America, settling on a farm on section 18, Lansing township, in that year. One of the first settlers in that section, he found pioneer conditions everywhere surrounding him but, undiscouraged by this, turned his attention with characteristic energy to improving and developing his property. Upon the three hundred and twenty acres which he bought he built a log cabin, later replacing this by a second and more commodious log house. As the years went by he prospered in his undertakings and upon his death in 1864 was considered one of the most substantial and successful farmers of this vicinity. He was a member of the German Methodist church and a republican in his political beliefs. He and his wife became the parents of six children: Mary, who married Adam Decker, of Lansing township; Adam, who lives in Dubuque, Iowa; Barbara, who married William Wendell, of Lansing township; Annie, a resident of Vancouver island, British Columbia, and the widow of William May, who was

killed in a snow slide; Louis, of this review; and Andrew, who makes his home in Lansing.

In the district schools of Lansing township Louis Hirth acquired his early education, later attending for one term a school at Galena, Illinois. His childhood was spent upon the homestead and even before he laid aside his books he assisted with its operation, later giving his entire time to aiding his mother. When he was twenty-one years of age he and one of his brothers purchased the interests of the other heirs and for several years thereafter conducted the homestead. Eventually Mr. Hirth of this review disposed of his share of the farm to his brother and went to Hanover township, where he purchased land. After farming successfully in that section for ten years he returned to the old home and bought the farm from his brother, now owning the original tract of three hundred and twenty acres, which has been in possession of his family for sixty years. Upon this he has made substantial improvements, building a new and attractive residence, a barn and a silo and all the necessary outbuildings. Since the beginning of his active career he has engaged extensively in the breeding of high-grade Percheron horses and keeps registered stallions and mares. He also raises full-blooded Poland China hogs and Aberdeen Angus cattle, his stock-raising interests constituting an important source of his income.

On the 27th of February, 1889, Mr. Hirth was united in marriage to Miss Emma Wild, a native of Allamakee county and a daughter of George Wild, of French Creek township. Mrs. Hirth passed away December 19, 1911, leaving six children: Frank, who lives at home; Cora, who recently married Ed Lentz, with whom she makes her home in Minnesota; and Nora, Flavia, Christina and Kermit, all of whom live at home.

Mr. Hirth is a progressive republican in his political views and is interested in public affairs, keeping himself always well posted on national and local issues. He is active and able in business, progressive in citizenship and upright and honorable in all relations of life—a native son whose life record is a credit to the community in which he was born.

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#### FRED W. DUVAL.

A young man not yet thirty years of age, Fred W. Duval has already established himself as one of the substantial agriculturists of Allamakee county, cultivating a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, near Postville, which is highly improved and by its appearance gives evidence of the successful efforts of its owner. Born in Ludlow township, Allamakee county, on October 16, 1884, Fred W. Duval is a son of Henry and Anna (Menke) Duval, the father a native of Germany, where he was born in the city of Bremen, and the mother of Wisconsin. In early life the father learned and followed the carpenter's trade and upon coming to this country as a young man located in Allamakee county, east of Waukon, where in the employ of others he followed his occupation. He was so engaged until his marriage, when he purchased a farm in Ludlow township, in the cultivation of which he successfully continued until his death, which occurred in 1896. The mother still resides on the home farm in Ludlow town-

ship. In their family were eight children, of whom Mr. Duval is the third in order of birth.

In the acquirement of his education Fred W. Duval attended district school in Ludlow township and subsequently made his home with his mother until about twenty-one years of age, when he began his independent career, hiring out as a farm hand and so continuing for three years. Thrift and industry brought him the means with which he was enabled to buy the farm upon which he now lives and which comprises one hundred and twenty acres of fertile land. All of his acres are under high cultivation and devoted to general farming, although he specializes in stock-raising to some extent. His thorough work, and energy and industry, have brought him rich harvests and, although yet young in years, he is on the high road to prosperity.

On January 17, 1907, Mr. Duval was united in marriage to Miss Lena Klepper, a native of Ludlow township, this county, who was born December 9, 1886. Her parents are Fred and Johanna (Bollhafer) Klepper, both natives of Germany. The father was reared to and always followed agricultural pursuits and upon coming to this country in the early '80s acquired land in Post township, which he later sold to our subject, buying subsequently a farm near Frankville in Winneshiek county, where he now lives, still actively engaged in the cultivation of his farm. Mr. and Mrs. Klepper have six children, of whom Mrs. Duval is the oldest. Mr. and Mrs. Duval are the parents of two children: Clarence, born March 21, 1908; and Viola, born August 19, 1910. Mr. Duval is a member of the German Reformed church at Ludlow. Enterprising and progressive, he has in a few years builded a success which might well be envied him, for there are many who in a lifetime do not accomplish as much as he has done. He has become a valuable factor in his locality and, while he is careful of his own interests, he ever finds time to promote worthy public enterprises and gladly bears his share of time and money in promoting the welfare and advancement of his district.

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#### FRED RISER.

Upon the list of Allamakee county's honored pioneers appears the name of Fred Riser, whose residence in this section dates from 1851 and whose active career has been closely identified with its growth and development. He has borne an honorable and worthy part in the work which has transformed the region from a wilderness into a populous and wealthy community and he is today one of the most prominent and popular men of Lansing township, where he is living retired. He was born in Berne, Switzerland, June 14, 1834, and is a son of John and Barbara (Orli) Riser, natives of that country, who emigrated to America about 1843 and settled on one hundred and sixty acres of government land in Madison county, Illinois. In 1851 they sold the farm and moved to Allamakee county, Iowa, after the father and his son John had made two trips to this state and to Minnesota looking for a suitable location. Having finally determined upon Lansing township John Riser purchased three hundred and twenty acres of school land, unimproved, and while he was engaged in building a stable upon

this property he and his family lived in a rude shanty on the Andrew T. Sandry property. They made their home in the stable for some time after it was completed and then moved into a frame and log dwelling which they had erected and which still stands with the additions that have since been made. Both parents have passed away, the mother dying in Madison county, Illinois, and the father in Lansing township when he was seventy-nine years of age. He was a member of the Reformed church in Switzerland and in America a devout adherent of the German Methodist Episcopal religion. In his family were five children besides the subject of this review: Anna and Elizabeth, who passed away in Illinois; Christ, a retired farmer living in Lansing township; John, who passed away in 1907; and Peter, who died in 1902.

Fred Riser was nine years of age when he was brought to the United States, his ninth birthday having been spent on the Atlantic ocean. The family landed in New York, July 4, 1843, after fifty-two days on a sailing vessel, and from there they pushed onward to Madison county, Illinois, where the subject of this review remained until he was seventeen years of age and where he acquired such education as could be gained during a few months attendance at a country school. He came to Allamakee county with his father and assisted with the work of the homestead until after the latter's death, when the land was divided, Mr. Riser receiving as his share one hundred and sixty acres, including the buildings upon the farm. He made further improvements, erecting one of the largest barns in the township, and he steadily carried forward the work of development through the years, becoming one of the prosperous and substantial agriculturists of this vicinity and winning a competence sufficient to enable him to retire from active life. He sold his farm to his son Otto, with whom he continues to reside.

Mr. Riser has been twice married. His first union occurred July 10, 1854, when he wedded Miss Barbara Marti, a native of Switzerland, who passed away in 1862, leaving five children: John, deceased, who was a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church; Kate, the wife of John Sharff, of St. Paul, Minnesota; Fred, a practicing physician residing near Denver, Colorado; Henry William, who formerly engaged in the practice of dentistry and who resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Jacob, a dentist of Spokane, Washington. On the 10th of March, 1864, Mr. Riser was again married, his second wife being Miss Eva Margaret Swartz, who has also passed away. She became the mother of thirteen children: George, deceased; Wesley, who resides in California; Matilda, also deceased, who was married and had two children, Fred and Theodore Fisher, the latter of whom makes his home with his grandfather, the subject of this review; Edward, who has passed away; Lidia, the wife of Albert Ross, of Washington; Julia, who married Fred Sharff and makes her home with her father; Otto, who recently purchased his father's farm; Ida, who married John Long, of Montana; Benjamin; Selma, the widow of John Wild; Gertrude, who married Philip Rogensack, of North La Crosse; Manda, who married Ben Fenerhelm, of Lansing township; and Adeline, who makes her home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Mr. Riser is a member of the German Methodist Episcopal church and helped in the erection of the church building. He was for many years in his early life a democrat in his political beliefs but of late has affiliated with the republican party. He was for some time a member of the board of school directors and

served ably and efficiently for one term as township assessor. At the age of seventy-nine he enjoys remarkable health considering his life of hard and unremitting work and in spirit and interests seems yet in his prime—a straightforward, honorable and progressive citizen, thoroughly alive to the best interests of the community he has aided so greatly in upbuilding.

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### HENRY GRAMLICH.

Henry Gramlich, one of the progressive and representative farmers of Allamakee county, residing on a well improved property of two hundred acres on sections 18 and 19, Lansing township, was born upon this farm September 27, 1859. He is a son of Ernst F. Gramlich, one of the pioneers in Iowa, his residence in this state dating from 1856. He was born in Baden, Germany, February 22, 1826, and as a young man emigrated to America, where he first located in Ohio. He learned there the blacksmith's trade and worked at it successfully until he came to Iowa, purchasing in 1856 eighty acres of unimproved land in Allamakee county. He steadily carried forward the work of developing this property, building upon it a log house, in which he and his family lived for many years and which is still standing upon the homestead. Later Mr. Gramlich built a comfortable frame residence and in this made his home until he retired from active life about twenty-five years ago. The declining years of his life were spent at the home of his daughter Mrs. Frank Goettle, of Lansing township, and he there died December 16, 1905. He was a man of exemplary character and sterling worth, holding membership in the German Methodist Episcopal church, helping in the organization of the congregation and in the erection of the house of worship. He married in Ohio Miss Mary Kutcher, a native of Germany, born May 1, 1826. She passed away in Allamakee county in 1907. They became the parents of six children: George, who was born in Ohio and who passed away when he was still a child; John, a native of Allamakee county, also deceased; Mary, the wife of Henry Lenz, of Center township; Henry, of this review; Katie, who died at the age of eighteen; and Emma, who married Frank Goettle, of Lansing township.

Henry Gramlich acquired his education in the district schools of Lansing township and his childhood was similar to that of most farmers' sons in those days, his time being divided between his studies and work upon the homestead. After his father died he purchased the interests of the other heirs and assumed entire control of the farm, which is his today and which by practical and well directed labor he has made one of the finest properties in this vicinity. The land lies on sections 18 and 19 and comprises two hundred acres, upon which he engages in general farming.

Mr. Gramlich married, in Allamakee county, May 22, 1888, Miss Christina Kumpf, a daughter of Fred and Dorothea Kumpf, natives of Germany. The parents were married in Dubuque, Iowa, and came to Allamakee county at an early day, and the father here engaged in farming until his death. His wife has also passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Gramlich became the parents of four children: Flora Emma, the wife of Ed Wessel, of Clayton county, Iowa; and Ella Jean-

nette, Ed Frederick and Henry Dewey, all of whom live at home. The parents are members of the German Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Gramlich is a staunch republican in his political views and has held some responsible official positions, serving for twenty years as secretary of the school board and for twelve years as school director. In 1912 he was elected township trustee and is still serving, discharging his duties in an able and conscientious way. A resident of Allamakee county since his birth, he is well known here and by a life upright and honorable in all its relations has won the favorable regard of his neighbors. His success in the conduct of his farm places him in the front ranks of progressive agriculturists and he is undoubtedly a native son of whom the county has every reason to be proud.

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#### IRA E. SMITH.

Ira E. Smith, a worthy native son and representative agriculturist of Allamakee county, is the owner of an excellent farm of three hundred and sixty acres on section 9, Post township. He was born in that township, near his present farm, on the 5th of December, 1871, his parents being David and Marena (Barham) Smith, natives of Cole county, Indiana. Throughout his active business career the father followed general agricultural pursuits. When a boy he came to Iowa with his father, who built the old stone house and also erected the first sawmill in this vicinity. This was as early as 1838. David Smith grew to manhood here and experienced all the hardships and privations of pioneer life, in later years recounting many tales of frontier existence in a district which was but thinly settled and was still the habitat of wild animals. Much arduous toil was necessary before the land was ready for the plow. Mr. Smith devoted his attention to the work of grubbing and clearing and in the fall seasons operated a threshing machine. When about twenty years of age he became a landowner and during the remainder of his active life was busily engaged in the work of the fields. In 1900 he took up his abode in Frankville and there died in March of the following year. The period of his residence in this part of the state covered about six decades and in his passing the community lost one of its honored pioneers and esteemed citizens. His widow still survives and makes her home at Frankville. They were the parents of two children; Ida, who lives with her mother; and Ira E., of this review.

In the acquirement of an education Ira E. Smith attended school at Myron in Post township. When twenty years of age he secured employment as a farm hand and about a year later purchased one hundred and sixty-seven acres of land and started out as an agriculturist on his own account. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-four years of age, when he was married and took up his abode on his farm, residing thereon for seven years. On the expiration of that period he bought the old homestead property and subsequently lived thereon for eight years or until March, 1911, when he purchased an additional tract of one hundred and twenty acres on section 9, Post township, where he has remained to the present time. He has disposed of some of his original holdings but still owns three hundred and sixty acres of valuable land and cul-



IRA E. SMITH AND FAMILY





tivates all of it with the assistance of tenants. He raises both grain and stock and keeps high-grade horses, cattle and hogs, at times dealing in stock to a considerable extent. His work is conducted along practical and progressive lines and he is systematic in all he does, so that there is no loss of labor or material, and the fields annually pay tribute to his efforts in rich and bounteous crops.

On the 19th of November, 1895, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Smith, whose birth occurred in Post township on the 9th of July, 1875, her parents being John N. and Susan (Lee) Smith, born in the years of 1828 and 1838 respectively. The father, a native of New York, was a stage owner in early manhood, driving from Decorah to McGregor until twenty-five or twenty-six years of age. At that time he located on a farm in the eastern part of Post township, continuing to reside thereon until called to his final rest in July, 1895. His widow makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. Ira Smith. The latter was the youngest in their family of eight children, of whom but two are now living, namely: Ida, the wife of Samson A. Harris, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work; and Mrs. Smith, the wife of our subject. Mr. and Mrs. Ira E. Smith have four children, as follows: Lester D., whose natal day was December 18, 1897; Pearl R., whose birth occurred February 28, 1901; Clinton E., born June 20, 1905; and Ethelyn L., who was born on the 14th of March, 1909.

Mr. Smith is a republican in his political views and held the office of trustee for one term but declined to serve longer. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the United Brethren church at Bethel, while fraternally he is identified with the Modern Brotherhood and the Woodmen. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have an extensive acquaintance in the county where they have always resided, and it is therefore with pleasure that we present this record of their lives to our readers.

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#### DAVID W. DOUGLASS.

The real builders and promoters of Allamakee county have largely been the men who came into this region when it was an unimproved tract and utilized its natural resources, transforming the wild prairie land into rich and productive fields, the products of which constitute the chief source of the county's wealth. David W. Douglass, now residing in Waukon, is one of those who have contributed in substantial measure to the country's development and advancement, for he opened up and improved a number of new farms, which he developed in accordance with modern agricultural methods. He is further entitled to a place among the honored men of this section as a veteran of the Civil war. Mr. Douglass has been a resident of Iowa for sixty years but was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, September 3, 1838, and is a son of David and Catherine Douglass, also natives of Scotland. The father crossed the Atlantic to America about the year 1849 and located in Lake county, Illinois, where he was joined by his wife and son in 1851. Two years later they moved to Iowa and located in Ludlow

township, Allamakee county, where the father purchased an eighty acre tract of land, which he cultivated and improved until his death.

David W. Douglass was a lad of fifteen when he came with his parents to Iowa. He grew up on his father's farm and in his childhood broke the raw soil with ox teams and aided in the development and improvement of the property. On the 11th of April, 1862, he joined the Union army, enlisting in Company B, Sixteenth Regular United States Infantry, Second Battalion, and with his company was sent to Columbus, where a camp of instruction was maintained. The regiment remained there only a short time and was then ordered to the front, where it participated in fourteen important engagements, including that of Stone River, where it went into battle one thousand strong and came out with one hundred survivors, the others having been killed, wounded or taken prisoner. He took part in the battles of Chickamauga, the first and second engagements at Buzzards Roost, the engagement at Resaca, Georgia, at New Hope church, at Kenesaw Mountain, Rough Station, Peach Tree Creek, Jonesboro and Atlanta. At Stone River Mr. Douglass received a gunshot wound in the breast but was not disabled, continuing his active service until the close of the war. He was mustered out, above the clouds on the top of Lookout Mountain, April 11, 1865, two days after Lee's surrender, having gained promotion from the ranks to the position of corporal in December, 1864. He later served on detached duty at brigade headquarters, acting for the First Division of the Fourteenth Army Corps.

After his discharge Mr. Douglass returned to Iowa and made his home upon his father's farm. In the following year he fitted out a breaking outfit, consisting of a large breaking plow and a five-yoke team of oxen, and with this he engaged in breaking the prairie soil for one season. He married in 1867 and in the same year purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw land, of which he broke eighty, selling the other half of his property. He farmed upon this tract of land for ten years, disposed of it at the end of that time at a profit and moved to Worth county, Iowa, where he rented land and farmed for one year. Returning to Allamakee county, he purchased eighty acres in the vicinity of Waukon and spent ten years upon the property, bringing it to a high state of development. He eventually sold this farm also and for two years thereafter rented land, buying at the end of that time another tract near Waukon. This was already improved to some extent but Mr. Douglass carried forward the work of development along modern lines and when he disposed of it received fifty dollars per acre. At that time he moved into Waukon and purchased a home but afterward sold it and went to Oklahoma, where he again turned his attention to general agricultural pursuits, purchasing a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he held for a time and later sold at a handsome profit. Since taking up his residence permanently in this city he has bought and sold a great deal of residence property and also bought and sold another farm. His unremitting diligence has brought him success, which enables him to put aside further business cares, and he is now living retired, having earned leisure and rest by many years of well directed labor.

In 1867 Mr. Douglass was united in marriage to Miss Adaline D. Ewing, who was born in Perry county, Indiana. She is a daughter of James B. Ewing, a native of Ohio, who grew to manhood in that state and there married Elizabeth French, of Kentucky. Mr. Ewing moved into Iowa in 1853 and was one of the

early settlers in Franklin township, Allamakee county. He became well known as the tallest man in this part of the state, being six feet, eight inches in height, and he was universally known as Uncle Jim Ewing. Mr. and Mrs. Douglass became the parents of three sons and four daughters. James I., makes his home in South Dakota. Mary is the wife of George Ralston, of Jefferson township, Allamakee county. Alexander W. acted for some time as superintendent and manager of an eighteen hundred acre grain farm in North Dakota, near Jamestown. He was a soldier in the Spanish-American war, serving first as corporal and later as lieutenant of militia. He now resides at home. William W. is a farmer in Allamakee county. Anna became the wife of Charles Welch, of Beulah Station. Jessie married Robert Adams, of Lincoln, Nebraska. Agnes grew to maturity and was for some time a stenographer in Chicago. She died February 2, 1907, at the age of twenty years.

Mr. Douglass has been affiliated with the republican party since its organization and is one of its most loyal and earnest supporters. He is a member of John J. Stillman Post, G. A. R., and for years has served as officer of the day at all functions and parades of the organization. Few men in Allamakee county are more widely and favorably known than Mr. Douglass, who has made his home here since he was a lad of fifteen and who in the sixty years which have since intervened has opened up and developed several new farms, his labors constituting an important element in the general agricultural advancement. Now, that he has passed the seventy-fourth mile-stone on life's journey, he is enjoying a well earned rest, which is the natural reward of his former life of toil. His fellow townsmen honor and respect him and wherever he is known he has an extensive circle of friends.

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### WILLIAM McLAUGHLIN.

Although thirty years have elapsed since William McLaughlin passed away on his farm in Hanover township, there are many in this vicinity who still remember his sterling qualities of character and his business progressiveness and who respect the substantial contributions which he made to the agricultural development of this part of the state. He was one of the pioneers in Allamakee county, coming here in 1856, and in the work of progress and expansion he bore an active and honorable part through the years, becoming known as one of the substantial and representative farmers of his township.

William McLaughlin was born in Ireland in 1820 and he spent his youth and early manhood in his native country. In 1852 he came to America, and settling in New York, followed railroad contracting for a few years. In 1856 he came to Iowa and made his home in Allamakee county in pioneer times. After a year he bought land on Bear creek, Hanover township, and from that time until his death continued to engage in farming, success coming as a natural result of his energy, ability and enterprise. Pioneer conditions prevailed throughout the county at the time of his location here, but the hardships and privations of this life were met with confidence and courage. From time to time he bought more land, his last purchase being a fine tract on the Iowa river upon which he

continued to reside until his death. He passed away on the 14th of May, 1883, and since that time his wife and one of his sons have operated the homestead which comprises four hundred and twenty acres lying on sections 4, 3 and 9. They have ably carried forward the work which Mr. McLaughlin began in pioneer times and have today a productive, well improved and well equipped farm, evidencing everywhere the many years of care and labor which have been spent upon it. Mrs. McLaughlin and her son operate this as a stock farm, making a specialty of raising and selling high-grade cattle, horses and hogs.

Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin became the parents of seven children. William makes his home in Ryder, North Dakota. Margaret is teaching school. Katherine is a resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota. John is engaged in farming in Hanover township. He married Miss Mary O'Meara, a native of Allamakee county, and they have seven children; Donald, born in 1900; Mary Bernice, born in 1905; John Bertrand and Dorothy Marie, twins, born in 1907; James Melvin, 1909; Ralph Edmond, 1911; and Genevieve J., 1913. Thomas, the fifth child born to Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin, lives upon the homestead. Josephine resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Celia, the youngest, became the wife of William Collins of this county.

Mr. McLaughlin was a devout member of the Roman Catholic church and was a democrat in his political beliefs, taking an active interest in public affairs. He served for two terms as assessor of his township and proved able, conscientious and reliable in the discharge of his duties. He was a man of many sterling traits of character, trustworthy in business, progressive in citizenship and faithful to all ties and obligations of life—and thus it was that in his passing Allamakee county lost one of her most valued and useful citizens.

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#### HENRY MARTI.

Henry Marti has been in an influential way for many years connected with farming interests of Lansing township and his labors have contributed much toward the agricultural development of the community. He owns four hundred and eighty acres lying on section 31, a well improved and valuable property, reflecting in its neat and attractive appearance the careful supervision and practical methods of the owner.

Mr. Marti was born on what is known as the old Jacob Marti farm in Makee township, September 23, 1863, and is a son of Jacob Marti, of whom further mention appears elsewhere in this volume. He acquired his education in the district schools of his native section and after laying aside his books remained upon the homestead until he was twenty-seven years of age, at which time he went to Le Mars, where for two years he engaged in business. Returning to Allamakee county at the end of that time, he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, buying the Roth farm of two hundred and thirty-six acres in Lansing township. Since that time he has engaged in farming and stock-raising and success has steadily attended his well directed activities. In 1913 he purchased the Keffler farm, this transaction making him the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of good land, upon which there are two complete sets of improvements. His

methods are practical and, therefore, productive of good results and his prosperity places him today among the substantial and representative farmers of the community.

In 1893 Mr. Marti married Miss Emma Roth, who was born upon the farm where she and her husband now reside. They have nine children, Clara Elizabeth, Selma Catherine, Walter Jacob, Roy Henry, Elsie Sophia, Harry William, Albert Herman, Willard George and Mildred Emma, all of whom live at home. The parents are devout members of the Congregational church.

Mr. Marti is not affiliated with any political party, preferring to vote independently according to his personal convictions. He is especially interested in educational affairs and has done much to promote the cause of educational advancement through his able service as school director. He is connected with business interests of this section as a director in the Cooperative Creamery Company. A man of broad experience, his labors have not only proven an element in his own progress and prosperity but have also constituted a feature in the development of the township, while his genial and social disposition and his unflinching courtesy have made him very popular among his fellow citizens and have gained for him their warm regard and friendship.

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#### LEWIS DRAKE.

Lewis Drake, now serving as clerk of Center township, is not only a popular and able official but also one of the most progressive and successful farmers of Allamakee, his native county. He owns two hundred acres of land on section 23 and upon this farm he was born March 9, 1871. His father, John Drake, was a native of Canada but was reared in New York state, where he remained until he was twenty-four years of age. From New York he went to Michigan, working in the lumber camps in the winter and in the sawmills in summer and continuing thus until 1868, when he came to Allamakee county. Here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of slightly improved land, erected thereon good buildings and engaged in general farming until his death, which occurred March 17, 1908, when he was seventy-three years of age. He was a republican in his political beliefs and active in local politics, holding various important township offices and acting as township clerk at the time of his demise. He married, in Michigan, Miss Sarah J. Curley, who was born in Canada but reared in the Wolverine state. They became the parents of five children: Frank, engaged in the real-estate business in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Lewis, of this review; Jennie, who died at the age of twenty-four; C. C., a traveling salesman with headquarters in Sedalia, Missouri; and Clarence, who died in childhood. The mother passed away February 5, 1904. She was a member of the Presbyterian church.

Lewis Drake acquired his education in the district schools of Center township and grew to manhood upon his father's farm, learning at an early age the various details connected with the operation of the homestead. After his father's death he purchased the interests of the other heirs and is now sole proprietor of the home place, which is called Lyndale and which is today one of the finest farms

in this locality. Since the death of his father Mr. Drake has been serving as township clerk and has proven eminently well qualified for the office, discharging his duties in a conscientious, able and progressive way.

Mr. Drake married Miss Grace M. Phipps, a native of Allamakee county and a daughter of M. T. Phipps, a prominent farmer of La Fayette township. They are the parents of a daughter, Myrtle E., and a son, John Lewis. Mr. Drake gives his political allegiance to the republican party and in matters of citizenship is progressive and public-spirited, taking an active interest in everything pertaining to the general growth and development. He has spent his entire life in this part of Iowa and his honorable connection with its official life and its agricultural interests, combined with his many excellent personal characteristics, have gained him an enviable reputation in the regard of those with whom he is associated.

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#### HENRY ENGELHORN.

Henry Engelhorn, an enterprising farmer and stock-raiser of Allamakee county, is a native of the county and was born on the farm he now occupies, June 13, 1875. He is a son of Mathias Engelhorn, a native of Germany, who was brought to America by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Engelhorn. They were among the early settlers of Lansing township, residing for many years upon a farm adjoining the place now owned by the subject of this review. Mathias Engelhorn grew to manhood there and afterward engaged in farming on his own account, purchasing two hundred acres of land slightly improved. The old log house which he erected upon his holdings still stands but he later built a larger frame dwelling, now occupied by his son. The father died upon this farm April 16, 1896. He had been twice married. His first wife was in her maidenhood Miss Margaret Schmidt, by whom he had three children: Abraham, who makes his home in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; Sam, who died in Oregon; and George, who passed away when he was a child. Mathias Engelhorn's second wife was Miss Dora Westphal, a native of Germany, who died at the home of her son on the 7th of March, 1911. She was the mother of six children: Henry, the subject of this review; Elizabeth, the wife of Theodore Beyer, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin; Bertha, who married J. W. Wendel, of Lansing township; Emma, who died in childhood; Annie, the wife of Ben Decker, of Church, Iowa; and Sophia, the deceased wife of William Mueller, of Davenport, Iowa.

Henry Engelhorn spent his childhood on his father's farm, dividing his time between his studies at the district school and the work upon the homestead. Having been reared upon a farm, he naturally turned to agricultural pursuits for a life work and after the death of his father purchased the interests of the other heirs to the property and assumed the ownership and control. He owns two hundred and twenty-two acres on sections 31 and 32, Lansing township, a valuable property with good improvements all made by himself and his father. He is a practical and progressive agriculturist and his well directed labors have been rewarded by a substantial degree of success, placing him among the men of prominence in this community.

On the 23d of December, 1902, Mr. Engelhorn married Miss Frances Spieler, a daughter of Jacob Spieler, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Engelhorn became the parents of three children: Clarence, who died in infancy; and Walter and Oscar. The parents are members of the Congregational church.

Mr. Engelhorn is one of the well known men of this township, where his entire life has been spent and where his upright and honorable qualities of character and his genuine personal worth are known and honored. A republican in his political beliefs, he has never sought to figure prominently in public life but in business has proven capable and reliable, and his intense and well directed activity is now bringing him a gratifying measure of prosperity.

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### FRANK GALLAGHER.

Among Hanover township's extensive landowners and prosperous farmers and among Allamakee county's most progressive and prominent native sons is numbered Frank Gallagher, who owns and operates six hundred and fifty-three acres of fine land, the neat and attractive appearance of which is a visible evidence of his life of industry and thrift. He was born in 1866 and is a son of Patrick and Ellen (Butler) Gallagher, natives of Ireland, who came to America at the age of twenty-six and eighteen respectively. Shortly after their arrival in this country their marriage occurred and they settled in New York state, where they continued to reside for fourteen years. In 1854 they moved to Iowa and settled in Union Prairie township, Allamakee county, where the father purchased land, which he operated until 1879. In that year he disposed of his holdings and came to Hanover township, where he again purchased land, operating this farm, which comprised one hundred and fifty-three acres, until he retired from active life. He was one of the early settlers in this part of Iowa and when he first took up his residence upon his farm in Hanover township his nearest market was at Lansing, twenty-seven miles away. He still makes his home in Iowa and is one of the venerable men of this state, having passed the age of one hundred years. He has long survived his wife, who died in 1890. Seven children were born to their union, of whom five are still living: Johanna, the wife of James Ryan, of Frankville, Iowa; Mary, at home; Thomas, of Allamakee county; Eliza, the wife of James Martin, also of this county; and Frank, of this review.

The last named acquired his education in the public schools of Allamakee county. He was reared at home and by assisting with the work of the farm acquired at an early age a practical knowledge of the details of farm operation. When he was twenty-eight he assumed the conduct of his father's homestead and has managed this property since that time, although he has added largely to his holdings. At present he owns six hundred and fifty-three acres of well improved land, with four hundred acres in a high state of cultivation, besides an interest in a two hundred and forty acre tract in Minnesota. The Iowa farm lies on sections 28 and 33, Hanover township, and is an excellent property in every particular, equipped with a fine residence, barns and outbuildings and the necessary machinery. Mr. Gallagher devotes practically his entire time to its cultivation

and has been very successful, standing today in the front ranks of able and prosperous agriculturists.

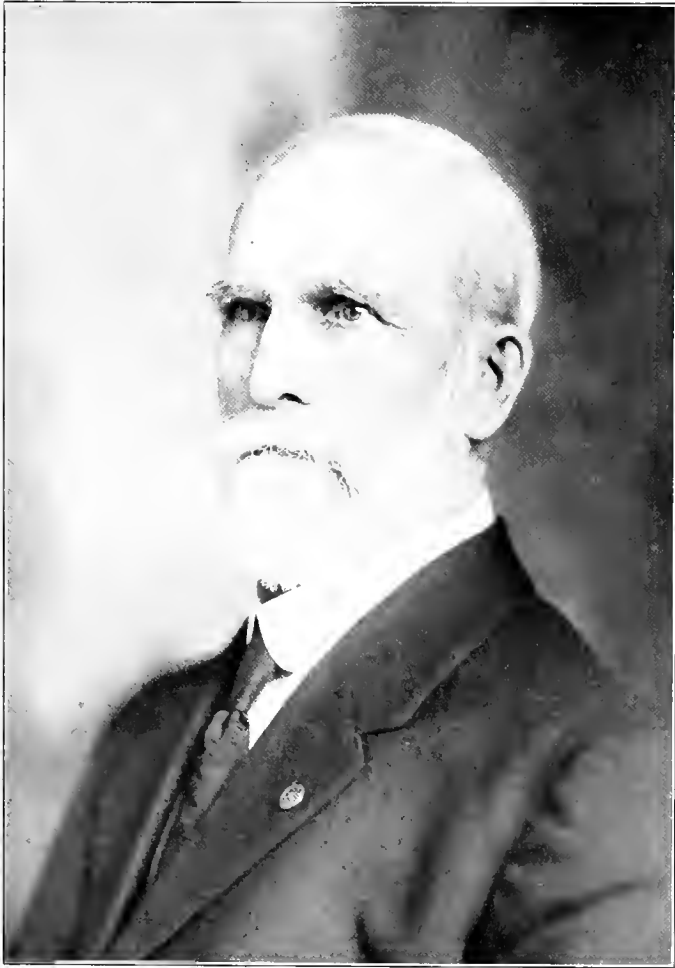
In 1890 Mr. Gallagher was united in marriage to Miss Maria Collins, who was born in Allamakee county, a daughter of James and Mary Collins. Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher have become the parents of five children: Patrick, who was born in 1892 and is at home; Loretta, born in 1895, the wife of A. Goshie, of South Dakota; James, whose birth occurred in 1896; and Francis and Leo, both deceased. Mr. Gallagher is a member of the Roman Catholic church and he gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He has served his township capably as trustee and is always ready to cooperate in progressive public movements. There are few men in Allamakee county more widely and favorably known than he, for he has made his home in this part of Iowa since his birth and his upright and straightforward life has gained him the warm and lasting regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

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#### ALONZO MARTIN MAY.

Alonzo Martin May was born in the village of Scio, Allegany county, New York, on the 20th of March, 1838. He is a descendant of Sir Thomas May, of Mayfield, county of Sussex, England, located about forty miles south of London. In the family records the name has been written Mayes, Mays, Maies and May. Dorothy May, of this family, was the wife of William Bradford, who became governor of the Plymouth colony. She died on the voyage to America. The line of descent is: Thomas May, born at Mayfield, England, in 1590; John; Samuel; Samuel, second of the name; Eleazer; Theodore; Ellis; Philander Franklin; and Alonzo Martin. Theodore moved from Dedham, Massachusetts, to Washington county, New York, served in the Revolutionary war and was present at Burgoyne's surrender. Ellis followed farming at Union Village, Washington county, until 1832, when he moved to Allegany county, New York. He married Mary Wells and their fifth child was Philander Franklin. In 1835 he married Laura Ann Matthews, of Wyoming county, New York, a descendant of one of the Pilgrim fathers and also of Revolutionary stock. To them were born seven children, the second being Alonzo Martin, of this review. When he was five years old his family moved west, the trip being made from New York overland in a prairie schooner, a covered wagon drawn by two horses. The party passed through Canada from Lewiston to Detroit, the Niagara and Detroit rivers being crossed on horse ferry boats. They reached Will county, Illinois, thirty-five miles south of Chicago, in August, 1843, and there with five hundred dollars in silver the father purchased a quarter section of land and built upon it a fourteen by twenty frame house, one and a half stories high, the lumber having been hauled from Chicago. In 1846 he moved to Rock county, Wisconsin, and engaged in the manufacture of steel plows at Janesville, the first steel plows in the country having been made by his brother Harvey H. May, of Galesburg, Illinois. Disposing of this business in February, 1851, the father went to Green Lake county, where he again turned his attention to farming. There Alonzo Martin May completed a common-school education when he was





ALONZO M. MAY



fifteen years of age, having begun his studies in a select school over a wagon shop in New York state. The first school which he attended in Illinois was in a house made by setting up small trees or bushes, ten or twelve feet high, around a space about fifteen feet square, the roof being leafy branches of trees. Mr. May afterward attended Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin, and from there went to Beloit College, completing the course in that institution in 1864. In April, 1861, when the news came that Fort Sumter had been fired upon by the rebels, he with a large number of other students tendered his services to the government under the call for three months' men, and his company was assigned to the Second Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers. Under the call the regiment did not see service in the field and Mr. May was afterward sworn in as a member of a regimental band at Beloit. He was taken sick when this band went to the front and secured a substitute, being, however, held to fill a vacancy should one occur. At the end of a year the regimental bands were mustered out and he went to Janesville, Wisconsin, to enlist, failing, however, to pass the medical examination. Again, early in 1864, with a large number of students and professors in the colleges, he enlisted in Company B, Fortieth Wisconsin Volunteers, his regiment being widely known as the "Students Regiment." Mr. May was at that time a member of the senior class, the seniors enlisting having passed their final examinations ahead of time for the purpose of going to the front and finding upon their honorable discharge their diplomas waiting for them at Beloit. Alonzo Martin May's father also served for some months in the Union army and a brother, Isaac M. May, was for three years at the front, dying in a military hospital in Chicago while on his way home after having been mustered out.

In 1867, having completed the course of study in the Union Theological Seminary in New York city, Alonzo Martin May was ordained by Bishop Potter of New York to the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal church and came west, locating in Waukon, Iowa, as rector of St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal church in that city. The membership, small at that time, was soon further depleted by removals and, Waukon being more than adequately provided for in the number of churches, Mr. May discontinued his services at the end of five years and transferred his membership to the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he has since been an active member. He has been leader of the music and a chorister for more than fifty years and occasionally has served as a substitute for other pastors. He has always taken an active interest in the cause of education and has done much to promote its spread in Waukon, especially during the year of 1868-9, when he had charge of the Waukon public schools.

In January, 1868, Charles B. McDonald brought a newspaper plant from Blairstown to Waukon and established in this city the Waukon Standard. Mr. May, being familiar with the newspaper printing business, at once became identified with it and at the end of three months bought the outfit and may, therefore, properly be called the founder of the paper. He continued its principal proprietor and its editor for thirty-three years thereafter, making it one of the greatest forces in the promotion of municipal progress and growth. At the end of that long period, on account of nervous prostration, he sold the plant to his son, Robert Bruce May. During the first year after Alonzo M. May assumed control his brother-in-law, R. L. Hayward, was associated with him in the business and afterward for nine years E. M. Hancock, who had learned the printing

business in the office, was associated with him as a partner, taking principal charge of the operation of the journal, while Mr. May filled the position of official shorthand court reporter for the tenth judicial district of Iowa, comprising six counties. This office he resigned after thirteen years of capable service. During the last four years of this time his wife had principal charge of the editorial work and proved herself a capable and far-sighted business woman. Mr. May was admitted to the bar, having passed the required examinations in June, 1872, but never actively entered upon the legal profession.

At Beloit, Wisconsin, on the 26th of July, 1865, Mr. May was united in marriage to Miss Augusta Mary Hayward, the second daughter of Hon. Paul Davis Hayward, who was born at Port Hope, Canada, although his parents were natives of the United States. A member of the family to which he belongs served in the Revolutionary war and signed the Declaration of Independence. Paul Davis Hayward married on October 14, 1837, at Norwalk, Ohio, Miss Anna Langford, a native of Ireland, and in 1841 they moved to Green Bay, Wisconsin, and thence to Kingston, in the same state, where Mr. Hayward was register of the U. S. land office and also county recorder of deeds. He became very prominent in state politics and was afterward elected to the legislature, serving for two terms with great ability and efficiency. He was in the Civil war as a member of the Union army and died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. R. J. Alexander, in Waukon, November 24, 1890. He had long survived his wife, who passed away in Canada, May 6, 1863. Their eldest son, George Washington Hayward, was born in Huron, Ohio, August 31, 1838, and was graduated from the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1861. He served in the Civil war, attained the rank of captain and died while on duty at Alexandria, Egypt, January 16, 1886. Their eldest daughter, Anna E. Hayward, is now Mrs. J. S. Gray, of Detroit, Michigan. Mrs. May, the wife of the subject of this review, was born at Green Bay, Wisconsin, June 8, 1842. For seventeen years the family resided at Kingston, Wisconsin, where she attended the public schools, and she was also afterward a student at Ripon College. The next daughter, Ella M., was born August 5, 1844, and was for some time a resident of Waukon. She married Hon. D. F. Morgan, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, a member of the state senate for some years. Both have passed away. Richard L. Hayward was born August 5, 1846, and in the Civil war fought as a member of the Fortieth Wisconsin Infantry, and was afterward connected with the first Wisconsin Cavalry. In 1869, after a year as foreman of the Standard office and partner in the controlling company, he went south on account of failing health and died in Texas in 1882. Paul Davis Hayward, Jr., was born at Kingston, Wisconsin, in 1849, attended college at Beloit and in 1870 located in Chicago, where for twenty years thereafter he was prominently connected with a wholesale paper firm. He died in Brockville, Ontario, June 7, 1890. Emma E. Hayward was born August 15, 1851. Sarah V. was born September 25, 1852. They are now residing in Detroit, Michigan. Carrie L. was born June 30, 1857, and came to Waukon with her sister Mrs. May in 1867. She was a student of Cornell College, Iowa, and at Olivet College, Michigan. She married R. J. Alexander at Waukon, June 27, 1883. For more than a third of a century Mr. Alexander has been one of the most successful clothing merchants

of the country and for many years has been an active member of the school board.

Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo M. May became the parents of eight children. Frank Hayward, the eldest son, was born in New York city, May 8, 1866. He learned the printing business and for some years was a partner in the Standard at Waukon. For the past twelve years he has held an important position with the Northwestern Newspaper Union of Chicago. Anna Laura was born in Floyd county, Iowa, August 4, 1867. She was graduated from the Waukon high school and afterward learned the printing business. She married, November 20, 1888, Rev. G. N. Keniston, of the Methodist Episcopal church, and she died at Elkader, April 29, 1890. Jessie Ella was born in Waukon, October, 15, 1868, and acquired her education in the Waukon grammar and high schools. For ten years she has been confidential secretary to the New York manager of the United States Steel & Wire Company in New York city. Robert Bruce was born June 20, 1870. After completing his education in the public schools he learned the printer's trade and for some years thereafter was associate publisher and editor of the Standard and is now foreman of the Iowa Falls Sentinel. He married, October 4, 1893, Miss Lucy Taylor Stoddard, of Waukon, and they have one son, Robert Bertrand. Winifred was born September 21, 1874, and after graduating from the Waukon high school attended the Nora Springs Seminary and Cornell College. She also learned the printing business. On the 5th of October, 1899, she married Ben D. Helming, one of the successful, progressive and substantial farmers of this county. He is a son of Simon Helming and was born on the home farm, three miles west of Waukon, January 29, 1874. Their children are as follows: Carolyn Elizabeth, born June 30, 1900; Dorothy Hager, born January 6, 1902; Paul Hayward, July 15, 1903; Benjamin David, Jr., August 10, 1905; Robert Bruce, February 20, 1907; Frederick, April 25, 1910; and John Albert, March 28, 1912. Paul Davis was born March 18, 1876, and after completing a high-school course was for some years connected with the Washburn-Moen Company of Chicago, after which he spent one year as purser of the United States ship Tacoma during the Spanish-American war. For three years he had charge of over three hundred miles of telegraph and telephone lines as a member of the United States signal service in the Philippines and he was for three years government clerk and storekeeper in the Panama canal zone. For a similar period of time he has been clerk in the United States adjutant general's office in Washington. He married in 1908 Miss Caroline Hansen, of Chicago. Langford was born in Waukon, February 5, 1878, graduated from the Waukon high school and took a two years' course at Cornell College. He was for several years in the employ of the Washburn-Moen Company at Worcester, Massachusetts, and upon leaving that connection went to Meriden, Connecticut, where he became associated with the Columbia Roller Shade Company, acting as supervisor of construction of plants for that concern in Chicago and in Oswego, New York. In the summer of 1912 he became superintendent of construction of an immense plant for the H. W. Johns-Manville Manufacturing Company at Finderne, New Jersey. He married at Worcester, Massachusetts, Miss Florence Scott, and they have two children. Marian, the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo M. May, was born March 7, 1880, and after graduating from the high school took a course in domestic science in Drexel

Institute, Philadelphia. On the 26th of December, 1908, she married Dr. Einar Onsum and after residing for a few years in North Dakota they went to his native city, Christiania, Norway, where he has now a large practice. They have one son, Einar Frederick, born February 6, 1911, and one daughter, born January 19, 1913.

Politically Alonzo M. May came into the republican party "on the ground floor," though not yet a voter when the first republican club, the beginning of the party, was organized March 20, 1854, at Ripon, Wisconsin, by Major A. E. Boyay. Mr. May has been in sympathy with the progressive element in the party represented in Iowa by such men as Larrabee, Cummins and Kenyon, and he has been at all times active and public-spirited in matters of citizenship. For some fifteen years he has served as clerk of the grand jury and at Des Moines was elected bill clerk of the house of representatives of Iowa for the 1906 session. During the session of 1911 he served as chief doorkeeper and was doorkeeper for the 1913 session, but these offices have been tendered to him without his seeking, for he has never been an active politician in this sense, although he has taken an active part in temperance work and in everything relating to the public welfare. Fraternally he is connected with the Masonic lodge and Independent Order of Odd Fellows, organizations of which he has been an active member for some forty-three years. In 1883 he became a charter member of John J. Stillman Post, No. 194, G. A. R., and has been adjutant of the post for about thirty years, thus keeping in touch with his comrades of fifty years ago. Throughout a period of residence in this section of the state dating from pioneer times Mr. May has firmly entrenched himself in the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens and has taken an active, helpful and worthy part in the work of upbuilding and development. He has steadily adhered to the highest principles of business, personal and public integrity and has behind him a record of service that has been varied in activity and faultless in honor.

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#### PATRICK DELANEY.

Among Allamakee county's substantial and progressive agriculturists is numbered Patrick Delaney, who since 1898 has resided upon his fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Hanover township. He was born in 1866 and is a son of James and Margaret Delaney, natives of Ireland, both of whom upon coming to America settled in Indiana, where their marriage occurred. They later removed to Iowa and in 1856 the father purchased land in Hanover township, Allamakee county, a property which he operated until his death in 1906. His wife passed away in the same year. To their union were born ten children, eight of whom survive: Johanna, the wife of William O'Meara, of Minnesota; Katherine, who married John Fitzgerald, of Tacoma, Washington; Terrence, of Hanover township; Patrick, of this review; Thomas, a merchant in Allamakee county; Mary E., who married Bryan Mahony, of Allamakee county; John, who resides in Hanover township; and James, who is operating his father's homestead.

Patrick Delaney was reared at home and he learned the details of farm operation through practical experience upon his father's property. At the age of twenty-seven he began farming for himself, renting land upon which he operated for five years thereafter. He then purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Hanover township and upon this property has resided since that time, steadily carrying forward the work of improvement and development and gaining recognition as one of the substantial and able men of this locality.

Mr. Delaney was married in 1901 to Miss Anastasia Byrnes, a native of Allamakee county and a daughter of Thomas and Katherine Byrnes, natives of Ireland. The parents have passed away, the mother dying in 1908 and the father many years previously. Nine children were born to their union, as follows: Eugene, who resides in North Dakota; Annie, the wife of Thomas Collins, of Allamakee county; Katherine, who married Michael Bresnahan, of Allamakee county; Lawrence and Thomas, also of this county; Anastasia, wife of the subject of this review; Ella, who married Michael Burke, of Allamakee county; Margaret; and Mary, the deceased wife of William Gavin, of Allamakee county. Mr. and Mrs. Delaney became the parents of four children: James, born in 1903; Thomas B., who died when he was ten months old; John J., who died in infancy; and Margaret. The family are devout members of the Roman Catholic church.

Mr. Delaney is a stanch democrat and takes an intelligent interest in community affairs, cooperating heartily in all measures for the public good. His life has been one of well directed activity, resulting in the attainment of a fair measure of success, and wherever he is known he is respected and esteemed by reason of his genuine personal worth.

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#### J. P. BECKER.

Probably one of the best known and most popular men in Lansing township is J. P. Becker, familiarly known as "Colonel" Becker to his many friends. For thirty-six years he has been engaged in auctioneering here and now has a most important and extensive business of this kind, being associated with his son under the firm name of J. P. Becker & Son. He occupies a fine home upon a farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 34, a well improved and valuable property, reflecting in its neat and attractive appearance the care and skill of the owner. Mr. Becker was born in Luxemburg, Germany, April 3, 1838, and is a son of Henry and Barbara (Fischer) Becker, who lived and died in the fatherland. Of their six children the subject of this review is the only one now living. A brother, Henry, came to America and was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war, enlisting from Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

J. P. Becker acquired his education in the German public schools and after laying aside his books came to America, his nineteenth birthday having been passed on the ocean. After landing in New York he made his way westward to Ohio, where he spent three months, going from that state to Dubuque, Iowa, and thence to La Crosse, Wisconsin. After spending a short period in each of those communities he was for two years a rafter on the Mississippi river and

he afterward spent some time in St. Louis, returning north just before the outbreak of the Civil war. He purchased at this time eighty acres of land in Lansing township and upon this built a frame house which was later destroyed by fire. It was replaced by a second dwelling which still stands upon the property. In 1893 Mr. Becker disposed of his original homestead and purchased on the same section one hundred and sixty acres of land, constituting the home of his wife's parents, upon which they had lived and died and upon which he and his wife now reside. For the past thirty-six or thirty-seven years Mr. Becker has been an auctioneer and is considered one of the most able men engaged in this line of business in Iowa. At one time he cried an auction in which four hundred and twenty-two sales were made during the day and he has often conducted large and important sales for three days in succession without apparent fatigue. He conducts his business in partnership with his son under the firm name of J. P. Becker & Son and he has secured a large patronage, for it is known that his business methods are honorable and upright, his integrity unquestioned and his ability of a high order, as is evidenced by the excellent results which have attended his labors.

In Lansing township, on the 17th of December, 1862, Mr. Becker was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hirt, a native of Luxemburg, Germany, born March 24, 1839. She is a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Yager) Hirt, who came to America in 1856 and in the same year settled on the farm now occupied by the subject of this review. Mr. and Mrs. Becker became the parents of nine children, of whom four are still living. Three died in infancy. Mary, who has also passed away, was the wife of Joe Duchien. Elizabeth, also deceased, married James Riley. Those living are: Henry W., who is serving as assessor of Lansing township and who lives on a farm adjoining that of his father; Barbara C., who lives with her brother Henry; John H., an auctioneer associated with his father in business; and Louisa C., the wife of Joe Chamberlain, of Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Becker is affiliated with the democratic party, and is a member of the Roman Catholic church. He has lived for many years in Allamakee county and is widely and favorably known here, his many sterling qualities of mind and character having gained him the respect and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact. To his many friends he is known as "Colonel" and he has made the name a synonym for high standards of business honor, for progressive citizenship and for unquestioned personal integrity.

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#### JACOB SPIELER.

In a history of the pioneer settlement and agricultural growth, development and upbuilding of Allamakee county it is imperative that mention be made of Jacob Spielier, who is not only one of the oldest men in this section of the state but was also one of the first settlers. That his life history is a record of success is due to the persistent efforts and intelligently directed industry he displayed during the years of his connection with farming interests here, and the retirement



which he is now enjoying is the natural reward of his energy and determination in the past.

Mr. Spieler was born in Canton Unterwalden, Switzerland, September 8, 1825, and is a son of Frank and Anna Marie (Seibert) Spieler, both of whom lived and died in their native country. There Jacob Spieler remained until he was twenty-seven years of age and then, in 1852, crossed the Atlantic to America, locating first in Illinois and later in Iowa, where he spent some time in Muscatine and Dubuque. He was afterward employed in various capacities in Stillwater, Minnesota, and was then for eight summers cook on a raft on the Mississippi river, going as far south as St. Louis and meeting with many unique and remarkable adventures on that historic stream. He delights in recalling these days and the incidents which made them interesting and he relates many stories of the life and condition of the river men of those times. When he left the Mississippi he came again to Iowa and, settling in Allamakee county, worked for a time as a farm hand, being employed by Albert Hess and Fred Riser for a number of years. He was also for three years engaged as a cheesemaker on the farm belonging to Jacob Marti. An ambitious, energetic and determined man, he steadily worked his way upward to prosperity and saved his money, purchasing land of his own in 1872. At that time he bought one hundred and ten acres, slightly improved, lying on section 1, Makee township, and with characteristic energy he began its further development, success steadily attending his well directed labors. He took rank among the substantial, able and progressive agriculturists of this section of the state and made his farm one of the finest properties in Allamakee county, neat and attractive in appearance and equipped with all the buildings and accessories found on a model agricultural enterprise. He continued to reside upon this property until 1906, when he purchased a house and three acres of land near Lycurgus. Here he and his wife now reside, Mr. Spieler having well earned the leisure and rest he enjoys.

Jacob Spieler has been twice married. In June, 1871, on the day when the first train ran through Lansing after the completion of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, he wedded Miss Mary Feller, a native of Switzerland, who came to the United States with her mother and sister. To this union were born five children, three of whom died in infancy. The others are: Jacob J., who makes his home upon the Spieler homestead; and Frances, the wife of Henry Engelhorn, of Lansing township. The mother of these children died March 25, 1879, and on the 9th of October of that year Mr. Spieler was again married, his second wife being Miss Louisa Zimmerman. She was born in Wittenberg, Germany, April 19, 1853, and with her parents crossed the Atlantic in 1866. Mr. and Mrs. Spieler became the parents of a son, Carl William, who makes his home with his half-brother, Jacob J.

The homestead is now in charge of Jacob Spieler, Jr., who was born there on March 5, 1874. He acquired his education in the district schools of Makee township and from his early childhood was familiar with the best agricultural methods, having learned farming through practical work upon his father's property. When the older Mr. Spieler retired he purchased the farm and has since carried forward the work of developing and improving it, being numbered today among the enterprising and progressive agriculturists of this vicinity. He married, in September, 1906, Miss Anna Gruber, a daughter of Thomas Gruber;

of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. They have three children, Katie, Francis and Elsie. The house in which this family reside is one of the old landmarks of Allamakee county, for it was one of the first buildings erected on the ridge and in the early days served as a schoolhouse and church, the first school and the first meeting having been held in the building. It has since been remodeled but the old house forms a part of the new structure. Jacob Spieler, Jr., who has proven himself a worthy son of his father, both being men who have never faltered in the performance of any duty whether of a public or private character, and who have long since proven themselves worthy and valued citizens of Allamakee county, their labors constituting elements in the general progress and improvement.

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### JOHN A. DECKER.

After a period of loyal and faithful service in the Civil war John A. Decker identified himself with agricultural interests of Allamakee county and for over forty years thereafter developed and improved his property in French Creek township, winning during the time a high place in the regard of his neighbors and finally rest and retirement as a reward for his honorable and well directed labors. He now makes his home with his son in Lansing township and has many friends throughout Allamakee county, to whom he is familiarly known as Adam. He was born in Wittenberg, Germany, August 9, 1833, and is a son of George and Mary Decker, natives of that country, who in 1847 came with their family to America. They made the journey on board the sailing vessel Quebec, which started from London, and after a voyage of thirty-five days landed in America, having been delayed by a severe storm. From New York the Decker family pushed west to Ohio, settling near Cleveland, where the father purchased forty acres of land, upon which he engaged in farming for the remainder of his life. He and his wife became the parents of ten children, only one of whom, the subject of this review, survives.

John A. Decker was reared to manhood in Ohio, acquiring his education in the public schools of that state. He came to Allamakee county a few years before the outbreak of the Civil war but almost immediately afterward went to Fillmore county, Minnesota, in search of a location for a farm. The open prairie country not appealing to him, he returned to Lansing and there worked as a fireman and later as an engineer in a sawmill. From that city he enlisted in 1861 in Company B, Twelfth Iowa Volunteers, and served as a musician, holding this position in his regiment until he was seized with illness, which obliged him to go to the hospital at Mound City, Illinois. There he was given a position as engineer on a stationary engine and continued to hold it until he was discharged from the hospital. He continued his military service until 1866, in which year he obtained his honorable discharge at Davenport, Iowa.

With this creditable military record Mr. Decker returned to Allamakee county and in French Creek township purchased eighty acres of unimproved land, to which he later added one hundred acres. For many years thereafter he steadily carried forward the work of developing this property, which in time became



MR. AND MRS. JOHN A. DECKER



one of the best farms in this locality as a result of his practical methods and his untiring industry. Eventually he gave it over to the management of his son John and about the year 1907 sold the homestead and moved with his wife to his son's farm in Lansing township, where he now lives in retirement, spending the evening of his life in well earned rest.

Mr. Decker married, May 15, 1867, Miss Mary Eichhorn, who was born in Germany, May 6, 1846, and who came to America with her brothers and sisters when she was six years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Decker became the parents of six children. John A. was born in Lansing township in 1868. He is now one of the prosperous farmers of this township, owning a fine property on section 30. He married in 1894 Miss Lena M. Hirth, and they have a daughter, Edna. With this family Mr. and Mrs. John A. Decker are spending their retired life. Maggie married Joe Martin, of Church, Iowa. George makes his home with his brother Samuel in the same city. Samuel married Annie Bechtel. Ben is a general merchant in Church. Emma became the wife of Charles Hirth, of Lansing township. Mr. and Mrs. Decker are devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

For years Mr. Decker affiliated with the republican party but at the election of 1912 he voted the democratic ticket. There are few citizens in Allamakee county more widely and favorably known than he, for he has made his home here for over forty-five years, during all of which period his life has been upright, straightforward and honorable in all its relations. He has gained a comfortable degree of worldly prosperity, while his genial manner and unflinching courtesy have won him the warm and lasting regard of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

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#### HENRY LENZ.

Henry Lenz owns and operates a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 4, Center township, a property upon which he was born, and his genuine personal worth and excellent business qualifications entitle him to mention with the representative citizens of the community. Moreover, he is one of the successful stock-raisers in this section of the state and his interests along this line are extensive and important. He was born August 22, 1855, and is a son of Fred Lenz, a native of Prussia, Germany. The father served for three years in the German army, taking part in the revolution of 1848, and afterwards came to America, making his first location in Waverly, Ohio. After three years in that city he came to Allamakee county and purchased from the government one hundred and twenty acres upon which the subject of this review now makes his home. Papers show that this land was filed June 15, 1854. Fred Lenz became a successful and prominent farmer, winning a place among the substantial residents of this section. In the early days he erected log buildings upon his property and some of these are still standing. He afterward added one hundred and sixty acres to his holdings but the farm has now been reduced to its original proportions. He died upon this farm August 18, 1894. He had married at Waverly, Ohio, Miss Barbara Vogler, a native of

Bavaria, Germany, who passed away April 20, 1911. Both were members of the German Methodist Episcopal church. They became the parents of six children, two of whom are now living, namely: Henry, the subject of this review; Mrs. Emma Engelhorn, of Spokane, Washington. Those deceased were: Katie, who died at the age of twelve; Mary, who passed away when she was six years of age; John, who died at the age of four; and William, whose death occurred when he was two years of age.

Henry Lenz acquired his education in the district schools of Center township and afterward attended the Methodist Episcopal Church College at Galena, Illinois. He made his home with his parents as long as they lived and after their deaths purchased the old home place, upon which he has resided during his entire life. Upon it he has made substantial improvements and it is today a valuable and productive property, worthy of comparison with the best farms in Allamakee county. For the past twenty years Mr. Lenz has dealt extensively in registered pure-blooded Poland China hogs which he breeds and raises, and it is said that he has done more than any other man to improve the breed of hogs in this locality. He has exhibited at state fairs in Wisconsin and Iowa and has disposed of some fine animals at excellent prices. All of his business interests are capably conducted and his success places him among the men of affluence in this community.

In Allamakee county, in 1876, Mr. Lenz married Miss Mary Gramlich, a daughter of Ernst Gramlich, of whom more extended mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Lenz are the parents of eight children: Emma, who married William Parks, of Gillette, Wyoming; William, who resides in Church, Iowa; Nettie, the wife of Charles Yahnke, of Klemme, Iowa; Theodore, who is engaged in farming at Eagle Bend, Minnesota; Ed, who is following agricultural pursuits at Eagle Bend, Minnesota; Clara, the wife of Fremont Bauman, of Lansing township; and Harry and Edna, who live at home. The parents are members of the German Methodist Episcopal church.

Until the election of 1912 Mr. Lenz gave his political allegiance to the republican party but at that time he allied his interests with the new progressive party. He has always been active and interested in public affairs and has held various responsible official positions, including those of township assessor, school director, and treasurer and secretary of the school board. He is a man of genial nature, broadly educated, well informed and an interesting and fluent talker, and he has gained an enviable place in the favorable regard of his fellow citizens, among whom his entire life has been passed.

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#### FRANK L. MINOR.

As manager and superintendent of the large manufacturing plant operated by the Postville Clay Product Company, Frank L. Minor occupies a prominent place in industrial circles of Postville and the vicinity, a position which he has achieved by reason of especial skill and long training in the line of work to which he is now devoting his attention. He was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, September 28, 1867, and is a son of Samuel D. and Hannah (Garlick) Minor,

the former born in what is now West Virginia, in the Panhandle district, October 28, 1828, and the latter in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 5, 1840. In early life the father worked as a pilot on boats on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers but later became a brick manufacturer, operating a large fire brick factory at Empire, Ohio, for twenty-two years and finally retiring from active life and moving to Wellsville, where he continued to reside until his death, which occurred on the 25th of December, 1912. His wife has also passed away, her death having occurred in the same place, May 7, 1900. The father never sought to figure in any way in public life, never seeking political office and even refusing to accept a first lieutenant's commission offered to him during the Civil war. He preferred to concentrate his attention upon his business affairs and these became extensive and profitable, bringing him a comfortable competency and a high place in industrial circles of the city. He and his wife became the parents of seven children, the subject of this review being the fourth in the order of birth.

Frank L. Minor acquired his early education in the public schools of Empire and he afterward attended the Ohio State University at Columbus, graduating as a ceramic engineer with the class of 1891. When he became of age he entered his father's factory as manager and superintendent and continued in that position until his father's retirement, proving an expert in everything relating to his special line of work and also a far-sighted, discriminating and able business man. When Samuel D. Minor sold his factory the son continued in the employ of the purchasing company as manager and superintendent but after four years resigned his position and went to Leavenworth, Kansas, where he became manager for the Pittsburgh Paving Brick Company, being afterward transferred to Fairmont, West Virginia, where he worked in the same capacity for two years. At the end of that time he established himself in business as a ceramic engineer and soon built up a profitable and extensive patronage, erecting brick works at Spokane and Seattle, Washington; Portland, Oregon; Oakland, California; and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as well as in Port Credit, Canada. After accomplishing a great deal of important work along this line and winning for himself a reputation as an expert in every branch of industrial ceramics he abandoned his independent interests and identified himself with the Postville Clay Product Company as salesman and erecting engineer. He came to Postville in August, 1911, and erected in the city the plant for the company he represented and after its completion remained in charge as manager and superintendent, positions which he has occupied since that time. The Postville Clay Product Company manufactures all kinds of hollow building blocks and fireproof building material and controls an important and growing trade throughout the middle west. To the local branch of the business Mr. Minor devotes his entire time and much of the credit for the continued growth and expansion of the Postville factory is due to his initiative spirit, his modern and practical methods and the skill with which he applies his knowledge of everything pertaining to the business to the further advancement of his employers' interests. He is today considered one of the most able business men in Postville and the place which he occupies in business circles has been well earned and is richly deserved.

Mr. Minor married, on the 27th of June, 1894, Miss Ida McLean, who was born in Toronto, Ohio, on the 5th of February, 1868. She is a daughter of

James and Eliza (Jackman) McLean, the former a native of Scio, Ohio, and the latter of Knoxville, in the same state. In early life James McLean learned the latter's trade but he never followed this occupation, turning his attention to general farming and continuing to engage in it during his active life. He served in the Thirteenth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry for three years during the Civil war and during all of that period was never wounded or confined in a hospital. He and his wife became the parents of twelve children, of whom the wife of the subject of this review is the fifth in the order of birth. Mr. Minor gives his political allegiance to the republican party and fraternally is connected with the Knights of Pythias and the Masonic lodge. Although one of the later arrivals in Postville, he is interested in the welfare of the community and has already won for himself a creditable position as a valued citizen and business man.

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#### HON. WILLIAM S. HART.

Hon. William S. Hart, of Waukon, ranks as one of the prominent men of Iowa, as a lawyer, orator, soldier, political leader and legislator. He was born in a pioneer log cabin in Cherry Mount settlement and Allamakee county has been his lifetime home. His parents, William and Alicia (Conway) Hart, were early settlers in that part of Paint Creek township.

William S. Hart acquired his education in the district schools of his native township and at the early age of sixteen began teaching a country school, following this occupation until he was elected clerk of the district court just after coming of age. His able service won him reelection but he resigned the office soon afterward to practice law, having studied this profession while serving as clerk under the preceptorship of Henry and John F. Dayton. Few men at his age have attained more brilliant success as an attorney, notably in jury trials and in cases tried before the supreme court. As a specialist in telephone and electric law his services are in wide demand and papers and addresses by him upon this branch of his profession have been published by the International Telephone Association. He is also consulted and retained as special counsel in all of their important cases by some of the largest fraternal insurance societies in America.

Mr. Hart's success at the bar has been accompanied by his growing prominence in politics and along this line he has done a great deal of constructive and far-sighted work in the public service. As a member of the twenty-ninth and thirtieth general assemblies he gave special attention to labor, railway, military and telephone legislation and also to that on behalf of the dairy interests and the State Agricultural College. He was chosen by the stock shippers of Iowa to father the law compelling railroads to transport stockmen and to furnish sanitary equipment on stock trains and by the dairy interests of the state to champion legislation favorable to that industry. As chairman of the military committee he rewrote the military code of Iowa and a philanthropical state organization of which Mrs. A. B. Cummins was at that time president selected him to write and take charge of a child-labor law which is regarded as a model of its kind. The legislative committee of the Iowa Federation of Labor thanked him in its published report for his services as a legislator on behalf of the laboring men, while



in the interests of the State Agricultural College he vigorously and successfully to the end of his service resisted the central educational board law and other legislation then regarded as unfavorable to that institution.

Mr. Hart married Miss Nellie M. Holahan, a daughter of James Holahan, a pioneer implement dealer and capitalist of Waukon. Mr. and Mrs. Hart became the parents of six children: James; William S., Jr.; Malcolm J.; Nellie M.; Catherine; and Ivan, who died in childhood. In the life of Hon. William S. Hart there is a distinguished military chapter, which includes service in the Iowa National Guards, his rank ranging from that of private to captain. He served during the entire Spanish-American war in the United States Volunteers as a member of the Forty-ninth Iowa Regiment and took part in the subsequent military occupation of Cuba. The greater part of his United States service was spent on detail duty as judge advocate, general court martial, Second Division, Seventh United States Army Corps, under General Fitzhugh Lee, at Jacksonville, Florida, and at Marianao, Cuba. Mr. Hart's reputation as a public speaker extends far beyond the borders of Iowa and many of his addresses and speeches have been printed and widely circulated. He is one of the most prominent and best known attorneys, statesmen and men of affairs in the middle west and, being broad-minded, large-hearted and liberal, his influence has been a force for good in the upbuilding of state institutions and in their development along constructive, logical and progressive lines.

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#### CHARLES J. HAAS.

A highly profitable and productive farm of two hundred and eighty acres on section 16, French Creek township, Allamakee county, is evidence of intelligent labors along agricultural lines undertaken by Charles J. Haas, who was born upon this property October 4, 1872. As his father, who settled upon this property, was one of the most progressive men of his time, he follows in his footsteps and is considered the most modern and up-to-date agriculturist in French Creek township.

Joseph Haas, the father, a native of Germany, came to America when about twenty years of age, entering upon his first work at West Point, New York, whence he subsequently removed to St. Louis, where he was engaged in railroad work as stone mason and stone cutter. Later he took contracts for putting in culverts and laying of steel and finally by branching out was enabled to make agreements which covered complete jobs of railroad construction. In 1851, Joseph Haas came to Allamakee county to see his mother, who had preceded him here and during his sojourn assisted in completing the building of the stone elevator at Lansing. Returning to St. Louis, he remained there until 1856, when a brother in Allamakee county wrote him that a railroad was then to be built from the junction to Waukon. Packing up his tools and instruments, he came with his outfit and teams to Allamakee county in order to be on the spot if construction should begin, but although the road had been surveyed its building was delayed for several years. He therefore turned his attention to agricultural matters and purchasing three hundred acres of land in French Creek township set-

bled thereon. About thirty-five acres of this tract were under cultivation and a primitive log shanty was upon the farm. In 1857-8 Mr. Haas erected the stone house which still stands and here made his home, engaging in the breaking of the land and placing his acres under cultivation, continuing in general farming until his demise on August 31, 1900. Careful management and thorough and progressive methods resulted in gratifying financial returns and he was enabled to extend the boundaries of his farm until it comprised six hundred and eighty acres. It was said of him by his old-time neighbors that he was the most up-to-date farmer in French Creek township, for it was he who installed upon his farm the first mowing machine, the first riding plow and the first threshing machine. In fact it was he who was always first to own any new machine, to try out its merits, and always first to adopt any new method. That he was successful his ensuing prosperity was the soundest proof. Joseph Haas was united in marriage, in St. Louis, to Miss Julia Remstein, a native of Germany, who came to the United States in the company of friends when a young woman, and at the time of her marriage was employed in St. Louis. She was a true helpmate to her husband during all her life, and after his demise made her home in Mankato, Minnesota, passing away at an advanced age in April, 1913. It is but natural that a man of such advanced views as Mr. Haas should have taken an active part in the public life of his township, and he held all the township offices with the exception of that of assessor, ever discharging his duties to the satisfaction of his constituents. He gave his support to the democratic party and both he and his wife were members of the Catholic church. In their family were ten children: Joseph, who died at the age of twenty; Lawrence, of Hammer, North Dakota; George, of Jackson Junction, Iowa; Ferdinand, a salesman for the International Harvester Company; Mary, the wife of Henry Shulte, of Kansas; Matilda, of Great Falls, Montana; Julia, who married S. J. Bray, of Helena, Montana; Henry, of Waukon, this state; Charles J., the subject of this review; and Katie, the wife of Joseph Schultz, of Wilmont, Minnesota.

Charles J. Haas was reared under the parental roof and there were early instilled into his boyish consciousness the old-fashioned virtues of honesty and industry. In the acquirement of his education he attended the district schools and later a business college at Waukon, Iowa, and at La Crosse, Wisconsin. Early he became acquainted with agricultural pursuits, acquiring thorough methods under the able guidance of his father and assisting him until his own marriage, after which he continued along the same line. He lost his wife soon afterward and then attended Upper Iowa University, after which he was for one summer employed by the Atlas Art Studio of Chicago, for which concern he solicited orders for photo enlarging. The following summer he was employed as fireman by the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, running out from Eagle Grove, Iowa, and for the following two years held a position with the Plano Manufacturing Company, being stationed as agent in North Dakota. When his father passed away in 1900 he was appointed administrator of the estate and returned home. After the affairs were settled none of the other heirs wishing to take over the farm, he purchased the interests of the others and has since continued the operation of the old homestead with ever increasing success. He owns two hundred and eighty acres, all of which is in a high state of cultivation, and engages in general farming, planting grains most suitable to soil and climate, and giving a

great deal of his attention to stock-raising. His buildings are modern and up-to-date, substantial and suitable, and the latest machinery and implements can be found upon his farm in order to facilitate the labors that increase the yield of the land. Mr. Haas follows in every way in the footsteps of his father as a progressive agriculturist, and he has the distinction of being the first in French Creek township to own an automobile.

The first wife of Mr. Haas was Miss Alice O'Brien, a native of Allamakee county and a daughter of James O'Brien. Of this marriage one son was born, Charles James, at home. Mr. Haas was again married, his second union being with Miss Helen Tilzenberger, a native of St. Lucas, Fayette county, Iowa. They have six children: Viola Laona, Anna Marie, Evelyn Eleanora, Daniel Ferdinand, Bernard John and Merrill Joseph.

In his political views Mr. Haas reserves independent judgment giving his indorsement to whatever candidates he considers best suited to the offices to which they aspire. He has efficiently served as township trustee and as school director has done much toward promoting the cause of education. Both he and his wife are members of the Catholic church, to which they give helpful support, and are highly respected and esteemed in French Creek township for their qualities of mind and character. While Mr. Haas has attained individual prosperity and is considered one of the most prosperous agriculturists of his district, he had done much toward promoting general advancement and has proven a serviceable factor in making this section one of the richest in the state. He is public-spirited in the best sense of the word and is ever glad to bear his share of time and money in promoting any worthy public enterprise.

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#### SAMUEL WATERS.

A native of Allamakee county, Samuel Waters was born in Ludlow township on June 27, 1873, and has devoted practically all of his active life to agricultural pursuits, now owning a valuable farm of one hundred and twenty acres near Postville. His parents were Samuel and Catherine (Lyons) Waters, the former a native of County Wicklow, Ireland, where he was born on May 26, 1833, and the latter born not far from Dayton, in Montgomery county, Ohio, on August 6, 1845. When sixteen years of age the father came with his parents to the new world, the family making settlement at Pittsburg. Samuel Waters had already worked in the lead mines of Ireland and took up similar work near Pittsburg, continuing so until 1852, when he came west to Iowa and purchased land from the government in Ludlow township. For thirty years he resided thereon, bringing it to a high state of cultivation, and then made removal to Clayton county, having put his old homestead into pasture. There he operated a farm of several hundred acres until 1891, when he returned to the homestead, where he remained for another seventeen years active in its cultivation, when he went to Frankville, Winneshiek county, where he now lives retired. The mother passed away on February 7, 1910. Mr. Waters, Sr., had been previously married to Miss Anna Overholt, by whom he had four children. Of the second marriage eight children were born.

In the acquirement of his education Samuel Waters attended district school for three terms in Ludlow township and subsequently the district schools of Clayton county. He remained at home until about twenty years of age, when he hired out as a farm hand in Frankville, Winneshiek county, for one year. He then rented land in Ludlow township, successfully cultivating it for two years, and then removed to Emmet county, Iowa, where for ten years he rented, returning at the end of that time in order to assist his father for two years with his work on the old homestead. He then bought one hundred and twenty acres of land where he now lives. The farm was but partially improved at that time but he has since brought it to a high state of productivity, has erected a modern and comfortable residence, a substantially built barn and other necessary buildings which greatly increase the value of the property. He engages in general farming and in addition to his holdings rents eighty acres, which he also operates. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Store at Postville and also in the Cooperative Creamery.

On March 13, 1895, Mr. Waters married Miss Jennie Hughes, who was born near Red Cloud, Nebraska, on November 21, 1873, her parents being Frank and Emily (Early) Hughes. The father is a native of Indiana and the mother was born in Post township, this county. Mr. Hughes always followed agricultural pursuits, coming from Indiana to this county and later removing to Nebraska. About 1890 he proceeded to Oklahoma, where he took up government land, retaining his Nebraska land, and he now lives at Hartwell, Arkansas, still active in his occupation. The mother passed away in 1884. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Hughes were three children, of whom Mrs. Waters is the oldest. Mr. and Mrs. Waters have one daughter, Clara Catherine, born August 6, 1902. The religious faith of Mr. Waters is that of the United Brethren church and he is helpful in its work and expansion. Politically he is independent, giving his support of the best men available without considering party affiliations. However he inclines toward the prohibition party, taking a firm stand upon matters which concern the liquor question. While he has attained success, he has been a factor for good in his community and has contributed towards the upbuilding of moral and intellectual standards as well as to agricultural development.

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#### ANTON T. NIERLING.

Signal ability, energy and steadfast purpose have formed the watchwords in the life of Anton T. Nierling, who stands as a central figure in financial circles of Allamakee county through his connection with many important banking enterprises. Through steps of orderly progression he has made his way upward in the business world, being today cashier of the First National Bank of Waukon and identified also with various other financial and commercial concerns. He was born in French Creek township, February 8, 1872, and is a son of Anton Nierling, born in Germany on the river Rhein in 1826. The father came to America when he was a young man after having served three years in the German army and after his arrival came immediately to Iowa, locating in Lansing about 1849,



ANTON T. NIERLING



where he lived for three years, after which he settled on Lansing Ridge, coming two years later to French Creek township. He was a miller by trade and followed that occupation in his native country for several years, but he abandoned it after settling in Iowa, giving all of his attention to the clearing and improving of his two hundred and sixty acres of wild land. He married in Lansing Miss Mary Buck, a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, and they became the parents of a large family of children. The father never left the homestead which he developed, dying upon his farm in 1888, when he was sixty-two years of age. His wife survived him for a number of years, passing away in 1902.

Anton T. Nierling was reared upon the home farm and from his early childhood assisted in carrying on the work of the homestead. He acquired his primary education in the district schools and later completed his studies at the Breckinridge School at Decorah. After laying aside his books he engaged in teaching in Allamakee county but after two years entered the Bayless Business College at Dubuque, from which he graduated, receiving a thorough business training. When he had completed it he formed a partnership with Otto J. Hager and aided in the organization of the First National Bank of Waukon, an institution founded with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars, which has recently been increased to one hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Nierling first took the position of bookkeeper and assistant cashier, but for the past ten years has been cashier, serving ably and efficiently in the discharge of his duties. In this connection his excellent business and executive ability have been called forth and the success of the institution is in large measure due to him. As the years have passed Mr. Nierling has extended the field of his activities and is now connected with a great many important financial concerns, being president of the New Albin Savings Bank, a director in the Waterville Savings Bank and in the Dorchester Savings Bank. From the time of its organization in 1903 to January, 1913, he was a director and manager of the Farmers Stock & Produce Company, which he aided in organizing and promoting and of which he served as treasurer. The object of the organization is purely for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a good stock market for Waukon which object it accomplished during the time of his ten years' management, to January 1, 1913. In Waukon he is known as a man of resourceful and discriminating business ability, basing a distinct success in the world of finance upon an exhaustive knowledge of his business and upon the aggressiveness, energy and enterprise which makes this knowledge effective in financial circles.

Mr. Nierling married, February 3, 1896, Miss Winifred Taylor, who was born and reared in Waukon, a daughter of G. W. Taylor, a pioneer in the settlement of Allamakee county and a veteran of the Civil war, now a well known resident of Waukon, where he is living retired in the eightieth year of his age. Mr. and Mrs. Nierling became the parents of three children, Gertrude, Shirley and Paul A.

Since casting his first vote Mr. Nierling has been a member of the republican party but has never aspired to public office, although he served in a creditable and able manner as city treasurer and also as school treasurer. He has also the honor of serving as trustee of Upper Iowa University. He is a member of the Masonic order, holding membership in the Waukon blue lodge, in the chapter and in Decorah commandery. In both the lodge and chapter he has served in a number

of official positions and he is also well known in the affairs of the Knights of Pythias, of which he is now vice chancellor. He and his wife are members of the Rathbone Sisters lodge, O. E. S. Mr. Nierling is undoubtedly one of Waukon's most representative and successful men and his citizenship is of that loyal and public-spirited kind which evidences itself in far-sighted and constructive work in the public service. No movement which has for its object the betterment of municipal conditions or improvement of the city along any line lacks his cooperation and hearty support and he is especially interested in the work of the committee on public improvements and paving, of which he is now acting as chairman. A man of broad and modern views and high ideals, he is leaving the impress of his work and personality upon the city both along lines of material welfare and upbuilding and in standards of citizenship, and his name is respected and esteemed wherever it is known.

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#### ALBERT D. LARSON.

Albert D. Larson, who since 1912 has served with credit and ability as sheriff of Allamakee county, has for a number of years past been identified in an important way with agricultural interests of Hanover township and still owns his valuable farm of three hundred acres in that locality, although he makes his home in the sheriff's residence in this city. He was born in Hanover township, December 31, 1867, and is a son of Christian Larson, one of the earliest settlers in Allamakee county, of whom more extended mention is made elsewhere in this work.

Albert D. Larson was reared upon the family homestead and acquired his primary education in the district schools, supplementing this by two years' attendance at the Waukon high school. When not engaged with his books he assisted in the operation of the homestead and when he was seventeen years of age assumed entire charge of the farm, acting as manager until after his father's death, when he purchased the interests of all the other heirs. He thus came into possession of one hundred and twenty acres of fine farming land and to this he later added other tracts, owning today three hundred acres. Upon it he built a fine new residence, a barn, a silo and other outbuildings and he fenced and cross-fenced his place into convenient fields with woven wire. He gave his attention to general farming and stock-raising and was also a shipper on an extensive scale. Success steadily attended his well directed labor and in the course of time he gained an enviable degree of prosperity, winning recognition as one of the prominent, substantial and representative farmers of his locality. He was one of the promoters of the Farmers Stock & Produce Company of Waukon and is still a stockholder and director in the concern.

Although Mr. Larson is an able farmer and an influential business man it has not been along these lines alone that he has accomplished useful and beneficial work, for he is one of the leaders in local politics and an active force in republican circles of this vicinity. He has served as assessor of Hanover township and as township trustee and for a number of years was deeply interested in school affairs, serving for twelve years as president of the board of



education. In the fall of 1912 he was nominated sheriff of Allamakee county and after a hard fought campaign against two opponents was elected to the office by a gratifying majority. He is now serving and has proved capable, efficient and businesslike in the discharge of his duties. He moved to Waukon upon assuming office and, although he owns the old Todd homestead in the city, he now occupies the sheriff's residence.

In Waukon, on the 4th of October, 1899, Mr. Larson was married to Miss Louisa M. Todd, who was born and reared in the city and who was later for nine terms a teacher in the Waukon schools. She is a daughter of Frank and Margaret Todd, of this city. Mr. and Mrs. Larson, having no children of their own, have adopted and reared two, a son and a daughter: Oscar Williams, whom they adopted at the age of thirteen and who has now reached maturity and is in business for himself; and Julia Flather, whom they took into their home when she was a child of four and who is now a student in the Waukon schools. Mr. Larson's mother is also a member of this family. She has now reached the age of eighty-seven years. Mr. and Mrs. Larson are members of the Waukon Presbyterian church and fraternally Mr. Larson is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. He is widely and favorably known throughout the section where he was born and where his entire life has been spent and in his various responsibilities as a business man and as a public official has discharged his obligations so as to merit and receive the respect of all who know him.

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#### MICHAEL QUILLIN.

In 1862 Michael Quillin bought his first tract of land in Hanover township, Allamakee county, and this formed the nucleus of the extensive tract which he now owns. He has become well and favorably known in this part of Iowa, and the years have brought him prominence and substantial fortune, so that he stands today among the representative and able agriculturists of the section where he has so long made his home. He was born in Ireland in 1842 and is a son of Philip and Nancy Quillin, who came to America in 1848 and settled at Lambertsville, New Jersey, where the father followed the stonemason's trade until 1854. In that year he came west, and settling in Dubuque, Iowa, continued in his former occupation for two years and a half. Removing from that city to Lansing, in Allamakee county, in 1856, he preempted eighty acres of government land in Iowa township and when he disposed of that property bought two hundred and forty acres on the Minnesota line. This also he afterward sold and removed to South Dakota, where he proved up a homestead and a tree claim, continuing to develop this property until his death in 1888. His wife, surviving him some years, died in 1896. To their union were born eight children, six of whom lived to maturity: Michael, of this review; Mrs. Mary Fitzgerald; Thomas, of Minnesota; John, of Kimball, South Dakota; Mrs. Bridget McGraw, who has passed away; and Mrs. Ann Conklin, also deceased.

Michael Quillin acquired his education in the public schools of New Jersey and of Dubuque, Iowa, and remained with his parents until he was twenty-two years of age. Previous to that time he spent several summers as a river man

on the Mississippi, but finally turned his attention to farming, buying in 1867 an eighty-acre tract on section 34, Hanover township. From time to time he added to this property, and although he has recently given eighty acres to his son still owns three hundred and twenty acres, which his skill, ability and industry have made one of the finest agricultural properties in this vicinity. One hundred and eighty acres are under a high state of cultivation and the farm is well managed and well equipped in every particular, evidencing the many years of care and labor which the owner has bestowed upon it.

Mr. Quillin married, in 1867, Miss Rosa A. McGinnis, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Michael McGinnis, who settled in Iowa in 1857 and followed farming in this state until his death. Mr. and Mrs. Quillin became the parents of fifteen children, twelve of whom survive: Phillip J., a farmer of Allamakee county, who engaged in teaching previous to his marriage; John J., of Harpers Ferry, Iowa; Mary, the wife of Albert Lilliard, of Union Prairie township, Allamakee county; Anna Laura, the wife of Ed Collins, of New Albin, Iowa; Thomas, of Allamakee county, Iowa; Celia, who is single and living at home; Ella, the wife of Fred Hancock, of Allamakee county, who taught school previous to her marriage; M. J., of La Crosse, Wisconsin, a traveling salesman for the Swift Packing Company; Edward, at home; William, attending the State Normal School at La Crosse; Rose Mary, a stenographer, at home; and Leonard, at home.

Mr. Quillin is a member of the Roman Catholic church and gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, taking an intelligent interest in community affairs without being active as an office seeker. Since 1867 he has resided upon his present farm, and his industry and well directed efforts through the years have been rewarded by prosperity, prominence and that true success which lies in the respect and esteem of his many friends.

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#### ERNST P. LAYER.

Ernst P. Layer, living in Lansing township, is one of the progressive and substantial farmers of Allamakee county, owning about eighty-three acres of land on section 33. Born in Center township on the 29th of September, 1863, he is a son of one of the earliest settlers in Allamakee county, his father, John Layer, having come to this part of Iowa in the early '50s. He purchased a farm in Center township and gave his entire attention to its development and improvement until about the year 1896, when he retired from active life and moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where he now makes his home. He tells many interesting incidents concerning pioneer days in this section and remembers the time when the Indians were numerous upon the prairies and when it was no uncommon sight to witness an Indian deer hunt. He was himself an enthusiastic sportsman and in his youth often wandered far from home, following the trail of the deer. He witnessed practically the entire development of this section of the state and is numbered among its most honored and successful pioneers. He married in Germany and soon after he came to the United States lost his wife. Returning to the fatherland some time afterward, he was again

married, his second union being with Miss Louisa Souer. By his first marriage he had one son, George, who resides at Osage, Iowa. To his second union were born eight children, five of whom are living, namely: Louisa, the wife of Joseph Blumer, of North Dakota; Elizabeth, who married William Blumer, also of North Dakota; Ernst P., of this review; Herman, who makes his home in Sacramento, California; and John, a resident of North Dakota.

Ernst P. Layer was reared upon his father's farm in Center township and in his childhood divided his attention between his studies at the district school and work upon the homestead. He remained with his parents until he was thirty-two years of age and then began his independent career, renting land in Center township. He continued to develop and improve this property until about the year 1907, when he purchased the farm of eighty-three and one-tenth acres on section 33, Lansing township, upon which he resides. This is a well improved and valuable property and upon it he engages in general farming, his well directed and practical labors having been rewarded by a gratifying degree of success.

In Lansing township, on the 15th of October, 1895, Mr. Layer was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Roth, a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Fischer) Roth, early settlers in Lansing township. The father has passed away but the mother survives and makes her home at Church, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Layer have three children, Clara E., Theodore John and Herbert E. The parents are members of the Congregational church.

Mr. Layer gives his political allegiance to the republican party and although not an office seeker, has served capably and conscientiously as school director. He is connected with business interests of this section as a stockholder in the Calhoun Creamery Company. His energies have been largely concentrated, however, upon the development of his farm which is a valuable and productive property, bringing him a gratifying annual income, so that he is now one of the prosperous citizens of this community. He is a man of genial nature and genuine personal worth and has gained the favorable regard of his fellow citizens during the long years of his residence in Allamakee county.

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#### JAMES HOLAHAN.

Waukon numbered James Holahan among its capitalists. He became a factor in its business circles as a pioneer implement dealer and eventually developed his business to include the manufacture of wagons and carriages. His trade extended throughout northeastern Iowa and southeastern Minnesota and his well merited success made him one of the substantial and respected residents of the state.

Mr. Holahan was numbered among the worthy citizens that Ireland furnished to Allamakee county, his birth occurring in Kilkenny. He was but a child in years, however, when the family emigrated to America, making settlement at Naugatuck, Connecticut, where the years of his youth were passed. He made his initial step in the business world by learning the trade of a decorator and painter. He was employed in that capacity in a clock factory of Naugatuck for some time but eventually the family came to Iowa, settling at Decorah, so that

from that point onward to the time of his death Mr. Holahan was a resident of this state. In 1863 he took up his abode in Waukon. The Holahan homestead consists of a magnificent forest park fifty acres in extent, planned and planted by Mr. Holahan, and surrounds a stately, old-fashioned mansion. It is one of the show spots of the city. After becoming a resident of Waukon Mr. Holahan opened one of the first implement establishments of the town, becoming a pioneer in that line of trade. He was not long in winning recognition for his business ability in a growing patronage. He also began the manufacture of wagons and carriages, conducting an extensive enterprise along that line. The trade not only covered Allamakee county but extended into adjoining counties until it had covered northeastern Iowa and southeastern Minnesota, and throughout the entire district his name was household word for more than a generation. He was known as a most enterprising and progressive business man, carefully formulating his plans and carrying them forward to successful completion. Obstacles and difficulties in his path seemed but an impetus for renewed effort that never faltered until his purpose was achieved.

Mr. Holahan was united in marriage to Miss Kate Fenelon, a native of Carlow, Ireland, and they became the parents of five sons and four daughters, namely: W. J., who is now living in Mason City, Iowa; John, who is located at Havana, Cuba; M. F., a resident of Atlanta, Georgia; L. J., living in Dixon, Illinois; James, who is located at Victoria, Illinois; Nellie M., the wife of the Hon. William S. Hart, a prominent lawyer and legislator of Allamakee county; Anna; Gretta; and Mamie, who is Sister M. Benoit in St. Xavier's Academy of Chicago.

Such in brief is the life history of James Holahan, one of the most worthy and highly esteemed pioneer citizens of Allamakee county. He early recognized the fact that there is no royal road to wealth and that there is no excellence without labor. He, therefore, put forth effective effort to secure his advancement and the methods which he followed and the course which he pursued commended him to the confidence, good-will and honor of all with whom he came in contact.

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#### JOHN HAMMEL.

John Hammel, carrying on general farming and stock-raising upon a fine tract of land of two hundred acres near Postville, was born in Frankville, Winneshiek county, August 21, 1856, and is a son of John and Margaret (Jokers) Hammel, natives of Baden, Germany, whose marriage occurred in America. The father crossed the Atlantic in 1855, settling first in Boston, where he remained for a few months, going at the end of that time to Frankville, Winneshiek county, Iowa. There he spent one year and then purchased a farm in Post township, Allamakee county, a portion of which his son now owns. He and his family continued to reside thereon until the mother's death, after which he retired from active business life, spending most of his time traveling through different parts of the United States. He lived in Virginia for one year and was for three years in the Soldiers' Home in Milwaukee. Later, however he returned to Iowa and made his home with the subject of this review, dying in the year 1903. He had

survived his wife for seven years. He was honored as a veteran of the Civil war, having served in that conflict for nine months.

John Hammel acquired his education at the West Grove school in Post township and remained at home until his marriage. In 1881 he bought eighty acres of his father's farm and also conducted the entire homestead until after the death of his mother, when he moved to his own property. Later he became the owner of the homestead, adding to his own farm and acquiring in this way a tract of two hundred acres which he still operates. Having been connected with farming since his early childhood, he is thoroughly familiar with the best agricultural methods and understands every detail connected with the operation of the farm. His practical labors have been rewarded by well deserved success and he is today known as one of the most progressive farmers and stock-raisers in this part of Allamakee county.

On the 4th of February, 1881, Mr. Hammel was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Harris, a native of Post township and a daughter of Elisha Harris and a sister of George Harris, of whom extended mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Hammel have become the parents of eleven children. Stella is the widow of Charles Cook and resides in Postville. Ralph is in the employ of the Standard Cream Separator Company and makes his home in Milwaukee. Verna is the wife of Andrew Stockman, of Milwaukee, who is employed by the John Deere Machine Company. Bertha is the wife of Lee Folsom, who resides near Postville. Charles is also a resident of Milwaukee and is employed as chauffeur for the Solvay Coke Company. Leonard resides on a farm southeast of Postville. Ruby and Ruth are twins. The former is the wife of Frank Lawson, a farmer in Franklin township, and the latter married LaRue Webster, also engaged in farming in that township. Earl is operating a farm in Franklin township. Augusta and Pearl are both residing at home. It is a remarkable incident that the eleven children of Mr. Hammel, all of whom are living, attended in the acquirement of their education the same school as their father, namely the West Grove school in Post township.

Mr. Hammel is a large stockholder in the Canning Factory at Postville. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He has been a resident of this part of Iowa since his childhood and is well and favorably known here, his business reliability, his genuine personal worth and his sterling qualities of character commanding for him the respect and esteem of all who come in contact with him.

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#### WILLIAM HART.

The pioneer history of Allamakee county would be incomplete were there failure to make prominent reference to William Hart, who for fifty-six years resided within its borders, taking up his residence in Paint Creek township in 1852. He was then a young man, ambitious and energetic, looking forward to what the future might hold in store for him as a reward for his industry and determination. A few years after his arrival here he married and established a

home and throughout his remaining days continued a resident of this section of the state.

Mr. Hart was a native of Ireland, his birth having occurred in County Galway. In the year 1849 he crossed the Atlantic to the new world and after three years spent elsewhere made his way to Allamakee county in 1852, taking up his abode in Cherry Mount settlement in Paint Creek township. He found here a district largely wild and undeveloped. Much of the land was still in possession of the government and was covered with the native prairie grasses, starred with a million wild flowers in the month of June and in mid-winter covered with one unbroken dazzling sheet of snow. Mr. Hart at once took up the arduous labor of developing new land and from that time forward was closely associated with agricultural interests in this county.

It was on the 1st of November, 1855, that William Hart was united in marriage to Miss Alicia Conway, who was also a native of Ireland, having been born in County Roscommon. She left the Emerald isle for the purpose of making her home with a brother who was then living in Paint Creek township, Allamakee county. She continued with him until her marriage and then went to her husband's home in the Cherry Mount settlement, where their remaining days were passed. They began with their domestic life in one of the primitive old-time log cabins, which stands as a venerable relic upon the farm which is now the property of their son Hon. William S. Hart. Year by year the father carefully tilled the fields and cultivated his crops and success rewarded him as time passed on.

Mr. and Mrs. Hart became the parents of a large family but lost two daughters, Sarah J. and Nellie, in early womanhood. Their surviving children are: M. J., a resident of Waterville; J. P., who makes his home in Saskatchewan, Canada; William S.; John J., of Waterville; Mary A., who resides in Success, Saskatchewan; and Mrs. Katie Lloyd, of Linton township. The death of the mother occurred on the 12th of June, 1897, when she was sixty-eight years of age. Her husband survived her for about eleven years, departing this life on the 1st of April, 1908. He had reached the venerable age of eighty-three years and was one of the oldest residents of the county at the time of his death, not only in point of longevity but also in length of his connection with this part of the state. His life was a busy and useful one. There was nothing spectacular in his career but he bore his part in the work of general improvement and lived to see many notable changes as log cabins were replaced by commodious and substantial frame and brick residences, as primitive farm machinery was supplanted by the modern cultivator, reaper and harvester and as churches and schools were built, thus developing the intellectual and moral forces of the community.

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#### T. G. FAEGRE.

T. G. Faegre owns four hundred and eight acres of rich land on sections 9 and 3, Center township, constituting the farm upon which he was born. It is a valuable property, well improved, and in its further development the owner is giving evidence of a thorough understanding of the most modern and progressive methods of agriculture. He was born August 1, 1859, and is a son of Gilbert



MR. AND MRS. GILBERT H. FAEGRE





H. and Catherine (Hendrickson) Faegre, natives of Norway, where their marriage occurred and where their two eldest children were born. They emigrated to the United States in 1851 and in that year located on the farm in Center township, Allamakee county, Iowa, whereon their son now resides. Their first home was a cave dug in the side of a hill, but they later built a log house, which they afterward replaced by a comfortable frame dwelling. From the government the father purchased two hundred and eighty acres of land and he continued to develop and improve it until his death, which occurred February 14, 1904. He was survived by his wife only a few weeks, her death occurring March 10, of the same year. Both were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and in politics Gilbert H. Faegre was a loyal republican. In their family were seven children: Martin and Hans, natives of Norway, both of whom are deceased; Mrs. S. O. Nordvold, of Pierre, South Dakota; Kasper, who lives in New York city; Albert, deceased; T. G., of this review; and Lena, who has passed away.

T. G. Faegre was reared upon his father's farm in Center township and acquired his education in the district schools. Before his father's death he assumed charge of the homestead and later bought the property, which he has since continued to develop. He has made several additions and improvements and he now owns four hundred and eight acres, the neat and attractive appearance of which evidences his careful supervision and practical methods. In addition to general farming he buys and sells land to some extent and this proves a profitable source of income to him.

Mr. Faegre married Miss Sarah Thorstenson, born in Allamakee county, a daughter of Ole and Gunhild Thorustenson, natives of Norway, the former of whom has passed away, while the latter makes her home in Paint Creek township. Mr. and Mrs. Faegre became the parents of six children, two of whom died in infancy. The others are Gilbert, Florence, Selma and Goldie. The parents are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and Mr. Faegre gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He has served as township trustee and school director and his influence is always given for the furtherance of education and other interests which he deems essential to the welfare and upbuilding of the county.

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#### JOSEPH DIXON.

Joseph Dixon, a prosperous and successful agriculturist of Hanover township, owns and operates one hundred and forty acres of valuable land on section 12, and in its cultivation has met with gratifying and well deserved success. He is a native of this state, born in Winneshiek county in 1861, his parents being William J. and Celia Dixon, natives of Ireland. They came to America at an early date and settled in Massachusetts where their marriage occurred. In 1858 they settled in Winneshiek county, Iowa, and there remained until 1869 when they moved to Allamakee county, where the father died in 1913 at the age of ninety-eight years. The mother passed away in August, 1878, at the age of sixty-one years.

Joseph Dixon acquired his education in the district schools of Allamakee county and remained at home until he was twenty-two years of age. He then turned his attention to railroad construction work and followed this line of activity until 1898 when he entered the shops of the Union Pacific system. In 1901 he made an entire change in his active interests, turning his attention to agricultural pursuits in which he has engaged successfully since that time. He owns one hundred and forty acres on section 12, Hanover township, and upon this fine property follows general farming and stock-raising, success steadily rewarding his earnest, straightforward and persistent labor.

In 1898 Mr. Dixon was united in marriage to Miss Anastacia Fitzgerald, who was born in Allamakee county, a daughter of Peter and Catherine Fitzgerald, natives of Ireland and early settlers in this part of Iowa. Both have passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Dixon have six children: Celia C., born in 1899; Marie, born in 1900; Joseph E., 1901; Alice, 1905; William, 1907; and James A., 1913.

Politically, Mr. Dixon is affiliated with the democratic party and his religious views are in accord with the doctrines of the Roman Catholic church. He is an upright man, interested not only in the financial but also in the moral standing of the community, and has gained the confidence and respect of his neighbors both as a substantial farmer and a useful citizen.

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#### PATRICK WHALEN.

Among the most profitable farms located in Allamakee county is that of Patrick Whalen, comprising four hundred and forty-one acres on section 26, French Creek township. He is one of the early pioneers of this section, where he was brought by his mother in 1858. A native of New York, he was born in Oneida county on April 13, 1851, and is a son of Thomas and Nora (Carney) Whalen, natives of Ireland, in which country they were married. The father with his family emigrated to America and established a home in Oneida county, New York, but lived but a short time after coming to this country, passing away when his son Patrick was but an infant. In 1858 his widow and her children came to Allamakee county and here she purchased forty acres of unimproved land on section 35 in French Creek township. Courageously taking up her duties of providing for the family, she undertook the cultivation of her farm and there her children grew to maturity. The mother ever continued to make her home on that property, where she passed away several years ago. Of her six children two are now living: Patrick, of this review; and Peter, who makes his home in Decorah, Iowa. Those deceased are: Elizabeth, who became the wife of John Lauchlin, of French Creek township; William, who enlisted from Oneida county, New York, for service in the Civil war and was killed during that conflict; Thomas, who died on the old homestead in 1888; and James, who passed away at the age of twenty-one in this county.

Patrick Whalen was the youngest of these six children. He was educated in the district schools and early began to take up life's duties by assisting in the work of the farm and driving teams in order to break the land. At the age of twenty-six he had acquired the means to purchase one hundred and sixty acres,

slightly improved, and by close application and following modern and up-to-date methods has succeeded in gaining such gratifying results that he was enabled to extend the boundaries of his farm from time to time until it now includes four hundred and forty-one acres of fertile land. He has greatly improved his property and has erected thereon suitable and substantial barns, outbuildings and sheds and his residence is comfortable and commodious. The latest farm machinery and implements can be found upon his property and he is ever ready to take up new methods which promise greater yields from his acres.

In 1876 Mr. Whalen was united in marriage to Miss Julia Reagan, a native of Center township, Allamakee county, and a daughter of Daniel Reagan, one of the earliest pioneers of this section. Mr. and Mrs. Whalen have nine children, all of whom are living: Nora, the wife of P. J. McCauley, of French Creek township; Daniel J., a plumber of La Crosse, Wisconsin; James, who is studying for the priesthood; and William T., Mary, Peter, Charles, Frank and Angela, at home.

Mr. Whalen has always supported the democratic party and is well informed upon all matters of a public or political nature. For three terms he served efficiently as township trustee and while in the office of school director gave evidence of his interest in the cause of education. He and his family are devout communicants of the Catholic church, in the work of which they take an active and helpful interest. The career of Mr. Whalen is proof of the fact that success is but ambition's answer and what he has attained is but the natural outcome of industry and energy dominated by a progressive spirit. He is highly respected and esteemed for what he has attained, and the confidence and good-will which he receives from his friends and neighbors are highly merited.

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#### MORTEN C. DEERING.

One of the most alert, enterprising and progressive young agriculturists of Post township is Morten C. Deering, who now operates three hundred and thirty-six acres of fine land in this vicinity, comprising the farm upon which he was born on the 2d of October, 1880. He is a son of Charles and Caroline Deering, natives of Germany, the former born on the 12th of October, 1833, and the latter in 1837. When he was about twenty-one years of age the father crossed the Atlantic and after arriving in the United States settled on the shores of Lake Superior, in Michigan, where he engaged in burning charcoal until he came to Iowa about 1871. In this state he purchased the farm in Post township, Allamakee county, whereon his son now resides, finding it an unimproved and wild tract, which he cleared of timber before he could begin the work of development. This he carried forward with characteristic energy and determination, developing a fine farm, upon which he continued to reside until his death, which occurred on the 20th of September, 1912. He had survived his wife some years, her death having occurred in July, 1902. In their family were five children: Laura, the wife of Oliver Mackey, a farmer near Odebolt, Iowa; Frank, who is an undertaker in Washington; Minnie, the wife of Richard James, of Harvey,

North Dakota; Hattie, who married James Maloney, a farmer near Esmond, in the same state; and Morten C., of this review.

The last named acquired his education in the Evergreen school near his father's farm and his childhood was spent upon the homestead. From an early age he assisted with the farm work, becoming thoroughly familiar with the best and most practical agricultural methods, and at the age of seventeen he began his independent career, working at farm labor in the employ of others for some time. When he was twenty-one years of age he purchased the homestead of two hundred and thirty-four acres, to which he has since added from time to time, his holdings now comprising three hundred and thirty-six acres. Upon this property he has made substantial improvements, erecting new barns and outbuildings and installing modern labor-saving machinery. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and both branches of his enterprise, being well conducted, are also profitable and important. A progressive and enterprising young man, Mr. Deering keeps in touch with the trend of modern advancement in agricultural methods and ideas and his work has been important as an element in the later farming development of his native section.

On the 11th of October, 1903, Mr. Deering was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Uhl, a native of Franklin township, born October 11, 1881. She is a daughter of John and Ann (Cleverley) Uhl, the former a native of Brooklyn, New York, born March 22, 1854, and the latter born in England, on the 21st of October, 1840. The father acquired his education in the public schools of his native city and after the death of his parents came in 1872 to Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand for a short time. Later he purchased property of his own in Post township and also a number of acres across the line in Franklin township and upon this farm he continued to reside for the remainder of his life, his death occurring June 20, 1905. His wife survives him and makes her home with the subject of this review. She had been previously married and by her first union had four children: Adeline, deceased; Fred; Gertie, and George. Mr. and Mrs. John Uhl had three children: Stella, who married Perry Cook, a farmer in Post township; Bertha, the wife of the subject of this review; and Jesse, residing on the home farm in Post township. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Deering have been born also three children: Irving Charles, whose birth occurred on the 1st of June, 1907; Dorothy Irene, born on the 10th of February, 1909; and Esther Stella, born April 12, 1911. Mr. Deering is a member of the Modern Brotherhood of America but his fraternal affiliations are not extensive, his attention being centered upon the development of his farm, which is one of the finest and best managed in this vicinity.

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#### PROFESSOR W. L. PECK.

Professor W. L. Peck is now engaged in the fourth term of his able service as superintendent of schools of Allamakee county and in this connection is giving the benefit of his broad knowledge and unusual ability to his chosen field of labor, winning for himself recognition as one of the foremost representatives of educational interests of Iowa and taking a vital and active part in the pro-

motion and spread of public education throughout the state. He was born at Ossian, Winneshiek county, August 25, 1872, and is a son of James Peck, whose birth occurred in Oswego county, New York, June 14, 1832. The father grew to manhood in his native locality and there married Miss Lucinda Borst, also a native of the Empire state. They moved west to Iowa in 1862 and located in Winneshiek county, where the father engaged in farming for a number of years. He later moved into Frankville and there lived retired until his death, which occurred April 24, 1902. His wife survives him and makes her home with a son in Frankville.

Professor W. L. Peck was reared in Winneshiek county and acquired his primary education in the public schools. He later attended school in Frankville and spent one year at Lenox College, going from there to the Iowa State Teachers College. After two years in that institution he turned his attention to teaching, following this occupation first in the country schools, where his ability and success won him promotion to the position of principal of the Frankville schools. He did creditable and progressive work in that capacity for five years and then came to Waukon as assistant principal of the Waukon Business College, spending eight years in that responsible office. Upon the expiration of this period he was elected county superintendent of schools of Allamakee county and he has served continuously by reelection since that time, his return to office evidencing the value of his services and their acceptability to the public at large. A brief glance at the record of his career shows plainly his preeminence in both the administrative and more purely scholastic phases of his chosen work. Under his able management he has succeeded in bringing all the schools of the county up to a higher standard of efficiency. This has been accomplished mainly through systematizing the work and by carrying it forward along practical and progressive lines. Professor Peck keeps a complete record of every one of the one hundred and sixty-one teachers in the county's employ and of every pupil in every school in the county, these latter records showing not only the standing of the student but the progress he makes from term to term. Professor Peck pays a visit to each school once a year, thus keeping in personal touch with the teachers and pupils, and he has initiated many substantial improvements in the methods of teaching and also in the branches taught. His methods are at all times practical and he inspires the teachers under him with much of his own zeal and enthusiasm.

During the course of his identification with the educational interests of Allamakee county Professor Peck has not confined his attention to the duties which have devolved upon him in his responsible position but has also exerted a potent and helpful influence in promoting general intellectual advancement in this locality. In 1910 he organized the Farmers Institute, which holds a session each year, and he also manages the county spelling contest held annually, when each township sends its most proficient scholar to represent it. He has inaugurated township teachers' meetings and in his office keeps a well selected professional library for the benefit of his teachers. He has himself taught summer schools and institutes both in Winneshiek and Allamakee counties for the past fifteen years and conducts personally a teachers' institute in Waukon every year. He never considers his own education complete but remains always a close and earnest student, following out exhaustive courses of study and taking many correspondence courses also. Practically his entire life since attaining his majority has been

given over to educational work and he has become a recognized leader in this field.

Professor Peck is a Master Mason and holds membership in the blue lodge at Frankville, where he joined the order. He stands preeminent among Iowa educators, for he combines with a broad, exhaustive and comprehensive knowledge the faculty of imparting it readily and clearly to others and an executive ability upon which he has founded his success in the administrative branches of his work. He gives his political allegiance to the democratic party but has never been a politician in the usually accepted sense of the word. He is, however, never neglectful of the duties of citizenship and his influence has been a tangible force for good in this community.

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#### DAVID VINE DUNNING.

Among the most progressive, representative and deservedly successful native sons of Allamakee county is numbered David Vine Dunning, who owns and operates a fine property in Franklin township, constituting the farm upon which he was born on the 17th of January, 1864. His name has long been an honored one in this community, his parents, William H. H. and Emeline (Jemison) Dunning, having come to this part of Iowa in pioneer times. The father was born at Ashtabula, Ohio, on the 25th of October, 1840, and went with his parents to Wisconsin about 1851. A few years later he came to Iowa, settling in Allamakee county about the year 1854, and here he grew to manhood, becoming afterward an extensive landowner and a prosperous farmer in Franklin township. He continued active in the development of his property in this vicinity until 1880 and then moved into Clayton county, near Luana, where he continued until 1891, going in that year to Oklahoma. He purchased a farm in that state and continued to reside upon it until 1911, when he retired from active life, moving into Guymon, Oklahoma, where he passed away February 27, 1913. His wife, who was a native of Pennsylvania, born October 20, 1844, now makes her home in Enid, Oklahoma. To their union were born six children, of whom the subject of this review is the eldest in order of birth.

David V. Dunning attended district school No. 4, Franklin township, and afterward took a commercial course in a business college at Fayette. After laying aside his books he remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, acquiring by practical experience upon his father's farm a comprehensive knowledge of the best agricultural methods. After he had attained his majority he rented the Oathout farm and developed it for two years, after which he purchased the home place, upon which he has since resided, having added to the property until it now comprises one hundred and twenty acres, practically all under cultivation. Substantial improvements have been made upon it, excellent buildings erected and modern machinery installed, and it is today one of the best equipped farms in this part of Iowa, Mr. Dunning standing in the front ranks of progressive agriculturists. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Shipping Company of Luana and also in the Creamery Company there and in

business circles is known as a resourceful, far-sighted and discriminating business man.

On the 17th of February, 1886, Mr. Dunning was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Jane Lytle, who was born in Clayton county, a few miles southeast of Luana, on the 16th of September, 1866. She is a daughter of Mathew S. and Josephine (Oathout) Lytle, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York. The father, who during his entire active life engaged in farming, came west when a young man and became an extensive landowner in Clayton county, continuing active in the management of his holdings until his death, which occurred in 1904. His wife survives him and resides upon the Lytle homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Dunning became the parents of two children: Roy Lytle, who was born January 29, 1891, and who is assisting his father with the work of the homestead; and Jessie Vine, who was born September 12, 1896, and who is now attending school in Waukon.

Mr. Dunning is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church and fraternally is connected with the Modern Brotherhood of America. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has served as township trustee and school director, doing able and constructive work in both capacities. He never, however, aspires to public office, preferring to concentrate his attention upon the development of his excellent farm. He is highly esteemed and respected in his native township and in the course of years has made many substantial contributions to its agricultural development.

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#### ANDREW LEPPERT.

Among the large landowners of Allamakee county is Andrew Leppert, who owns a valuable farm of seven hundred and forty acres on section 14, French Creek township. His handsome residence and substantial farm buildings are evidences of his prosperity and proof of his incessant labors and the progressive methods which he follows. He was born upon this property on September 19, 1858, and is a son of Andrew Leppert, a native of Bavaria, Germany, whence he accompanied his parents to the new world when fourteen years of age. The family settled at first in Utica, New York, and there the father grew to manhood and married. In the early '50s he came to Galena, Illinois, where he lived for two years, at the end of which period he settled on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in French Creek township, among the pioneers, the farm being left to his wife by her brother. The land was but slightly improved and he cleared and developed it, transforming it into a highly productive agricultural enterprise. As his means increased he added thereto and at the time of his death, which occurred at the age of fifty-six, he owned seven hundred acres. He was one of the foremost agriculturists of his day, was a member of the German Methodist church and prominent in public affairs, having held every office in his township. He gave his allegiance to the republican party. In New York state Andrew Leppert married Miss Johanna Henry, a native of Saxony, Germany, who passed away in French Creek township at the age of thirty-six years and four months. The father subsequently married again and his widow now resides

at Church, Iowa. Of the children born to his first union, three are living, those beside our subject being Mrs. Jacob Hirth and Mrs. Jacob Ebner.

Andrew Leppert was reared under the parental roof on the home farm and early trained to agricultural pursuits under the able guidance of his father. In the acquirement of his education he attended the neighboring schools. When twenty-two years of age he and his brother Charles purchased the old homestead and for several years farmed it in partnership. At the death of his brother he acquired the widow's interest and has since conducted its operations alone. He has made many improvements upon the property and his farm is considered today one of the model enterprises of its kind in the county. His land is largely under cultivation and planted in the most suitable grains and he also gives attention to stock-raising. His residence is comfortable and commodious and the whole appearance of the property bespeaks the prosperity of its owner.

Mr. Leppert was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Ann Bulman, a native of Union City township, Allamakee county, and a daughter of G. W. Bulman, who resides in that township and is a member of one of the early families who settled in the county. Mr. and Mrs. Leppert have ten children, all of whom are living: James H., Ralph H., Emma A., Jesse A., Oscar S., George Dewey, Lydia J., Cora A., Willard A., and Gilbert Taft. Mr. and Mrs. Leppert are members of the Presbyterian church, taking a deep interest in the organization. His political faith is that of the republican party and he has served as school director of his district, giving evidence of his interest in the cause of education. He enjoys the high respect and esteem of his neighbors, to which he is fully entitled, as he has not only attained an individual position of prominence but has been a factor in promoting general advancement and development. Although he has never cared to publicly participate in government affairs, he is ever ready to give his support to worthy enterprises of a public character and is glad to bear his share of time and money in bringing about growth along material, intellectual or moral lines.

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#### ELBA B. LAMBORN.

Elba B. Lamborn, a prominent and progressive farmer of Franklin township, owning and operating two hundred and forty acres of fine land, was born in Champaign county, Ohio, on the 28th of May, 1850, and is a son of Nathan and Laura (Burnham) Lamborn. The father was born in Chadds Ford, Chester county, Pennsylvania, May 2, 1824, and the mother in Champaign county, Ohio, March 2, 1823. The father was eleven years of age when he removed with his parents to Ohio and in that state he grew to manhood. At the age of eighteen he was apprenticed to a carpenter and worked for three years for his board and clothing, after which he followed his trade in Champaign county until 1855. In that year he came to Iowa and in the spring purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land. He returned to Champaign county and brought his family to Iowa, settling first in Hardin, where he engaged in the grocery business for two years. In 1863 he took up his residence upon his farm and continued its development and improvement until his death, which occurred May 10, 1907. He was prominent and well known in local public affairs, serving for a number of years





ELBA B. LAMBORN



as township trustee and as township clerk, and in his passing this section lost one of its earliest pioneers and one of its most valued and representative citizens. He and his wife became the parents of two children, the elder of whom died in Ohio at the age of three years.

Elba B. Lamborn was still a child when his parents came to Iowa and in the public schools of Hardin and Waukon he acquired his education, attending school during the winter of 1868-9 with E. M. Hancock. Later Mr. Lamborn attended a business college in Milwaukee, conducted by R. C. Spencer, and after laying aside his books he remained upon the homestead, assisting his father with its operation until 1871. In that year he removed to Luana, where for a time he clerked in a store but later engaged in various occupations until 1881, when he opened a mercantile enterprise of his own in that city, continuing active in its conduct for four years thereafter. In 1885 he sold out and after residing on the farm for a short time went to Chicago, where in 1888 and 1889 he was employed by the American Express Company in their transfer department. He returned to Iowa at his father's request, the latter's health being in an impaired condition, and took charge of the homestead, continuing to develop and improve it along modern, practical lines until November, 1908, when he purchased the property upon which he now resides, his youngest son taking charge of the original farm. Mr. Lamborn owns two hundred and forty acres of fine land in Franklin township and he has improved this with substantial barns and out-buildings, a comfortable residence and all the equipment necessary to facilitate the work of the fields. He and his son operate the two farms together, carrying on general agricultural pursuits and giving a great deal of attention to the breeding and raising of high-grade stock.

Mr. Lamborn has been twice married. On the 17th of December, 1872, he wedded Miss Mary J. Van Kirk, who was born in Danville, Illinois, November 11, 1852, a daughter of Enos M. and Catherine (Carithers) Van Kirk, natives of Vermilion county, Illinois. They removed to Kankakee county, the same state, and there the father engaged in farming until his death. Mrs. Lamborn passed away on the 14th of July, 1890, leaving three children. Belle was born on the 7th of September, 1875, and married Charles H. Simonds, engaged in the ice and coal business in Momence, Illinois. Harry V., born June 7, 1878, is now foreman in the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company's works in Minneapolis. He married Miss Helen E. Jacobson. The youngest son, Don E., was born March 9, 1890, and is now cultivating the family homestead. He married Miss Libbie M. Clark on the 27th of January, 1913. Mr. Lamborn's second marriage occurred on the 4th of June, 1894, when he wedded Miss Gertrude Eliza McClintock, born in Winneshiek county, near Frankville, on the 26th of April, 1869. She is a daughter of William and Ann (Cleverley) McClintock, the former born in Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia, and the latter in London, England, about the year 1840. Her father has passed away, his death having occurred in 1871, when he was seventy-one years of age. By his second marriage Mr. Lamborn has one daughter, Imo A., who was born on the 27th of July, 1902. She is attending district school No. 4 at North Grove, two miles distant from her father's farm, and has not missed a day or been tardy once in nineteen weeks.

Mr. Lamborn is a member of the Modern Brotherhood of America and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party. For eight years he did excel-

lent work as township clerk but has never aspired to public office, although he is progressive and loyal in matters of citizenship. In this section where a great deal of his life has been passed he is well known and highly respected, his genuine personal worth and sterling qualities of character having gained for him the esteem and regard of all who are associated with him.

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#### THEODORE B. STOCK.

Theodore B. Stock, prominently identified with financial interests in Waukon as president of the Peoples National Bank and with business affairs as president of T. B. Stock & Company, dealers in hardware, is one of the best known men in the city, his varied interests connecting him with practically every phase of community life. He was born in Jefferson township, this county, December 31, 1871, and is a son of William Stock, a native of Germany, where he remained until after he had reached maturity. As a young man he crossed the Atlantic and came directly to Allamakee county, where he purchased a farm in Jefferson township. Here he afterward married Frederica Dravis, also a native of Germany. Mr. Stock, father of the subject of this review, continued to develop his fine property, adding to it from time to time until he owned two hundred and sixty-five acres of land. Upon the homestead he raised his family and there spent the last years of his life, dying about 1900. His wife survived him for some time, passing away in 1911. In their family were nine children: William, of Howard, South Dakota; Minnie, who married Fred W. Steffin, of Diller, Nebraska; Henry, who resides in Howard, South Dakota; Charles and August, farmers in Allamakee county; Sophia, who makes her home in Waukon; Theodore B., of this review; Louis, who is engaged in farming in this county; and Edward, who resides in Oakes, North Dakota.

Theodore B. Stock was reared upon his father's farm in Jefferson township and acquired his education in the public schools. When he was a young man he came to Waukon and began his independent career as a clerk in the employ of H. F. Opfer & Brother, with whom he remained for six years, receiving a thorough and practical business training which has been invaluable to him in his later career. When he resigned his first position he formed a partnership with P. A. Anderson and for eight years engaged in the boot and shoe business, selling out his interests at the end of that time in order to organize the T. B. Stock & Company, who for over twelve years have been prominently identified with hardware interests here, controlling an important and growing trade along this line. They have a large storeroom filled with a well selected line of stoves, shelf and heavy hardware and building material and they do also a large plumbing business. Much of the credit for the continued growth of the concern is due to Mr. Stock's ability and business foresight and to the excellent way in which his business affairs are managed. In addition to this he is connected with the Peoples National Bank and as its president is a central figure in financial circles here. He was one of the promoters of the institution, which has a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars and is one of the safest and most conservative banks in the county. The officers are: T. B. Stock, president; L. T. Hermanson,

vice president; and P. E. O'Donnell, cashier, and the bank occupies a modern and commodious building, finished in 1912. A general banking business is transacted and a progressive policy maintained, tempered, however, by a safe conservatism and a constant regard for the best interests of the depositors. Mr. Stock devotes his entire time to the affairs of the institution and in his position as president his organizing and executive ability have been called forth and he has labored earnestly and intelligently to make the concern one of the substantial moneyed institutions of the community.

Mr. Stock married, in Waukon, on June 11, 1896, Miss Katherine Bieber, a daughter of Peter Bieber, a pioneer in Allamakee county. Mrs. Stock was born and reared in Waukon and here acquired her education. She and her husband have one daughter, Dorothea, who is now a student in the Waukon public schools.

Politically Mr. Stock is identified with the democratic party and has served as a member of the city council for a number of years. He was mayor of Waukon and by giving to the people a straightforward, constructive and efficient administration did much to promote the advancement and growth of the city. He is well known in fraternal circles, holding membership in the Knights of Pythias, in which he has been through all the chairs and is past chancellor. He represented his lodge in the grand lodge of Iowa. Always an active religious worker, Mr. Stock has done a great deal for the advancement of the German Reformed church in this county and as secretary and treasurer of the building committee was one of the leaders in securing the new church building, which is one of the finest of its kind in Waukon. He has also been a liberal contributor to the building funds of the other Waukon churches and his life has been upright and worthy in all respects. A successful business man, a far-sighted financier, a public-spirited citizen, he has for many years labored earnestly and intelligently in the best interests of the city and has today reached a position of prominence and achieved a degree of success which places him among the men of substantial worth and marked ability.

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#### FRED L. H. GERICKE.

Fred L. H. Gericke, whose operations along agricultural lines are proving highly successful, is the owner of two hundred and twenty acres of land in Franklin township, Allamakee county. He is one of Iowa's native sons, his birth occurring in Clayton county, near Farmersburg, on the 13th of September, 1878, his parents being John and Mary (Klinge) Gericke. He was reared to agricultural life, early becoming familiar with the tasks that usually fall to the farm lad. In the acquirement of an education he attended school in Marion township, Clayton county, and later was a student at Wesgrove, Post township, this county. At the comparatively early age of seventeen years he left school and began working as a farm hand in the employ of neighboring farmers, in the meantime, however, continuing to reside with his parents. Thus he continued until his marriage, when, desiring to engage in agriculture on his own account, he purchased a farm and began its operation. From the very first he has been

successful and is now the owner of a fine tract of land of two hundred and twenty acres, twenty acres of which are in timber. The remainder of the tract is all under cultivation and has been highly developed, owing to the careful supervision and progressive methods of Mr. Gericke. General farming and stock-raising fully occupy his time and attention although he is interested as a stockholder in the farmers store, the Postville Creamery and the Canning Factory.

It was on the 26th of March, 1907, that Mr. Gericke was united in marriage to Miss Lucy Heins, who was also a native of Clayton county, born April 7, 1889, a daughter of William and Minnie (Lange) Heins. The father was born near Clayton Center, March 5, 1863, while the mother's birth occurred in Germany, July 24, 1866. The father has been a lifelong farmer and at an early day became a landowner in Clayton county. He has resided on his present farm since 1887 and is still active in its operation, devoting his entire time and attention to general farming and stock-raising, although in the past he has held various local township offices. His daughter Lucy was the second in order of birth in a family of four children, and in early life attended the Springfield school, near Postville, in the acquirement of her education. By her marriage to Mr. Gericke she has become the mother of two children, Milo W. J. and Clinda M. L., the former born on the 14th of April, 1908, and the latter on the 22d of May, 1910. The family are members of the Lutheran church of Postville, and Mr. Gericke gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He has never aspired to any office, although he is public-spirited in a large degree, preferring that his political service should be fulfilled as a private citizen rather than as a public servant. Manifesting, from the very beginning of his business career those traits—energy, industry and perseverance—that seldom fail to accomplish gratifying results, he has won for himself an excellent place among the younger generation of agriculturists of Franklin township, while the honorable principles which he has ever followed in his relations with his fellowmen have won for him the confidence, respect and good-will of all with whom he has come in contact.

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#### ELLISON ORR.

Ellison Orr, prominently connected with business interests in Waukon as superintendent of the Standard Telephone Company, has been actuated throughout all of his business life by a spirit of enterprise and initiative and has advanced step by step to be one of the most substantial and representative men of the community where he makes his home. He was born on the Orr farm near McGregor, Iowa, June 15, 1857, and is a son of James and Margaret Orr, of Scotch-Irish ancestry. The father emigrated from Ireland at the age of twelve and settled with his parents in New York state, coming to Iowa in 1856 and purchasing a farm one and one-half miles northeast of Postville, whereon he resided for many years.

Ellison Orr grew to manhood upon this farm and acquired his education in the Postville public schools. After laying aside his books he taught for a number of winter terms in the district schools in the vicinity of his home and from

January, 1891, to June, 1893, was teacher of the seventh and eighth grades of the school in Postville where he attended in his youth. After three years devoted to educational work he accepted the position of clerk in the Postville State Bank and retained it for a similar period of time, later again turning his attention to farming, an occupation which he followed until 1898. In that year he was elected clerk of the court for Allamakee county and he did such able and effective work that he won reelection to the office, serving in all from January 1, 1899, to January 1, 1903, and proving discriminating, far-sighted and conscientious in the discharge of his duties. On the 1st of January, 1904, Mr. Orr was appointed general manager and superintendent of the Standard Telephone Company and in the fall of the same year he moved to Waukon, where he has since resided. He possesses an initiative spirit and an executive ability which have been important factors in his success in his present position and under his able management the affairs of the concern have prospered exceedingly, the business has increased in volume and the details of operation have been put upon a modern and business-like basis.

Mr. Orr married, November 2, 1881, Miss Belle Makepeace, whose parents resided in Winneshiek county. To their union were born four children: Fred, a construction foreman for the Standard Telephone Company; Harry, a civil engineer in the employ of the Missouri Iron Company; Florence, who is engaged in teaching; and James, at school.

Always interested in anything pertaining to questions of public education and anxious to do his part in promoting educational facilities, Mr. Orr has accomplished some beneficial work in matters relating to the public schools and especially as a member of the board of trustees of the State College of Agriculture located at Ames, a position which he held from July 1, 1904, to July 1, 1910. He was for thirteen years a member of the State Militia, resigning in 1897, at the time of its reorganization, as first lieutenant and quartermaster of the Fourth Regiment. He belongs to the Presbyterian church of Waukon and has been a Mason since attaining his majority, being now a Knight Templar. He cooperates in all movements for the material, intellectual and moral progress of the community and is recognized as one of the foremost business men of the city, his remarkable success in an important capacity placing him in an enviable position in business circles.

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#### FREDERICK SEGRIST.

Frederick Segrist, carrying on general farming upon eighty acres of fine land on section 7, Franklin township, is one of Allamakee county's most progressive and successful native sons, his birth having occurred just across the county line in Hardin, on the 5th of February, 1883. He is a son of Louis and Mary Ann (Joyce) Segrist, the former born in Massachusetts in 1835 and the latter in Indiana some seven or eight years afterward. As a young man the father came to Iowa and his marriage occurred in Allamakee county, after which he worked in the employ of others for some time. He later became an independent landowner in Franklin township and from there moved to Post township, where his

death occurred in 1902. His wife survives him and makes her home in Franklin township. In their family were nine children, of whom the subject of this review is the youngest.

Frederick Segrist was reared upon his father's farm and from an early age assisted with the work of its cultivation, becoming thoroughly familiar with the best agricultural methods and with everything pertaining to the work of the fields and the care of the grain and stock. The occupation in which he had been reared was the one to which he turned his attention upon reaching manhood and upon the death of his father he assumed charge of the homestead, continuing to develop and improve it until 1906. In that year he sold the property and bought eighty acres on section 7, Franklin township, upon which he still resides. He engages in general farming and stock-raising and devotes his entire time to his agricultural pursuits, his farm evidencing in its neat and attractive appearance his practical methods and well directed labors.

Mr. Segrist married, on the 1st of May, 1904, Miss Zelma Lawson, who was born in Franklin township, March 1, 1886. To their union have been born two children, twins, Bertha Louise and Bessie Lucile, whose birth occurred September 16, 1908. Mr. Segrist is independent in his political views and interested in the growth and welfare of the community although never an office seeker. He is well known throughout the township as a man of alert and enterprising spirit, possessed of the resolute will which enables him to carry forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. His methods are at all times practical and progressive and his success, rewarding earnest and persistent labor, places him among the most prosperous and able of Allamakee county's native sons.

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#### ROBERT J. ALEXANDER.

For thirty-four years Robert J. Alexander has been connected with merchandising in Waukon, where during that time he has built up a large and profitable patronage as a dealer in clothing and men's furnishings. He is one of the active and progressive business men of the city, where his long residence, his sterling qualities of character and his straightforward business dealings have made him widely known and honored. He was born in Linn county, near Mount Vernon, July 18, 1852, and is a son of Charles Alexander, a native of New York, who went south with his parents when he was still a child and settled in Mississippi, where he grew to maturity. As a young man he came to Iowa, locating in Linn county, where he married Miss Susan Smyth, a native of Ireland but reared in the United States. Her parents came to Iowa and settled in Linn county when she was sixteen years of age. Charles Alexander was subsequently one of the earliest settlers in Cedar county, where he opened up a new farm, which he improved and developed into a valuable agricultural property. He reared his family upon the homestead and there spent the remainder of his life.

Robert J. Alexander spent his childhood upon his father's farm, aiding in the work of the fields and acquiring his education in the public schools. He supplemented this by three terms at Cornell College and upon laying aside his books taught for three winter terms, engaging in farming during the summer months.



In 1879 he came to Waukon, where he formed a partnership with Levi Armstrong under the firm name of Armstrong & Alexander. They put in a large and complete stock of clothing and men's furnishings and opened for business in the same building now occupied by Mr. Alexander, where he has conducted a prosperous mercantile concern for thirty-four consecutive years. The association continued for twelve years and at the end of that time Mr. Alexander purchased his partner's interest and since 1891 has conducted the business alone. He carries a complete line of clothing and men's furnishings, his stock being varied and well selected, and he has gained a large and growing patronage, accorded him in recognition of the excellent quality of his goods, his upright and honorable business methods and his reasonable prices. Mr. Alexander is doing an annual business amounting to thirty thousand dollars and is one of Waukon's most successful merchants and most progressive business men.

In 1882 Mr. Alexander was united in marriage to Miss Carrie L. Hayward, who was born in Wisconsin but who was reared in Waukon, in the home of her sister, Mrs. Alonzo M. May. Mr. and Mrs. Alexander have two daughters: Susan, who married B. H. Keeler, a civil engineer in Kansas City, Missouri; and Ruth, who is a student in Cornell College. They lost two children, Emma and Hayward, both of whom died in childhood. The family residence is located on Wooster street, near the public school, and is modern and up-to-date in every particular, Mr. Alexander having recently remodeled it throughout.

Mr. Alexander attends the Methodist Episcopal church of Waukon and is a man of exemplary character. A resident of Iowa all during his life and of Waukon for over one-third of a century, he has thoroughly identified his interests with those of the community with the result that his name stands as a synonym for progressiveness in business, for public-spirited citizenship and for all that is honorable and upright in every relation of life.

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#### FRANK ROFFMAN.

Frank Roffman, actively engaged in general farming and stock-raising, is one of the best known agriculturists of Franklin township, his fine farm of one hundred and twenty-seven acres lying on section 7. In the management and conduct of this property he displays excellent business ability, and his enterprise, careful control and keen discernment are the factors which have gained him the substantial place which he now occupies among the leading business men of his community. He was born in Germany, on the 22d of December, 1871, and is a son of John and Minnie (Blank) Roffman, also natives of that country. The father spent his entire life engaged in farming, coming to America in 1875 and locating immediately in Post township, Allamakee county, where he purchased land, whereon he continued to make his home until his death, which occurred on the 20th of August, 1882. The mother survives him and makes her home in Franklin township.

The Evergreen school in Post township afforded Frank Roffman his educational opportunities and in his childhood he divided his time between his studies and work upon the farm. He began his independent career at the age of twenty-

one, hiring out as a farm laborer, and he continued thus for nine years, after which he purchased land of his own. He bought one hundred and twenty-seven acres on section 7, Franklin township, and since he was thirty years of age has been active in its cultivation. Upon his property he has made many substantial improvements, erecting barns and outbuildings, all of which present a neat and attractive appearance. Success has steadily rewarded his well directed labors and he is today one of the prosperous farmers and substantial business men of this vicinity.

On the 5th of December, 1900, Mr. Roffman was united in marriage to Miss Lucy Segrist, a daughter of Louis and Mary Ann (Joyce) Segrist, the former a native of Boston, Massachusetts, and the latter of Indiana. More extended mention of these parents is made on another page in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Roffman have four children: Harold, who was born October 14, 1903; Earl, born January 17, 1907; Otto, born January 21, 1909; and Mabel, born July 20, 1912.

Mr. Roffman is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Store at Postville and is connected fraternally with the Modern Woodmen of America. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has been road supervisor and a member of the school board, laboring effectively in that office to promote the cause of education. As one of the large landowners and successful farmers and business men of Franklin township he is well known, for his life record shows what may be accomplished by a determined spirit and by unfaltering enterprise. He has carefully noted and utilized each opportunity and his example of unremitting industry and perseverance is one well worthy of emulation.

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#### JOHN EDMUND O'BRIEN.

John Edmund O'Brien, controlling an important and representative business as a dealer in real estate in Waukon, was born in Oneida county, New York, in 1860, and was one of nine children born to Michael Smith O'Brien and Henrietta Alice Jenkins, who emigrated from Ireland in the early '50s and were married in Oneida county. They afterwards came to Iowa, settling in Ludlow township, Allamakee county, where the father still resides upon his farm.

John Edmund O'Brien was ten years of age when his parents came to Iowa. He worked on farms in this vicinity for several years and then engaged in carpenter work in various parts of the state, being employed in the construction of the buildings on the Illinois Central Railway between Onawa and Sioux Falls. Afterwards he spent two years working at his trade in Birmingham, Alabama, and Jackson, Mississippi, going from the latter city to Chicago, Illinois where he assisted in the erection of the exhibition buildings at the World's Columbian Exposition and served for six months in the Columbian Guards. In the winter of 1893 he went to California and put up the Canadian exhibits at the Midwinter Exposition in San Francisco. Returning to Iowa, he established himself in the building business at Waukon and his ability becoming widely recognized, he soon secured a large and representative patronage.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN E. O'BRIEN AND SON



HENRY G. AND JOHN G. O'BRIEN



Mr. O'Brien served in Company I, the Waukon company, Iowa National Guards, under Captains Gibbs, Nichols and Stewart. In 1898, a few days after the declaration of war with Spain, he went to Pensacola, Florida, and with Paul D. May, enlisted in the United States Navy for one year as carpenter's mate, first class. He served on the United States ships Tacoma, Lancaster and Cassius, under commanders Sutherland, Very-Perry and Lieutenant Waters of Commodore Remy's fleet. At his own request and through Senator Allison's influence he received his honorable discharge at Norfolk, Virginia, at the close of the Spanish-American war. Returning home he studied law first at the Iowa State University and then at Drake University at Des Moines and was admitted to practice before the state and federal courts in 1900. In the following year however he turned his attention to the real-estate business and in this he has since continued, his patronage in Waukon being today profitable and important. He is known as an expert judge of land values and his opinion has come to be regarded as an authority on matters of this character. He is resourceful, far-sighted, capable and energetic and his sagacity is far-reaching and his integrity beyond question.

At Medford, Oklahoma, March 19, 1903, Mr. O'Brien was united in marriage to Miss Decorah Grattan, a daughter of Henry G. Grattan, a pioneer in Allamakee county and for many years one of the most prominent citizens in this part of Iowa. He was born at New Haven, Oswego county, New York, June 28, 1826, and was of English descent, a son of Amos and Abigail (Guyant) Grattan. The former, a blacksmith by trade, was born in Berkshire county, Massachusetts in 1797 and died in Ludlow township, Allamakee county, Iowa, June 2, 1889. In 1835 he took up a claim and built the first log cabin where Kenosha, Wisconsin, now stands. He was for fifty years a member of the Baptist church and voted with the first organization of the old abolitionist party. He fought in the War of 1812. His wife, who was in her maidenhood Abigail Guyant, was born September 8, 1794, in Canterbury, Connecticut, and died in Ludlow township, Allamakee county, in 1886. She was for a time the only white woman in Kenosha, Wisconsin. One child was born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Grattan—Henry Guyant.

Henry Guyant Grattan was for many years well known in agricultural and journalistic circles of the middle west and as a leader in many public movements of a progressive and constructive character. He founded and published the Janesville (Wis.) Gazette, the Mt. Carroll (Ill.) Mirror and the Sterling (Ill.) Gazette. He also did considerable literary work after coming to Iowa, but in this state was chiefly interested in scientific agriculture, in the promotion of which he was one of the greatest individual forces of his time. He was a member of the board of trustees of Iowa Agricultural College and took a great interest in the work of that institution, organizing several new departments, among which may be mentioned that of domestic science. His own farm in Ludlow township was a practical exemplification of his theories and was one of the best equipped and most scientifically managed in the township.

Henry Grattan was married three times, first to Jane Trask who died in 1849, then to Phoebe Jane Tisdell, who died in 1865, and to Rosanna Russell who survives him. She was born in Shefford, Canada, and is of French and English parentage, the daughter of Francis and Susannah (Griggs) Bryant. Previous to

her first marriage which united her with Franklin Russell who was killed in the Civil war, Mrs. Grattan engaged in teaching. She was married to Henry Grattan on the 9th of December, 1865. Henry Grattan's children are as follows: Marvin Trask, born in Janesville, Wisconsin, in 1848; Jane, who was born in Freeport, Illinois, in 1851; Orlando Tisdell, born in Mt. Carroll, Illinois, in 1855; Bertha, born in Ludlow township, in 1868; John, born in Ludlow township, in 1869; and Decorah, the wife of the subject of this review. The last named was born at Waukon, Iowa, December 20, 1871, and acquired her education in the public schools of the city, in the South Dakota Agricultural College and at Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was a teacher of Domestic Science for several years at Toronto, Canada, in St. Thomas Alma College and at Buffalo, New York. Mr. and Mrs. John E. O'Brien have two children: Henry Grattan, born April 2, 1904; and John Gordon, born January 23, 1908.

Mr. O'Brien is today one of the well known business men of Waukon, for he possesses as salient elements in his character, the energy, resourcefulness and sound judgment necessary to business success. His associates respect his integrity and honor and his straightforward dealings and his many sterling traits of mind and character have gained for him the esteem and confidence of a wide circle of friends.

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#### ANTON C. LARSON.

Anton C. Larson, a prominent real-estate dealer in Waukon and well known in business and political circles of the city, is a native of Allamakee county, born June 2, 1857. His father, Christian Larson, was born in Norway and there grew to maturity and married. He and his wife emigrated to the United States in 1853, coming direct to Iowa, where they settled in Hanover township, Allamakee county. The father entered an eighty acre tract of land which he broke, fenced and improved, later purchasing more property to which he added from time to time until he owned a fine farm of two hundred acres. Upon this he made substantial improvements, erecting a good residence, barns and other outbuildings and installing all of the necessary machinery and equipment. He made his property valuable and by his practical and progressive methods secured for himself a place among the prosperous and successful farmers of Hanover township. He spent his last years upon the homestead, dying at the advanced age of eighty-two. His wife survives him and makes her home with one of her sons on the old farm where she has lived for the past fifty-nine years. She is now in the eighty-seventh year of her age.

Anton C. Larson was reared upon his father's farm in Hanover township and as a child aided in the operation of the homestead. He attended the district school and later supplemented this by a course in a commercial college in Minneapolis. He afterward went to Yellow Medicine county, Minnesota, where he clerked for three years, at the end of which time he returned home and clerked in a general store for five years, receiving during this time a thorough and practical business training. Returning to Yellow Medicine county, he engaged in business at Canby, where he made his home for five years, disposing of his interests

at the end of that time in order to come to Waukon, where he has since remained. He soon became prominent in local politics, winning the appointment to the office of deputy county treasurer, a capacity in which he served ably and efficiently for six years, resigning only to accept the office of county treasurer. At the end of his first term his able work was rewarded by reelection and in all he served in this office for four years. Upon the completion of his last term he opened a real-estate office in Waukon and has since given his entire time to the conduct of his business. He deals in Allamakee county improved farming lands and town properties and handles also Dakota and Canadian real estate. He has bought and sold numerous farms in this section of Iowa and has negotiated the sale of a great many business houses and residences in Waukon. Possessing a just comprehension of land values, he has so conducted his business as to make it profitable not only to himself but to his clients also.

On the 17th of November, 1885, Mr. Larson was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Larson, a native of Norway but reared and educated in Iowa and Minnesota. To their union were born three children: Myrtle, who lives at home; Ralph, who is a student in the Waukon high school; and Alden, also pursuing his studies.

Fraternally Mr. Larson is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Yeomen. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party, with which he has been affiliated since casting his first vote. Aside from the public offices before mentioned he was for five years a member of the common council while a resident of Canby and he is known as an eminently public-spirited and progressive citizen. For many years he has been a force in public affairs in this section and his efficient services in various positions of public trust have had an important effect upon local political conditions. His interests have been thoroughly identified with those of Waukon and Allamakee county and no progressive public project seeks his support in vain. In business and politics he has won success and at the same time has gained the regard and esteem of all who are associated with him.

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### JULIUS A. KROUSIE.

Julius A. Krousie, who in an influential way has for many years been identified with farming interests in Franklin township and whose enterprise has contributed much toward the agricultural development of the community, was born at Lansing, Allamakee county, March 17, 1873, a son of Gotlieb and Julia (Schellschmidt) Krousie, both born near Berlin, Germany. In the latter part of the year 1872 they crossed the Atlantic to America, locating in Lansing, where the father passed away the same year. In his native country he had always been a farmer and during the short period of his residence in Iowa followed agricultural pursuits. His wife survived him many years, dying in 1909, at the age of seventy-nine.

Julius A. Krousie attended the public schools in Lansing and was afterward a student at district school No. 1, Ludlow township, supplementing this by three terms at the Waukon Business College. When he was nine years of age he was

taken into the home of J. E. Nash in Ludlow township and there continued to reside for eleven years thereafter. Eventually he began earning his own livelihood as a farm hand, but after ten years of work in the employ of others purchased land of his own on section 7, Franklin township, upon which he has since resided. He purchased first forty acres of unimproved land and was so successful in its cultivation that he was able to add to his holdings from time to time, owning today one hundred and sixty acres, the greater part of which is under cultivation. He has made substantial improvements here, erecting the necessary buildings and installing the needed equipment, and the condition of his fields and meadows indicates his careful supervision and practical labor. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Store and in the Farmers Telephone Company of Postville and in business circles is known as a reliable, far-sighted and discriminating business man.

On the 2d of April, 1902, Mr. Krousie was united in marriage to Miss Julia Swenson, born in Post township, February 12, 1883. She is a daughter of Anton and Anna (Halverson) Swenson, natives of Norway, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. The father now makes his home in Ludlow township, having survived his wife since 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Krousie became the parents of four children: Violet, who was born September 12, 1904; John, who was born July 10, 1906, and who died in October, 1908; Allen, born June 28, 1909; and one child born June 7, 1911.

Mr. Krousie gives his political allegiance to the republican party but never seeks public office, although he is always ready to further any measure which will in any degree promote community growth and advancement. He is a man of high moral character, industrious and enterprising, and his honesty and integrity have merited for him the confidence and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact.

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#### PETER SMITH.

A splendid farm of four hundred acres represents the life work of Peter Smith, who proudly can look back upon his achievements, which were attained by his own efforts and no outside help. A native of the state of New York, he was born March 12, 1853, and is a son of Peter Schmitt, a native of Bavaria, Germany, who was born in that state, May 22, 1822. The father employed the German spelling "Schmitt," but when Peter and his brother grew to maturity they decided to Americanize the name, changing it to its present form. When a young man the father emigrated to the United States and engaged in farming and also did work in a smelter in New York. Later he removed to Ohio and in 1862 came to Allamakee county, where he bought eighty acres of unimproved land in French Creek township near where his son now lives. Diligent and industrious, he settled down to hard work, breaking the land and placing his acres under cultivation, and as he obtained results he increased his holdings until he at one time owned four hundred acres. He died on the old home farm on March 8, 1879. His marriage to Catherine Schiffhauer occurred in New York state on April 25, 1852. The mother, who was a native of Saxony, Germany, was born October



1, 1829, and has also passed away, her death occurring on the home farm on June 20, 1890. They were the parents of six children: Peter, our subject; Charles J., deceased; Mary M., who resides in Waukon; Catherine, the wife of John Enders, of Berrien county, Wisconsin; Sophia, deceased, who was the wife of Patrick Donohue; and John, of Rice Lake, Wisconsin. The parents were devout communicants of the Catholic church.

Peter Smith came with his parents from New York, via Ohio, to Allamakee county, and received his education largely in the district schools near his father's farm. In the spring of 1876 he set out upon his independent career, engaging as a farm hand for neighbors. He married in 1876 and subsequently rented land for a number of years. In 1885 he acquired by purchase one hundred and sixty acres, yet in a wild state, and there he has since resided, increasing his holdings as occasion offered and his means permitted, until he now owns four hundred acres, which are all put to profitable use. Much of his land is under high cultivation and good improvements can be found upon his farm. His buildings are suitably equipped and substantial and his residence is commodious and comfortable. He engages in general farming, dividing his time between grain culture and stock-raising.

Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Melinda Hoffman, a native of Cascade township, Dubuque county, Iowa, where she was born on September 7, 1854, a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Haas) Hoffman, later residents of French Creek township. Mr. Smith lost his wife on August 27, 1912, when her death ensued on account of a fatal automobile accident. He and his wife had the following children: Melinda, who married C. P. Nierling, a well known agriculturist of this county; Mary J., the wife of F. A. Roth, of Brooklyn, Iowa; C. M., of Zearing, this state; Joseph, of State Center, Iowa; Katie J. who married C. W. Lane, of French Creek township; John H. of State Center; Ann, at home; Benjamin J., of State Center; William, also of that place; and Frank, at home. Mr. Smith and his family are members of the Catholic church and he gives his political adherence to the democratic party. While he has attained a substantial position among the farmers of his district and has individually become prosperous, he has been a serviceable factor in promoting the growth of his locality and his citizenship has in every way been productive of good results. He enjoys the high esteem and regard of all who know him and has made many friends in the county.

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#### ARTHUR T. STILLMAN, D. D. S.

Dr. Arthur T. Stillman, who for almost a quarter of a century has practiced dentistry in his offices above the Citizens Bank, is one of the earliest residents in Allamakee county and the oldest dentist in active practice in Waukon. He was born in Cortland county, New York, November 13, 1851, and is a son of John Stillman, also a native of Cortland county. The father grew to maturity there and married Miss Mary Nesmith, afterward following general farming for a number of years. Six of his children were born in Cortland county and in 1853 he came with his family to Iowa, making a permanent location in Center town-

ship, Allamakee county. Here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw land, which he cleared and broke, opening up a new farm. In the course of years he placed upon it substantial improvements, erecting a comfortable residence, a good barn and the necessary outbuildings and he became one of the prosperous and successful agriculturists of this vicinity. He later moved into Waukon, where he spent the last years of his life, serving as justice of the peace for some time. He died in February, 1893, and was survived by his wife for three years. Both are buried in Oakland cemetery. They were the parents of three sons and three daughters. John J. Stillman enlisted in Company B, Twelfth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and went south with his regiment, participating in the battle at Fort Donelson, where he was killed. His body was brought home for burial and in his honor the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic was given his name. Linus Stillman also joined the Union army, enlisting in Company F, Sixth Iowa Cavalry, and serving through the entire war. He received his honorable discharge after Lee's surrender and returned home, later buying the homestead, which he improved and developed for some years. After he sold the farm he purchased land near Emmetsburg and continued to reside upon it until his death. Of the other children born to Mr. and Mrs. John Stillman only one besides the subject of this review still survives. She is Mrs. Jackson Smith, of Waukon.

Dr. Stillman was reared upon his father's farm in Allamakee county and acquired his primary education in the public schools, supplementing this by a four years' course in the Waukon high school. He later engaged in teaching for four years and was then a clerk in a hardware store in Waukon for some time. Having determined, however, to practice dentistry, he went to the State University and took a course in dental surgery, graduating with the class of 1889. He returned immediately to Waukon, where he secured an office in the Citizens Bank building, where he is still located, having occupied the same rooms for twenty-four years. Although one of the oldest dentists in active practice in the city, Dr. Stillman keeps in touch with the most modern thought of his profession. Throughout the years his patronage has grown steadily. He has a well equipped office, supplied with all the most modern dental appliances, and is numbered among the leaders in his profession in this section of the state.

On the 20th of February, 1878, Dr. Stillman married Miss Anna M. Pottle, a native of Boston, Massachusetts, and a daughter of W. R. Pottle, who came as a pioneer to Iowa and became one of the first business men in Waukon. Mrs. Stillman was reared and educated in this city and later spent some time as a teacher of music and art. Mr. and Mrs. Stillman became the parents of a daughter, Hazel, who acquired her education in the public schools of this city and took a four years' course at Cornell College. She is now a teacher of history and English in the Waukon public schools. Mrs. Stillman died August 20, 1909, and was laid to rest in Oakland cemetery. Immediately after his marriage Dr. Stillman purchased a home on Allamakee street, which he rebuilt and remodeled, making it one of the most attractive in the city.

Fraternally Dr. Stillman is connected with the Masonic order, holding membership in the lodge and chapter. He at one time belonged to the Decorah commandery but has now demitted. He belongs to Waukon lodge, K. P., and has served through all the chairs of that organization, is now past grand chancellor

and has represented his lodge in the grand lodge of Iowa. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and served as trustee for a number of years, his wife having been also an active church and Sunday school worker. She served as organist in the Waukon church for thirty years. Always interested in school matters, Dr. Stillman has done able work in the cause of education in Allamakee county, being now in the twenty-first year of his service as a member of the school board and in the eighteenth year of his activity as president of that body. During the many years of his residence in Waukon he has been constant in his support of progressive public measures and his loyalty to the general good is unquestioned. He holds to high ideals in his profession, is conscientious in the performance of his duties and has thoroughly proved that his knowledge of dentistry is of a practical as well as a comprehensive nature.

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#### EUGENE A. READ.

Eugene A. Read owns and cultivates a large farm in Franklin township and by constant application has surrounded himself with an enviable degree of prosperity. His two hundred acres lying on section 6 constitute the farm upon which he was born on the 27th of May, 1852, his parents being Charles B. and Caroline (Dawson) Read, the former born in Massachusetts in 1823 and the latter in Jefferson county, New York, February 23, 1828. The father was a son of Charles Read, born in Massachusetts in 1795, he being the son of Joseph, born in Massachusetts in 1750. Joseph Read was a son of Thomas Read, who was born in England in 1727 and who died in Oxford, Massachusetts, all being descendants of Thomas Read, who passed away in Colchester, England, in 1616. Charles B. Read, father of the subject of this review, was a resident of Illinois. He married Caroline Dawson, of Algonquin, Illinois, in 1850. He was a doctor by profession and enjoyed a good practice until his death, which occurred in 1879. The mother came to Iowa, late in the fall of 1851 with her parents, Alexander and Jane Dawson. The latter preempted three hundred and twenty acres of land in Allamakee county, Franklin township, section 6. Caroline (Dawson) Read taught in the Allamakee county public schools for twenty years. Her death occurred on March 3, 1876.

Eugene A. Read acquired his knowledge of agriculture upon his mother's farm in Franklin township and obtained his education in the district schools. He laid aside his books at the age of twelve and began chopping cordwood on the farm upon which he now resides, hauling it afterward to Postville and selling it in the markets of that city. After he attained his majority he became a land-owner and when his mother died he purchased the homestead, whereon he has since resided. He finished the clearing of this property and has now one of the finest and most highly improved farms in this section of Allamakee county. Of his two hundred acres, one hundred are principally in maple timber, and he operates only part of the remainder, the rest being rented to desirable tenants. The portion whereon he makes his home is beautified with running water and woodlands and Mr. Read has provided it with a comfortable residence, barns and out-buildings so that his premises are among the most desirable in the community. In

addition to general farming he specializes in the raising of a fine quality of corn and in the breeding of hogs, making this a very remunerative department of his business.

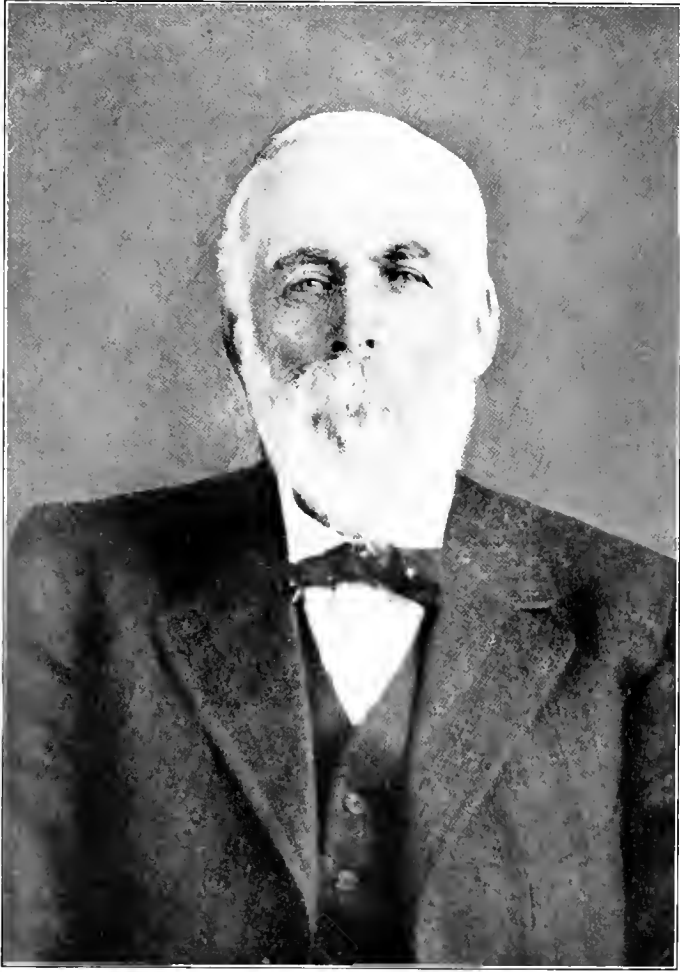
On the 14th of February, 1891, Mr. Read was united in marriage to Miss Myrtle Cutshaw, who was born in Lancaster, Grant county, Wisconsin. She is a daughter of David and Adele (Herrington) Cutshaw, the latter born in New York city, April 27, 1849. The father passed away when Mrs. Read was only one year old and the mother afterward married Albert Carson, now a resident of Austin, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Read have become the parents of four children: Violet C., who was born January 4, 1892, and is now attending the Southern Minnesota Normal College; Rosamond A., born October 2, 1895, who is a pupil in the Waukon high school; Laverne L., who was born October 28, 1897, and died July 2, 1898; and Opal Adele, whose birth occurred May 5, 1911.

Mr. Read is independent in his political views, voting according to his personal convictions without regard to party lines. Locally he is interested in the betterment of the community and for a number of years rendered the township excellent service as justice of the peace and school director. He is a man of many sterling traits of character—able in business, progressive in citizenship and at all times trustworthy and reliable.

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#### WILLIAM HOWES.

Among the pioneers of Allamakee county is William Howes, who is prominent in the agricultural history of this section and now has valuable farming interests in French Creek township. He has not only been an interested witness of the changes that have taken place here as primitive conditions have given way to the onward march of civilization but has been an active and cooperant factor in bringing about that transformation and laying the foundation for the civilization that is enjoyed by the present generation. Born in New York state in 1842, he is a son of Thomas and Phoebe (Harrington) Howes, natives of England, who crossed the Atlantic to the United States in the early '30s. The father was a mechanic by trade and worked along that line while moving westward. During his career he lived in Syracuse and Buffalo, New York, coming subsequently to Chicago and Amboy, Illinois, and in 1859 to Allamakee county, Iowa, where he located on four hundred acres of land which he had entered from the government in 1835. He later bought an additional four hundred acres. On this farm he built the first frame building to be erected in French Creek township, but the management of his farm was soon turned over to his son William, while the father remained actively engaged at his trade. He was highly respected in his locality and passed away at the age of seventy, his wife being eighty years of age at the time of her death. In their family were four sons and two daughters: William, of this review; John, who makes his home with a son-in-law in Union City township, Allamakee county; E. H., of North Dakota; Ruth, who makes her home with her brother, E. H.; and two who died in infancy.



WILLIAM HOWES



William Howes received his education by attending the public schools in the different places where his parents resided and was seventeen years of age when the family came to Allamakee county, assuming at that time the management of the father's farm. He later came into possession of four hundred and sixteen acres of the land and here he has since made his home, engaged in general farming. He has placed substantial buildings upon the land and his residence is comfortable and commodious. The latest machinery can be found upon the place in order to facilitate the labor and improve the yield of his acres. He has become recognized as one of the foremost agriculturists of his section and his success is the more creditable as it has been largely brought about by his own labors and entirely unaided.

In Waukon, Iowa, Mr. Howes was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Mockley, a native of Elgin, Illinois, who passed away about five years ago. She bore her husband twelve children: William and John, of Makee township; Josie, of Union City township; James and Edward, of Waukon; Margaret, Helen, Albert and Cecilia, at home; Mary, of Winnipeg, Manitoba; and Catherine and Thomas, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Howes are members of the Catholic church and politically he has long voted the democratic ticket, although he supported the Taft administration at the last election. He has been prominent in public life, having served as township trustee, road supervisor and school director. He enjoys the full confidence and esteem of all who know him and, while he has attained prosperity for himself, has been a serviceable factor in promoting agricultural interests and making Allamakee county what it is today—one of the richest farming communities in the state. His career is proof of the fact that success is but ambition's answer and that honesty, industry and energy lead to the goal. He has ever been public-spirited and has given evidence of that characteristic while holding official positions, in which capacities he has ever labored for progress and advance. Every worthy enterprise finds in him a champion and the interests of French Creek township and Allamakee county have profited by his labors.

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#### GEORGE WILLIS.

George Willis, carrying on general farming and stock-raising upon one hundred and seventy-three acres of land lying partly in Franklin and partly in Jefferson township, was born in Lincolnshire, England, June 9, 1849. He is a son of George and Mary (Copeman) Willis, also natives of that part of England, the father born in 1824. He gave his attention to agricultural pursuits during all of his active life, dying in Lincolnshire in 1868. His widow afterward married again and came to America, locating in Colorado, in which state she made her home until her death, at the age of sixty-six.

George Willis was reared in his native community and acquired his education in its public schools. He afterward served an apprenticeship as a locomotive and stationary engineer and at the age of eighteen began working at this occupation, following it successfully until he came to America. He crossed the Atlantic in 1875 and pushed his way westward to Colorado, locating twenty miles north

of Denver, where he became connected with the Union Pacific Railroad as locomotive engineer on the run between Denver and Boulder. Here he remained for seven years, after which he turned his attention to farming in Colorado, buying a tract of land in that state, and upon it he resided until 1898, when he sold and came to Iowa, buying his present farm. He owns and operates one hundred and seventy-three acres of land, eighty of which lie in Franklin township and ninety-three in Jefferson, and the property is in an excellent state of cultivation, reflecting everywhere his careful supervision and practical methods. Aside from general farming Mr. Willis is also extensively interested in stock-raising and he is very attentive to his interests along this line which under his able management has proven profitable and important.

On the 5th of June, 1873, Mr. Willis was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Bowen, who was born in Durham, England, June 16, 1855, a daughter of John and Margaret Bowen, natives of that section. The father followed the carpenter's trade for many years, making his home always in England, where he and his wife both passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Willis are the parents of five children: Abraham, who married Miss Minnie Dorsey and who is engaged in farming near his father's farm; Mary Anna, the wife of Richard Whaley, who is a butcher in Waterloo; Elizabeth, the wife of Edward Ewing, who is operating a farm near the old homestead; Anna, who married William Ewing, of Jefferson township; and George, who resides at home.

Mr. Willis is a member of the United Brethren church and gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He is one of the successful men of Franklin township and his prominence and prosperity are the more creditable to him since they have been attained through his energy, courage and perseverance. In all of his dealings he has been thoroughly reliable and in matters of citizenship helpful and progressive, giving his aid and influence to many measures for the public good.

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#### JOHN ECKERT.

John Eckert is engaged in general farming in Franklin township, owning and cultivating one hundred and seventy acres of land. He has brought his fields to a high state of cultivation and his place presents an attractive appearance, constituting one of the pleasing pictures in the landscape. He was born in Clayton county, near Guttenberg, October 7, 1872, a son of Christian and Anna (Nicolai) Eckert, natives of Germany, the former born in 1821 and the latter in 1824. When he was a young man the father crossed the Atlantic to America and, coming directly to Iowa, located first at Guttenberg and after a time became an extensive landowner, giving his attention to general farming in the vicinity of that city until 1876. In that year he moved to Franklin township, Allamakee county, and purchased a five hundred acre farm, upon which he continued to reside until his death, which occurred in 1877, less than one year after his arrival here. Following his demise the mother operated the farm with the help of her sons for a number of years and later made her home with her children until her death, which occurred on the 8th of December, 1910.



John Eckert is the youngest of seven children born to his parents. He was reared at home and in his childhood assisted with the work of his mother's farm, becoming at an early date familiar with the best agricultural methods and with everything connected with the work of the fields. After his marriage he rented the homestead for seven years and then purchased land of his own on section 9, Franklin township, upon which he still resides. He now owns one hundred and seventy acres of fine land, upon which he carries on general farming and stock-raising, both branches of his business being important and profitable. He follows the most modern and progressive methods in the cultivation of his property and that his labors have been practical is indicated by the results he has achieved, owning now one of the best farms in this community.

On the 20th of March, 1900, Mr. Eckert was united in marriage to Miss Edith Roffman and they became the parents of two children: Bernice, born January 2, 1907; and Florence, born June 16, 1910. Mr. Eckert is a stockholder in the Farmers' Shipping Association of Luana and in the Monona State Bank and his ability is widely recognized in business circles. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party and he has rendered his township excellent service as school director although he never seeks public office. His life has been a busy, useful and active one and his success is indicated in the fact of his ownership of one of the valuable farming properties in this community.

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#### MAYHEW W. EATON.

Mayhew W. Eaton, one of the earliest residents of Allamakee county and today one of the most successful business men of Waukon, is extensively engaged in the buying, selling and shipping of live stock. He is interested also in the grain business and connected through investment with many of the most important business and corporate interests of the city, his activities forming valuable elements in the general municipal development. He has resided in Allamakee county since 1857 but was born in Wisconsin, August 1, 1852. His parents were born in Nova Scotia, where they grew to maturity. After their marriage they came to the United States and about the year 1848 settled in Wisconsin, where they resided for a number of years, removing later to Illinois. In that state they made their home in De Kalb county but later returned to Wisconsin, whence in 1857 they moved to Allamakee county, Iowa. Mr. Eaton purchased land in Franklin township and developed there an excellent farming property, upon which he continued to reside until his death, which occurred when he was eighty-three and a half years of age. He had survived his wife a little over nine years.

Mayhew W. Eaton was a boy of five years when he came with his parents to Allamakee county. He was reared upon his father's farm in Franklin township, acquiring his primary education in the district schools and supplementing this by a three term course in the Waukon high school. After he laid aside his books he engaged in teaching during the winter terms, spending his summers working upon the farm, but eventually he left Iowa and went to South Dakota, where he took up a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres. Upon that property he spent a part of one year and then returned to Waukon, where he formed a

partnership in the conduct of a boot and shoe business. During the three years in which he was interested in merchandising he engaged also in the grain and stock business, owning an interest in a grain elevator. He later formed a partnership with J. B. Jones, purchasing elevator No. 1 in Waukon, of which the firm is still the proprietor. Mr. Eaton, however, is not personally active in this branch of the business, Mr. Jones supervising the conduct of the elevator and the buying and selling of the grain. Mr. Eaton gives all of his time to his extensive live-stock interests. He has by his energy, industry and success made secure for himself a place of prominence among men of marked ability in Waukon. He is a stockholder, director and vice president of the Waukon State Bank, an institution with which he has been connected for a number of years.

In 1879 Mr. Eaton married Miss Ella Minert, a native of Allamakee county and a daughter of John Minert, a pioneer in the section. He located in Post township in early times. Mr. and Mrs. Eaton are the parents of seven children: Nellie, the wife of Ray Slitor, who is connected with the Great Northern Railroad in St. Paul, Minnesota; Dora, who is an accomplished vocalist and teacher; Arthur J., who is practicing law in South Dakota and who married Lisle Stewart, daughter of Colonel A. G. Stewart; Guy W., also engaged in the practice of law in Waukon; Ruth, the wife of Dennis Cota, proprietor of the Cota Theater of Waukon; and Lucile and Marion, who are students in the Waukon high school. Immediately after his marriage Mr. Eaton purchased a residence in the southern part of the city and made his home there for twenty-five years. At the end of that time he sold his property and purchased Judge Granger's residence, which is one of the most attractive in the city.

Politically Mr. Eaton gives his allegiance to the republican party and has been affiliated with it since casting his first vote. For a number of years he served as a member of the city council and was for seven years mayor of Waukon. He served as delegate to both state and county conventions and for ten consecutive years was a member of the board of supervisors, holding the record for length of continuous service in Allamakee county. Fraternally he is connected with the Masonic order, holding membership in the blue lodge, chapter and commandery, and he has served in various important official capacities in the blue lodge and chapter. Mrs. Eaton is a member of the Waukon Methodist Episcopal church and active in church and Sunday school work. A resident of Allamakee county since his childhood, Mr. Eaton is well and favorably known in this part of Iowa, where his business activity has effected general business growth and his progressive spirit influenced political standards in an important and beneficial way.

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#### RICHARD COLVIN.

A substantial measure of prosperity is the logical reward of a busy and useful life on the part of Richard Colvin, a progressive and enterprising farmer of Franklin township, Allamakee county. He was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, on the 12th of June, 1847, a son of William and Margaret (Markland) Colvin, natives of Pennsylvania and Kentucky respectively. In 1822, in young

manhood, the father went to Jo Daviess county, Illinois, where he found employment in the lead mines, but later took up farming, which occupation proved his real life work. He was thus engaged until 1849, in which year he went to California and for three years worked in the mines, after which he returned to Illinois, spending his remaining days in Jo Daviess county. He was one of the pioneers of that state and served throughout the Black Hawk war. He died in 1880, surviving his wife for twelve years.

Richard Colvin, the younger of two children born unto his parents, attended the Mount Hope school in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, while at the same time he received thorough practical training under the direction of his father. He early became acquainted with farm work and remained with his father, assisting him in the cultivation of the home farm, until eighteen or nineteen years of age, when he began earning his own livelihood, being employed as a farm hand for some time. At the time of his marriage, however, he went to Decatur county, Iowa, and purchased land. That district was still largely a wilderness and after a residence of one year he returned to his native county, where he was engaged in farming for five years. At the expiration of that period he went to Minnesota and there conducted a mercantile business for a time, after which he sold out and became a landowner, following agricultural pursuits in that state for five years. Upon his return to Illinois he took up his abode on the old homestead, which he cultivated for about thirteen years, and then rented a forty acre tract in Delaware county, which he operated for four years. It was at the end of that time that Mr. Colvin came to Allamakee county, taking up his home in the southern part of Franklin township, where he resided for seven years, after which he bought his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres, located on section 6, this township, to the operation of which he has since given his entire attention. He carries on general farming, and the progressive methods which he follows are meeting with most excellent results. His farm is a well developed and highly improved property, equipped with modern conveniences and indicative in its neat appearance of the thrift, industry and system of its owner.

Mr. Colvin was married, on the 12th of April, 1868, to Miss Sylvia E. Allen, who was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, April 30, 1847. Her parents, George W. and Theresa (Mitchell) Allen, were natives of St. Lawrence county, New York, and came west in 1855, locating in Jo Daviess county, Illinois. The father, a lifelong farmer, rented land in that state for a time but later purchased property where he resided throughout the remainder of his life. Their daughter Sylvia was the eldest of a family of thirteen children and by her marriage to Mr. Colvin has become the mother of ten children, as follows: Jesse, born October 24, 1870, who is a farmer by occupation and resides two and a half miles north of Postville; Phoebe, born in July, 1873, who now makes her home with her parents; Lottie M., born December 11, 1874, now the wife of Charles Davis, a farmer of Myron; Frank, born September 23, 1876, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits on a farm adjoining his father's home; Bert, born July 26, 1881, residing with his father; Tillie, born June 6, 1884, who married Benjamin Davis, a farmer who resides south of Waukon; Edward, born May 30, 1889, residing with his brother at Myron; and three who have passed away.

Mr. Colvin gives his support to the democratic party but aside from casting his vote for its men and measures at the polls is not active in politics, preferring

to concentrate his energies upon his personal affairs. That he has been successful is indicated by the place which he occupies among the substantial and prosperous agriculturists of this district while the respect and regard entertained for him are inspired by his excellent traits of character.

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D. D. RONAN.

A native of Allamakee county, having been born in French Creek township on August 15, 1858, D. D. Ronan has become one of the foremost agriculturists of his district and his success is the more commendable as it has been largely brought about by his own efforts. He now owns a highly improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 32 and also one hundred and thirty acres on section 29. He is a son of John and Margaret (Ring) Ronan, natives of Ireland, where they were married. They came to the United States in the early '50s and in this country the father first engaged in railroad construction work in New York and Freeport, Illinois. In May, 1858, he came to Allamakee county and settled on one hundred and sixty acres of wild land which he had purchased in May, 1855. There were no improvements made on the place as yet and he built thereon a log house which was later supplanted by a second structure of a similar kind. Subsequently he erected a stone house which still stands, although it suffered at one time heavily through fire, being almost entirely destroyed except the walls, but was rebuilt by our subject. Settling amid pioneer conditions, the parents and children experienced many hardships, but gradually the father succeeded in wresting a valuable farm from the wilderness. He died on this property at the age of sixty-seven, the mother reaching the advanced age of eighty-seven years. Both were members of the Catholic church and the father was prominent in local public life, having served as school director and justice of the peace. Politically he was a democrat. D. D. Ronan was the fifth of six children, the others being: M. E., of Waukon, Iowa; G. F., of Kansas City; Charles, who died at the age of two years; James, who passed away at the age of twenty-six; and Johanna, who married Thomas Foley and is also deceased.

D. D. Ronan was reared under the parental roof and educated in the district school near his father's farm, the Lansing high school and also received lessons in the private school conducted by Professor J. Laghren in Waukon. Well prepared for the profession, he taught school for twelve terms and also learned telegraphing and the railroad business, but as the father died at about that time, he returned to the home farm in order to take charge of its management. He later bought out the other heirs and now owns the homestead, comprising one hundred and sixty acres, all of which are highly improved. His buildings are substantially and modernly equipped and his farm machinery is of the latest type. His acres yield him rich returns and as the years have passed Mr. Ronan has come to be considered one of the most substantial men of his neighborhood. He also owns one hundred and thirty acres of land on section 29.

Mr. Ronan was united in marriage to Miss Anna Devitt, a daughter of Martin and Mary Devitt. She passed away leaving three children: Anna Grace, Charles

D. and Mary Irene, all of whom are at home. Subsequently Mr. Ronan married Mary McGahn, a native of Illinois and a daughter of John McGahn, who with his family subsequently came to Allamakee county. Of this union were born two children, Gertrude and James.

Mr. Ronan is one of the most up-to-date agriculturists of Allamakee county and has not only attained individual prosperity but has been instrumental in forming agricultural standards and promoting agricultural growth. Politically he is a republican and is now serving in his second term as county supervisor. He has likewise been a member of the school board for a number of years and for the past twelve years has acted as treasurer of the board. For one year he served in the capacity of justice of the peace. He and his family are devout communicants of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Ronan enjoys the full confidence and respect of his friends and neighbors and has made himself effectively felt in the advancement that has taken place in Allamakee county as primitive conditions have given way to the onward march of civilization. He has proven himself a good, useful and valuable citizen and his success lies as much in the regard in which he is held by his fellowmen as in his material achievements.

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#### PETER S. NARUM.

Peter S. Narum, who for the past nine years has been postmaster of Waukon, proving reliable, efficient and conscientious in the discharge of his duties, is a native son of Allamakee county, born in Paint Creek township, April 15, 1867. His father, Sven Narum, was a native of Norway, born in 1832, and he remained in that country until he was nineteen years of age. Crossing the Atlantic, he made his way to Iowa and within the same year permanently located in Paint Creek township, Allamakee county. He entered land there, which he cleared, fenced and improved, opening up a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. To this he later added more land and finally owned two hundred acres, highly improved and developed, one of the finest agricultural properties in this section of the state. He married Miss Karen Gaarder, a native of Norway, who came to the United States when she was five years of age and who grew to womanhood in Wisconsin. After his marriage Mr. Narum erected a comfortable residence upon his farm and steadily carried forward the work of improvement, erecting a barn and the necessary outbuildings. He reared his children upon the homestead and there died in 1889. His wife survived him for some time, passing away in 1896. In their family were nine children, five sons and four daughters, all of whom with one exception still survive.

Peter S. Narum was reared upon his father's farm, which in his childhood he helped to improve and cultivate. He acquired his primary education in the public schools of Paint Creek township and supplemented this by a two years' course in the Decorah high school. After laying aside his books he went to Eldora, where he clerked in the employ of his uncle for two years, at the end of that time purchasing his uncle's interest in the store. He carried on the business alone for two years and then disposed of his interests, returning to Allamakee county. He later came to Waukon and for eight years engaged in

the hardware business here, his well selected line of goods, his straightforward dealings and his honorable business methods securing him a liberal and representative patronage. In 1904 he was appointed postmaster of Waukon by President Roosevelt and after four years reappointed. In 1912 President Taft again named him for the position, which he has now held for nine years. Since taking office he has accomplished a great deal of constructive work, improving the management of the department and putting its affairs upon a businesslike basis. In 1904 there were three rural routes out of Waukon and there are now five, with the probability of two more in the near future. Its expansion is due to a great extent to Mr. Narum's energy and well directed labors and is in itself a sufficient proof of his efficiency in office. He was one of the promoters of the Peoples National Bank, in which he is now a stockholder and director, and he is otherwise identified with important business interests here.

On the 9th of September, 1897, Mr. Narum married, in Waukon, Miss Lena Anderson, who was born in Paint Creek township, Allamakee county. She was educated in her native section and for some years previous to her marriage engaged in teaching music. Her father, Thomas Anderson, was born in Norway and crossed the Atlantic to America in early times, making his first location in Wisconsin. About the year 1848 he came to Allamakee county and was one of the first settlers in Paint Creek township. He turned his attention to farming, acquiring in the course of his life four hundred acres of valuable land, which he developed and improved for many years, dying upon his homestead in 1912, at the advanced age of ninety-one years. He was one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of Paint Creek township and one of Allamakee county's honored pioneers. Mr. and Mrs. Narum reside in a comfortable, modern residence in Waukon and have made their home the center of a charming social circle. They are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Waukon.

Politically Mr. Narum gives his allegiance to the republican party and served for one term as a member of the Waukon town council. He is a public-spirited and progressive citizen, giving his cooperation to every movement which tends to promote the intellectual, moral or material welfare of the city and county, and by reason of his many sterling qualities of character has won the regard and esteem of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

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#### WILLIAM M. LAWSON.

The life record of William M. Lawson is not only written in the terms of success but also in the terms of enterprise and honor, for while he has attained prosperity, becoming one of the substantial farmers of Franklin township, he has also won for himself an excellent reputation as a man of high principles. His entire life has been passed in Allamakee county, for his birth occurred in Franklin township October 27, 1857. His parents, John D. and Sarah (Chambers) Lawson, were natives of Michigan but were married in Illinois. The father's parents passing away in Michigan when he was a mere boy, he later went to Illinois to live with a brother, with whom he made his home for some time.



WILLIAM M. LAWSON AND FAMILY





Subsequently he engaged in farming on his own account in that state and was there married. He then came to Allamakee county, Iowa, and was numbered among the very first pioneer settlers. Purchasing a tract of land in the northwest corner of Franklin township he there made his home for many years, clearing and developing the land and converting it into a productive farm. Later he crossed the line into Post township, where he made his home until his retirement from active life, when he went to live with a daughter, in whose home he passed away March 14, 1913, when eighty-seven years of age. His wife had passed away March 11, 1911, when about seventy years of age. In their family were eight children, of whom the subject of this review was the fourth in order of birth.

William M. Lawson, whose name introduces this review, attended district school in Franklin township in the acquirement of his education, but his opportunities in this direction were limited for at the very early age of ten years he put aside his text-books and began working out as a farm hand. In the meantime, however, he lived with his parents, and continued to make the old home farm his place of residence until he had attained the age of twenty-five years, when he was married and took up farming on his own account, renting a farm in the southeastern part of Franklin township, which he continued to operate for two years. Being desirous of engaging independently in agricultural pursuits he then purchased forty acres of undeveloped land which formed the nucleus of his present fine farm, which he immediately set about clearing and improving. From the very first his efforts were most successful, and as he prospered in his undertaking he bought more land, adding to his original purchase until today he is the owner of one hundred and ninety-two acres of rich and arable land located on section 7, Franklin township. This farm Mr. Lawson has highly improved, introducing upon it all of the modern equipment and accessories for facilitating farm labor, and it is today one of the valuable and desirable farming properties of the district. He engages in general farming and stock-raising, and is a stockholder in the farmers' store at Postville, in the Postville Creamery and the Farmers Shipping Association.

On April 2, 1883, Mr. Lawson was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Roffman, who was born in Germany in 1860, a daughter of John and Minnie Roffman, who came to America in that year. They located first in Michigan but later, in 1866, came to Iowa, taking up their home on a farm in Post township, adjoining Franklin township. There the father passed his remaining days, his death occurring August 10, 1883. He is survived by his widow, who now makes her home in Franklin township with a daughter, Mrs. Van Garder. Mr. and Mrs. Lawson have become the parents of nine children, as follows: Fred and Elmer, twins, born January 4, 1884, of whom the former married the daughter of William Harris, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume, and who reside in Post township, while the latter makes his home with his father; Zelma, born March 1, 1886, who married Fred Segrist, a farmer of Franklin township; Sherman, born June 17, 1888, a carpenter by trade, residing at home; Frank, born on the 27th of January, 1893, who married Ruby Joan Hammel, and resides in Jefferson township; John, born October 6, 1895, living with his father; Vera, born April 25, 1897, and Leonard, November 27, 1900, attending school at Evergreen schoolhouse; and Alta, born July 25, 1903, who is also pursuing her education.

Mr. Lawson gives his support to the republican party, but aside from serving as a member of the school board he has never held, nor desired to hold, public office. He is a member of the Woodmen and is active in the affairs of that order. Beginning the battle of life at the tender age of ten years, he early developed those virtues of self-reliance, self-control and persistence which conduce to sound judgment and lead to ultimate victory and today he stands as one of the substantial, progressive and desirable citizens of Allamakee county, within whose borders his entire life has been spent and among whose citizens he numbers many warm friends.

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### JOHN M. DOWLING.

Among the few remaining veterans of the Civil war and early settlers of Allamakee county is John M. Dowling, residing on section 10, French Creek township. A native of Somersetshire, England, he was born February 4, 1836, and when a young man emigrated with his brother to America, coming in 1859 to Allamakee county, where he purchased a tract of eighty acres of wild land. However, when the demand for troops became insistent he patriotically offered his services to his country and on October 10, 1861, enlisted at Lansing, Iowa, in Company B, Twelfth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He discharged his duties faithfully and distinguished himself for bravery and courage, and during his enlistment was promoted to the rank of corporal. The rendezvous of the company was at Dubuque, Iowa, and from there they proceeded to St. Louis, where the winter was spent. The following are some of the engagements in which Mr. Dowling participated: Fort Henry, Fort Donelson and the battle of Shiloh, after which he was taken prisoner and underwent the hardships of incarceration from April 6th until October, when he was discharged and again joined his company. He then took part in the sanguine battles of Nashville, Spanish Fort and Tupelo (Miss.), at which latter place he received a gunshot wound in the thigh, as a result of which he spent two or three months in a hospital at Memphis, Tennessee. During the battle of Tupelo the man on his right was killed and his comrade on the left had his teeth shot out, while he himself was left on the battlefield to die or to be taken prisoner, when one of his comrades insisted on taking him with him and carried him from the field. This man was Adam Decker, who still resides in Allamakee county. Frank Hancock, a brother of the well known editor, was also in his company and Dr. Earle of Waukon was his first captain. After serving for three years Mr. Dowling was veteranized and continued in service until January, 1866, when he was mustered out with honorable discharge at Memphis, Tennessee.

Returning to Allamakee county, he disposed of the eighty acres of land, to which he had acquired title before the war, and purchased from a brother an adjoining eighty acres, to the breaking and cultivation of which he gave his entire time. Following progressive methods, his labors soon resulted in financial returns and gradually all of his land was brought to a high state of cultivation. He erected suitable and substantial buildings, giving his active labor to the work of the fields until age compelled him to turn over the more arduous duties to a

younger generation. All his buildings were destroyed by fire at one time, but undaunted by this misfortune he again set to work to rebuild his barn and out-houses and residence, and his farm today must be numbered among the most productive of its size in the county.

Mr. Dowling was twice married, his first union being with Miss Charity Hartley, a native of England, who passed away soon after her marriage. He then married Mrs. Russell Lane, who died May 10, 1913. She was in her maidenhood Miss Esther Pollard and a native of Worcester, Massachusetts. Her parents were John and Sarah (Buckley) Pollard, who in 1866 became residents of Allamakee county. Both have passed away. By her former marriage Mrs. Dowling had two sons: Russell Lane, who married Barbara Hahn, by whom he has four children, Verne, Florence, Jessie and Russell; and Charles Lane, who married Kate Smith, by whom he has three children, Ethel, Lillian and Esther. Both Russell and Charles Lane live on the Dowling homestead and the latter looks after the active management of the farm.

Mr. Dowling is highly respected and esteemed in his locality, not only for what he has achieved along material lines but for the splendid service which he rendered his country at the most critical period of its existence. The principles which caused him to take up the Union cause at the time of the Civil war he has always upheld politically and has ever voted the republican ticket. Many years ago he served several terms as township assessor, but otherwise has not actively participated in political life. He is a member of the Grand Army Post of Waukon. His religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church, of which denomination he has been a lifelong adherent and in the work of which he takes a helpful interest. Viewed from every point, the life record of John M. Dowling shows that he has fulfilled his duties in every respect to the best of his ability; that he has contributed to agricultural growth; that he has given evidence of his patriotic spirit, and that he has accomplished something which has a part in the advancement the American race has made.

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#### PETER PAULSON.

Among the early Norwegians to settle in Allamakee county is Peter Paulson, who has done much toward promoting the agricultural growth of his district, still owning a valuable farm of three hundred and five acres on section 32, Center township, although he has for the past twenty years lived retired. Nearing the age of eighty-five, he is among the patriarchs of the Norwegian race who settled in this part of the state, and is one of those few remaining pioneers who have done so much towards bringing about the present prosperous conditions. Mr. Paulson was born at Nordre Land, Norway, on August 19, 1828, and is a son of Paul and Elizabeth (Hanson) Halverson. In 1853 the parents came to America and made their way to Allamakee county in 1854, where the father passed away in the same year. The mother attained the extraordinary age of one hundred and three years, ten months and twenty-six days.

Peter Paulson came to the United States in 1852, empty in pocket but rich in resources and possessed of industry and energy to realize on them. He even

owed for his passage after coming to America. Making his way inland he worked for one year on the first railroad running west out of Chicago, at the end of which period he drove a team to Rock county, Wisconsin, there engaging in lumbering until 1854, when he came to Allamakee county. Denying himself all pleasures, he had acquired the means to purchase one hundred and twenty acres of wild land in Center township, and thereon he made his home for twelve years, devoting his labors to breaking the land and putting it under cultivation. He subsequently came to his present farm, eighty acres of which he had previously acquired. He has since made his home here and has passed his years in improving the property, adding substantial buildings and bringing his acres to the highest state of fertility. From time to time he added to his land, his farm now comprising three hundred and five acres. For the last twenty years he has turned over the active cultivation of the farm to his sons and in the evening of life enjoys rest from arduous labor,—a rest well merited by reason of many years of close application.

On November 19, 1862, in Allamakee county Mr. Paulson was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Bakkum, a daughter of Erick Bakkum, of whom a sketch appears elsewhere in this volume, and who was one of the early Center township farmers. Mrs. Paulson was born in Nordre Land, August 10, 1844, and passed away at the age of nearly sixty-eight years, on July 1, 1912. In their family were seven children: Mrs. Peter Hagen, of Paint Creek township; Gustav and Gilbert, at home; Mrs. Ole Storla, of Paint Creek township; Mrs. Oscar Hesla, deceased; and Pauline and Emma, at home.

Mr. Paulson has been a lifelong member of the Lutheran Synod church, helped to organize the society and assisted in building their house of worship here, which stands on his land. He has ever borne his share of time and money in promoting public welfare and is highly respected and esteemed by all who know him. In his political views he is a republican, stanchly upholding the candidates of that party. He is influential among his countrymen, among whom he is a Nestor, and great credit must be given him for directing the steps of many of Norway's sturdy sons to this part of the state. Nature has been kind to him, for he has never abused her laws. One usually thinks of old age as a period when mental as well as physical powers weaken, but there is an old age which grows stronger and brighter mentally and morally as the years go by and gives out its rich store of wisdom and experience for the benefit of others. Such has been the life of Peter Paulson, who is not only one of the most venerable but also one of the most honored citizens of Allamakee county, respected wherever known and most of all where best known.

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#### MICHAEL J. BARTHELL.

A power of initiative, ambition, energy and a progressive spirit, directed into important business channels, have carried Michael J. Barthell forward into close relations with the general business life of Allamakee county and of Waukon, where he makes his home. Under the firm name of Barthell Brothers he is associated with his brother in the conduct of one of the largest and most profitable

real-estate enterprises in this county and he is also a force in agricultural circles, owning and developing two fine farms in Winneshiek county. His enterprise and business aggressiveness, dominating and influencing all the activities of his career, have made the various interests with which he is connected successful and profitable and place him today among the leading and influential men of Allamakee county.

A native of this county Mr. Barthell was born on a farm in Makee township, April 6, 1871, a son of John M. Barthell, who is numbered among the earliest settlers in Iowa, having located in Allamakee county in pioneer times. For many years he was a prosperous farmer in Makee township but later he removed to Waukon where he turned his attention to the live-stock business, becoming a dealer and shipper on an extensive scale. His death occurred in the city, March 6, 1902, and he is survived by his wife who makes her home in the family residence in Waukon. They were the parents of ten children, six sons and four daughters, all of whom grew to maturity. Of this family four sons and four daughters still survive, the sons being: M. J., B. F., and Charles, who live in Allamakee county; and George, who makes his home in the state of Washington.

Michael J. Barthell was reared on the home farm in Makee township and from his childhood aided in the operation of the property, gaining in this way a practical knowledge of the best agricultural methods, which has been invaluable to him in his present farming operations. He acquired his education in the district school but is largely self-educated, having made up for his early deficiencies in this line by reading, observation and study since reaching mature years. When he left the farm he came to Waukon and for a few years thereafter was associated with his brother in the conduct of a hardware business. This enterprise they later sold and turned their attention to the real-estate business in which they are now engaged under the firm name of Barthell Brothers. They handle a great deal of valuable property, dealing extensively in Waukon residence and business property and in Allamakee and Winneshiek county farming lands, and they control an important and growing trade having won the confidence of the public at large by their straightforward and honorable business methods. They conduct also a loan department in connection with their real-estate enterprise and have done much to stimulate general business activity in this way. Michael Barthell and his brother also own and operate two fine farms in Winneshiek county, which they have improved and developed along modern and scientific lines, making their properties among the best and most profitable in this part of the state. Along the lines of his interests Mr. Barthell has proved himself a reliable, far-sighted and resourceful business man, modern in his views, progressive in his ideas and honorable and upright in his standards. He has done a great deal of important work in the development of the county where he was born and his private prosperity is counted a public asset.

In Waukon, on the 27th of December, 1905, Mr. Barthell was united in marriage to Miss Jessie Stilwell, a daughter of C. S. Stilwell, one of the well known lawyers of Waukon, of whom further mention is made on another page in this work. Mrs. Barthell was born and reared in this city and after graduating from high school took a two year kindergarten course. Mr. and Mrs. Barthell have a daughter, Barbara Elizabeth.

Politically Mr. Barthell is identified with the republican party but has never sought nor held public office, preferring to devote all of his time to his business affairs. He belongs to the Masonic order, holding membership in the lodge, chapter and commandery, and in his religious views he is a devout Presbyterian. He and his wife attend the Presbyterian church in Waukon to which he is a contributor, although he has also given generously toward the building of the Baptist and German churches. He is preeminently a business man and the energy, aggressiveness and determination necessary for success in business life are dominating forces in his character. Waukon is fortunate in numbering him among her citizens, for his work has been a potent force in the city's development and the record of his career is worthy of a place in a history of its successful and able men.

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#### OLIVER A. DIXON.

As superintendent of the Allamakee county farm Oliver A. Dixon has gained the commendation of his fellow citizens, for his efforts in behalf of those who have come under his care during his incumbency in office have been of a character to awaken public appreciation and regard. He was born in Winneshiek county, May 15, 1865, and is a son of William J. Dixon, a native of County Mayo, Ireland. As a young man the father crossed the Atlantic and located in Massachusetts, working at anything which would bring him an income. He married in that state Miss Celia Curran, also a native of Ireland, and they moved west to Iowa, settling in Winneshiek county, where Mr. Dixon purchased land and opened up a farm. Three of their children were born in that section but they later sold their property there and in 1869 moved to Allamakee county, buying two hundred and forty acres in Hanover township. They continued to make their home upon that farm for several years, the mother dying in 1877. The father later made his home with his daughter, with whom he now resides, having reached the advanced age of ninety-six.

Oliver A. Dixon was reared upon his father's farm and accompanied his parents to Allamakee county. From his early childhood he assisted with the work of the homestead and after reaching maturity took entire charge, remaining as manager until 1903. In that year he moved to California and located in San Bernardino, where for one year he was employed by a gas company, remaining a resident of that city for four years. Returning to Iowa in 1907, he made his home in Waukon and soon afterward was appointed superintendent of the county farm, assuming his duties in the same year. In that institution Allamakee county cares for both its poor and its insane and the home has now thirty-five inmates, all of whom are under Mr. Dixon's care. With the help of his wife and another married couple he operates the farm, the products of which in 1911 netted the county over twenty-two hundred dollars. The property comprises two hundred and forty-nine acres and under Mr. Dixon's management has been greatly improved, the home having been remodeled and repaired, a number of water towers and a hose house erected, a silo built and cement walks laid wherever needed. Mr. Dixon is proving himself competent in the performance of the duties that have

devolved upon him in connection with this position and the institution under his direction is being conducted in a manner which wins him the commendation of all concerned. He is carrying on its affairs in a most businesslike way, following the methods most approved in the conduct of public institutions of this character, and at all times he has an eye for the comfort and well-being of the inmates, a fact which makes him a popular official.

Mr. Dixon married in Hanover township Miss Kathryn Sullivan, a native of Lafayette township, Allamakee county. She acquired her education in the public schools of her native section, in the Lansing high school and later in a commercial college at Waukon. After her graduation she taught in the public schools of Allamakee county for several years. Since her husband has had charge of the county farm she has proven an able, energetic and efficient assistant and much credit for the good management and excellent condition of the institution is due to her. Mr. and Mrs. Dixon have three children: May and Kathryn, who were born in San Bernardino, California; and Frances, a native of La Crosse, Wisconsin. The family are members of the Catholic church of Lycurgus and Mr. Dixon is affiliated with the Catholic Order of Foresters. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party but he has never sought office and aside from his present position has never been connected with public life. In private relations he has been actuated by the principles which govern honorable and upright manhood and the same high ideals have ever been manifest in his dealings with those with whom he has been connected in an official capacity.

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#### JAMES W. BELL.

James W. Bell, living practically retired upon his eighty acre farm in Franklin township after many years of close identification with agricultural interests of Winneshiek county, is a native of this part of Iowa, born at Frankville, June 27, 1854. He is a son of Thomas and Kizan (Williams) Bell, the former born in Dumfrieshire, Scotland, June 22, 1801, and the latter in Tennessee in 1830. The mother passed away when the subject of this review was nine days old but the father survived her many years, dying April 4, 1871. In early life he was a ship carpenter and followed this occupation until about 1840, when he came to America, locating first in Canada and later in Galena, Illinois, where he engaged extensively in lead mining. About the year 1852 he moved to Iowa, locating in Frankville, in Winneshiek county, where for several years thereafter he was employed in a store. He was a man of exceptional education and special training at the carpenter's trade and he had no difficulty in securing employment. In 1856 he moved to Allamakee county and turned his attention to his trade in Franklin township until his death. He was well known in public affairs, having been carried forward into important political relations during the long period of his residence here and he was honored by his fellow citizens by election to various positions of trust and responsibility, rendering his township excellent service as justice of the peace, notary public and township assessor. He and his wife became the parents of two children: George, who resides in West Union, Fayette county; and James W., of this review.

James W. Bell was reared in the home of his aunt, Mrs. Mary Clark, a resident of this township, who took him when he was nine days old. At the age of twelve he began aiding with the operation of the homestead and thus at an early age became familiar with the best and most practical agricultural methods. After his marriage he purchased his aunt's farm and upon it for many years cultivated the soil as an independent landowner, during which time his industry, ability and perseverance brought him substantial and well merited success. In 1911 he sold the property and moved to Waukon, making his home just on the corporation line for one year, after which he bought his present farm of eighty acres lying on section 9, Franklin township. This he has rented to his son and is living in practical retirement, his period of leisure rewarding many years of active and earnest labor in the past.

On the 30th of December, 1875, Mr. Bell was united in marriage to Miss Ella M. Johnson, who was born in West Virginia, May 9, 1859. She is a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Beall) Johnson, the former a veteran of the Civil war, who was killed in the battle of Richmond. The mother afterward came west and located in Jefferson township, near Rossville, where she married Oliver Adams, with whom she moved into Franklin township, making her home there until her death. Mr. and Mrs. Bell have become the parents of six children. Anna, born June 28, 1878, is the wife of George E. Decker, a resident of Franklin township, this county. Alta, born October 16, 1880, married James E. Graham, a farmer in Stevens county, Minnesota. Edna, born April 16, 1882, married Ernest Decker and is now deceased. Arlie, who was born October 14, 1884, is the wife of A. Henthorn, a farmer in this vicinity. George, born December 9, 1890, is assisting his father with the operation of the home farm. Gail, who completes the family was born June 9th, 1895, and is attending school in Waukon.

Mr. Bell is connected fraternally with Rossville Lodge, No. 172, I. O. O. F., and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. He was justice of the peace for eight years, closing his service with his resignation, but he has never desired and has always avoided political preferment. He is numbered among Allamakee county's most progressive and successful native sons and has many friends in this community, all of whom have learned to respect and esteem him highly by reason of a life upright, straightforward and honorable in all its relations.

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#### SILAS TROENDLE.

Allamakee county lost one of the most deservedly honored and most highly respected of its pioneer citizens when Silas Troendle was called to his final rest, May 5, 1900. He was at that time seventy-four years of age and practically his entire active life had been spent in this part of Iowa so that he was among its oldest residents, having been a witness of its growth and development since pioneer times. He saw the broad prairies claimed and converted into productive farms, he saw the founding of towns and the building of cities and witnessed the growth of the county as it became settled by a prosperous people. In all the work of progress he was an active participant and his well spent life, which





SILAS TROENDLE



would bear the closest investigation and scrutiny, gained him the unqualified respect and honor of his fellowmen.

Mr. Troendle was numbered among the many active, industrious and upright citizens whom Germany has given to the new world, for he was born in Baden, January 28, 1826, remaining in his native country until he had reached maturity. As a young man he emigrated to the United States and after working on a farm in Ohio for three years, came to Iowa, making his home with his brother in Makee township, Allamakee county, for a short time. Afterward however he purchased land of his own, buying one hundred and sixty acres on section 9, Center township, a farm which he continued to develop and improve until his death. When Mr. Troendle came to Iowa pioneer conditions prevailed everywhere and pioneer hardships and difficulties had to be met with and conquered. His own farm was a wild and unimproved tract, which he had to clear before the work of cultivation could be begun. Upon it he built a crude log house in which he and his family lived for many years, it being eventually replaced by a second log cabin which still stands upon the property, although it has been plastered and weather-boarded and made to look like a frame dwelling. After the work of breaking his land and opening up a new farm was completed, Mr. Troendle turned his attention to general farming and stock-raising and the years brought him prosperity as the reward of his close application and honorable labor. With confidence and courage he carried forward the work of development, building the necessary farm buildings and installing the needed machinery, keeping constantly in touch with the trend of agricultural progress and in time making his farm one of the finest and best equipped in this section.

Mr. Troendle married in March, 1860, Miss Anna Mary Kehr, a native of Germany, who when she was three years of age was brought to America by her parents Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kehr. Mr. and Mrs. Troendle became the parents of eleven children, seven of whom are still living: Frank S., a farmer of Center township; Anna Mary, the wife of William Hansmann of Waukon; Matilda, who married Christ Schach; William, who resides in Excelsior, Minnesota; George, who operates the old homestead; Elizabeth, who married Ferdinand Gruber of Lansing township; and Louisa, the wife of Gust Doehler of North Dakota.

Silas Troendle died upon the farm whereon he had so long resided on the 5th of May, 1900, and his passing deprived Allamakee county of one of the earliest and most worthy of her pioneers. He gave his political allegiance to the democratic party and although he never aspired to public office, served capably in those positions to which he was elected, acting as school director and as road supervisor. He was a devout member of the Roman Catholic church and in his upright and honorable life exemplified the doctrines in which he believed. For many years he was closely associated with work of development and progress in this part of the state and he remained throughout his life an esteemed and loved resident of Allamakee county.

Mrs. Troendle survives him and makes her home with her son George, who is carrying on the work of the homestead, being today recognized as one of the active and progressive young farmers of this section. He was born on the farm which he now owns on the 30th of July, 1871, and acquired his education in the district school. For many years before the death of his father he managed

the farm and after the latter's demise purchased the interests of the other heirs and is now sole proprietor of two hundred and eighty acres of well improved and productive land. He is practical and progressive in his methods and therefore successful, his farm being one of the finest agricultural properties in the county.

George Troendle married, in Allamakee county, Miss Frances Rettinger, a native of Lansing township and a daughter of Christ and Catherine (Rehberger) Rettinger, the former of whom has passed away. The widow now makes her home in Lansing. Mr. and Mrs. George Troendle have five children, Silas L., Louisa Alice, Otto Harold, Carl Henry and George C. Mr. Troendle gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and is a devout member of the Catholic church. A practical and capable farmer and a loyal and upright citizen he has ably carried forward the work his father began and his excellent record is a credit to a name that has been honored in Allamakee county since pioneer times.

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#### ALBERT C. JOHNSON.

Albert C. Johnson, one of the prosperous, enterprising and substantial agriculturists of Allamakee county, owns and operates a fine farm of two hundred acres, a well improved and valuable property three miles beyond Waukon. He is a native son of this section of Iowa, born in Union Prairie township, July 27, 1869, his parents being Charles and Helen (Ruen) Johnson, natives of Norway. The father grew to manhood in that country and after reaching maturity crossed the Atlantic to America, first locating in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he was numbered among the earliest pioneers. He purchased land and opened up and developed a new farm, later selling his property and moving to Allamakee county, where he purchased two hundred acres of land, upon which he lived for many years, rearing his children there and there spending the remainder of his life. His death occurred in 1907, when he was seventy-five years of age. His wife survived him for a few years, dying in 1911.

Albert C. Johnson was reared upon his father's farm in Union Prairie township and from his early childhood aided in its operation, gaining thus a thorough and practical knowledge of the best agricultural methods. When he began his independent career he purchased two hundred acres on section 35, in the same township, constituting the farm upon which he now resides. The property was slightly improved but he has steadily carried forward the work of development, erecting a large, two-story frame house, three good barns, a silo with a capacity of one hundred and thirty tons and fine outbuildings. He has the latest improved machinery and in equipment and accessories his farm is worthy of rank with the best agricultural properties of the state. He has paid particular attention to its attractive appearance, putting out groves of forest and evergreen trees and keeping a beautiful lawn in front of his house. He makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock for the market and also conducts a profitable dairy, his business interests being carefully and capably managed and his success placing him among the substantial and progressive farmers of this vicinity. He was one of the promoters of the Farmers Stock & Produce Company and is still a stockholder

in the concern. He is a member also of the Ludlow Cooperative Creamery Association and is a stockholder in the Peoples National Bank of Waukon, which he aided in organizing.

In Winneshiek county, October 14, 1897, Mr. Johnson married Miss Clara Rockswold, who was born and reared in that section. They have three children, Carl Alvin, Earl A. and Albert C., Jr. The parents are members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Johnson gives his political allegiance to the republican party and he served for two years as township assessor and is now treasurer of his school district. He is a careful and conservative business man and by his own labor and good management has accumulated a valuable and well improved property. Perseverance, diligence and integrity have constituted the guiding qualities of his life, bringing him to the honorable position which he now occupies in the opinion of his fellowmen among whom he has long lived and labored.

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#### CLARENCE R. THORNTON.

Clarence R. Thornton, the owner of an excellent farm of two hundred and thirty-seven acres on section 10, Franklin township, enjoys an enviable reputation as one of the progressive and substantial agriculturists of the community. His birth occurred in Post township, Allamakee county, on the 5th of June, 1875, his parents being Alonzo and Eliza (Minnick) Thornton, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania respectively. The former was born on the 23d day of March, 1834, while the latter's natal day was December 3, 1835. Alonzo Thornton was married in Ohio and in 1861 came to Iowa, settling near Hardin and securing employment as a farm hand. In 1862 he enlisted for service in the Civil war as a member of Company A, Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry, remaining with that command as a private for three years. He was wounded in battle in Louisiana, being shot through the jaw and neck, and was confined in a hospital. After being honorably discharged from the army he returned to Hardin and resumed his labors as a farm hand, working for others during the remainder of his life. His demise occurred in June, 1904. His widow, who makes her home with her children, is well known and highly esteemed throughout the community in which she has now resided for more than half a century.

Clarence R. Thornton, the youngest in a family of eight children, attended the district schools of Post township and also pursued a course of study at Postville. When a youth of thirteen he began working as a farm hand and at the age of eighteen was married and established a home of his own. He continued working for others until 1907 and then rented a tract of land, being actively engaged in its cultivation until 1912. In that year he purchased the farm of two hundred and thirty-seven acres on section 10, Franklin township, which he is now operating. His careful supervision is manifest in the neat appearance of the place, and the well tilled fields annually yield bounteous harvests in return for the care and labor which he bestows upon them.

On the 27th of December, 1893, Mr. Thornton was united in marriage to Miss Mattie Entwisle, who was born in Jefferson township, this county, on the 7th of June, 1875, her parents being William and Martha (Hancock) Entwisle. The

father's birth occurred in England on the 18th of August, 1826, while the mother was born in Indiana on the 15th of September, 1831. When a youth of twelve years William Entwisle accompanied his parents on their emigration to the United States, the family home being established in Iowa. He grew to manhood in Allamakee county and became a landowner of Franklin township, maintaining his residence there until called to his final rest in 1862. His wife passed away in March, 1905. In their family were twelve children, Mrs. Thornton being the tenth in order of birth. By her marriage she has become the mother of eight children, as follows: Ross, whose birth occurred on the 28th of December, 1894; William, who was born October 6, 1896, and passed away July 22, 1903; George, whose natal day was October 25, 1898; Henry, whose birth occurred on the 22d of July, 1901; one who was born on the 6th of September, 1903, and died in infancy; Ruth Alice, born July 10, 1905; Vernie, whose natal day was October 9, 1908; and Daisy, born July 6, 1911. In his political views Mr. Thornton is a staunch republican. With him perseverance, diligence and integrity have constituted the guiding posts of his life, bringing him to the honorable position which he now occupies in the opinion of his fellowmen in the county, among whom he has spent his entire life.

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#### H. E. BAKKUM.

H. E. Bakkum, who was born on the farm on which he now resides on January 9, 1856, is to be numbered among the more substantial agriculturists of Center township, where he owns a valuable farm of one hundred and seventy-four acres. He is a son of Erick Bakkum, a native of Nordre Land, Norway, who came to the United States in 1851, and after spending one year in Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1852 located on the land upon which his son now resides. He first acquired title to eighty acres of wild land, where he erected a log shanty in which the family lived until 1869, when his present home was built. The father added to his lands from time to time until he was able to give each of his sons a good-sized farm. He was prominent in his locality and highly esteemed, passing away on May 23, 1897. He had married in Norway Miss Gunel Engen, who passed away on the farm about thirteen years later than her husband, on June 1, 1910. The parents were members of the Lutheran church and the father gave his support to the republican party. In their family were six children: Andrew E., of Paint Creek township; Sophia, the deceased wife of Peter Paulson; Carrie Martha, who died at the age of eighteen; H. E., our subject; Hannah Drogsett, deceased; and E. E., of Center township.

H. E. Bakkum was reared under the parental roof and grounded by his parents in the old-fashioned virtues of honesty and industry. In the acquirement of his education he attended the district schools and early began to assist his father with the work of the farm. He has always remained at home and subsequently came into possession of the old farm residence and one hundred and seventy-four acres of land. He has done much towards improving this property, has installed modern machinery and implements and in every way has increased the yield of his land. He is today esteemed as one of the most substantial agricul-

turists of his locality and such success as has come to him is highly commendable, as it has largely been the result of his own labors.

In Allamakee county Mr. Bakkum was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Ericson, who was born in this county and is a daughter of Andrew Ericson. They have four children, Gusta, Annette, Eilert and Eleanor. Mr. and Mrs. Bakkum are members of the United Lutheran church and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. While Mr. Bakkum has attained individual prosperity, he has never lost sight of the general welfare and has done as much as any other citizen in promoting worthy public enterprises. He enjoys the confidence and esteem of all who know him and is considered a serviceable factor in his community.

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### MRS. E. A. SHATTUCK.

Mrs. E. A. Shattuck is well and favorably known in Allamakee, her native county, as a woman of excellent business ability, for with the assistance of her sons she manages her extensive landed holdings in Union Prairie township, embracing two hundred and eighty acres on section 25. She was born in Allamakee county and is a daughter of Marcus Clark, a native of Massachusetts and one of the pioneer settlers in Union Prairie township. He married for the second time in this section and here reared his family, dying at an advanced age.

His daughter was reared and educated in Allamakee county and remained upon her father's farm until October 24, 1874, when she gave her hand in marriage to Lyman Shattuck. The latter was a native of Vermont and there grew to maturity, later coming west and locating in Indiana where his first marriage occurred in 1855. Soon afterward he moved to Iowa and settled in Winnshiek county where he purchased land which he continued to develop and improve for ten years thereafter, making it a valuable and productive property. When he sold this farm he moved to Allamakee county and in Union Prairie township bought two hundred and eighty acres of land, whereon his wife and children now reside. It was a tract of raw and unimproved property, which Mr. Shattuck broke, fenced and cultivated, opening up a new farm. Upon it he later built a large, two story brick residence, good barns and outbuildings and steadily carried forward the work of improvement. His first wife died here and he afterward married the subject of this review by whom he had two sons, Louis and Collins C., who for the past six years have assisted their mother in the operation of the homestead. Mr. Shattuck became one of the prosperous and substantial farmers of Allamakee county and his death in 1893 was a distinct loss to agricultural interests in this part of the state.

After the death of her husband Mrs. Shattuck rented out the farm for a number of years, but in 1906 she again assumed its management, having since carried forward the work with the help of her sons. She owns a neat and well improved farm located one mile beyond Waukon, on section 25, Union Prairie township, the attractive appearance of which indicated her constant supervision and careful labor. In connection with general farming she and her sons engage in stock-raising on an extensive scale, raising pure-blooded and high-grade Durham

cattle and Poland China hogs. They also keep a number of fine milch cows in the dairy and they have made this branch of their business important and profitable. They are known as practical and progressive farmers and success has steadily followed their well directed labors. Mrs. Shattuck has acquired a comfortable competency which she does not hoard selfishly but is generous in her helpfulness to the needy and charitable toward every good cause. She has many friends in Allamakee county where her entire life has been spent and all who know her have for her none but words of praise and commendation.

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#### ARTHUR A. JONES.

Arthur A. Jones, a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Allamakee county, is the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and eighty acres on section 9, Franklin township. His birth occurred in Makee township, this county, on the 30th of July, 1868, his parents being Charles and Elizabeth (Lane) Jones. The father was born in England in 1832, while the mother's birth occurred in Pennsylvania in 1836. When a young man Charles Jones crossed the Atlantic to the United States, first locating in New York and working on the canal. Subsequently he made his way westward and for a number of years sailed on the Mississippi river. In 1852 he came to Iowa and in 1854 entered a tract of land just north of Waukon, the district being then a wilderness. After residing there for a number of years he moved into Franklin township and here purchased another tract of land, retaining possession of his original home place, however, until 1893, when he disposed of the property. He remained a resident of Franklin township until his death in 1898, when the community lost one of its esteemed pioneer settlers and representative agriculturists. He held various township offices and ever discharged the duties devolving upon him in a prompt and able manner. His widow is still living and resides in Franklin township with her sons.

Arthur A. Jones, the seventh in order of birth in a family of twelve children, began his education in Makee township and later entered the Red schoolhouse, a district school. After putting aside his text-books he assisted his father in the operation of the home farm and also worked for others at intervals. When a young man of twenty-two he secured employment as a stonecutter in the quarries of Clayton county and worked therein for about ten years. During this period he acquired sufficient capital to invest in land, and while working at the stonecutting trade also devoted some attention to farming. He now gives his entire time to the operation of his farm of one hundred and eighty acres in the Yellow river valley of Franklin township, carrying on general agricultural pursuits with gratifying results. In 1911 there was raised a crop of corn yielding one hundred and seventeen and a half bushels to the acre. That he keeps in touch with the modern spirit of progress which is manifested in agricultural lines and that his knowledge of farming is both thorough and comprehensive is indicated by the highly improved appearance of his place, upon which are found substantial buildings and all of the modern accessories necessary for facilitating farm labor.



On the 13th of November, 1895, Mr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Nannie B. McShane, who was born in Franklin township on the 11th of March, 1869, her parents being Cornelius and Margaret (Durr) McShane, the former a native of Monongalia county, West Virginia, and the latter of Greene county, Pennsylvania. Cornelius McShane followed general agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career. In 1851 or 1852 he came to Iowa, acquiring and locating on a tract of land in Linton township, Allamakee county. About two years later he took up his abode in Franklin township and there spent the remainder of his life, passing away on the 7th of February, 1907. His wife was called to her final rest on the 29th of January, 1905. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jones have been born six children, as follows: Nellie Fern, Lottie Grace, Charles Samuel, Ethel Gladys, Stella and one who died in infancy.

In politics Mr. Jones is independent, supporting men and measures rather than party. He has served as a school director for his district and has manifested his public-spirited citizenship in many other ways. He has been identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since twenty-two years of age and also belongs to the Modern Brotherhood of America. Mr. and Mrs. Jones enjoy the warm esteem and friendship of many with whom they have come in contact and the hospitality of the best homes of the locality is cordially extended them.

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#### BENJAMIN DAVID HELMING.

Benjamin David Helming, one of the progressive and active farmers and stock-raisers of Allamakee county, owns and operates a fine property of one hundred and sixty acres lying in section 34, Union Prairie township. This farm has been in possession of members of his family for many years and upon it his birth occurred on the 29th of January, 1874, his parents being Simon and Augusta (Simmonsmeier) Helming. The father was born in Westphalia, Germany, and came to America in the '50s, settling in Iowa. On the 14th of October, 1852, he purchased of Dennis Haley the northwest quarter—one hundred and sixty acres—of section 34, in township 98, north of range 6, Union Prairie township, for a consideration of two hundred and fifty dollars. This is now the homestead belonging to the subject of this review. For this land Thomas Haley received on the 1st of October, 1852, a United States patent signed by Millard Fillmore, president of the United States, and the quarter section has never been owned by any other than the Haley and Helming families.

Benjamin D. Helming attended country school and the public schools of Waukon, later spending one year at Cornell College at Mount Vernon and another at the State Agricultural College at Ames. He was reared upon his father's farm, his education supplementing practical experience in agricultural work, so that when he began his independent career he was already an able and progressive agriculturist. His farm today reflects in its neat and attractive appearance his competent supervision and practical methods in its cultivation and is a valuable and productive property. In addition to general farming Mr. Helming breeds and raises shorthorn cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs and good horses, and his stock-raising interests are extensive and an important source of income to him.

In Waukon, on the 5th of October, 1899, Mr. Helming was united in marriage to Miss Winifred Augusta May, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. May, of that city. She was graduated from the Waukon high school in 1893 and attended the Nora Springs Academy for one year thereafter. She was also a student at Cornell College for a similar period of time and was then for three years employed in the office of the Waukon Standard, of which her father has been editor for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Helming have become the parents of seven children, Carolyn Elizabeth, Dorothy Hager, Paul Hayward, Benjamin David, Robert Bruce, Frederic Simon and John Albert.

Mr. Helming was a member of Company I, Iowa National Guards, of Waukon, for two years and he is connected fraternally with the Knights of Pythias. He gave his political allegiance to the republican party until June, 1912, when he joined the progressive party under the leadership of Theodore Roosevelt. He has always taken an active part in public affairs, cooperating heartily in measures of advancement and progress and rendering his township excellent service in various positions of trust and honor. He is well and favorably known in Union Prairie township where he has resided since his birth and having steadily adhered to high business and personal standards, enjoys the respect and confidence of all who have associated with him.

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#### HENRY J. WILKE.

Henry J. Wilke, who since 1892 has been connected with agricultural interests of Allamakee county, owning today two fine farms in Post township, is a native of Iowa, his birth having occurred in Elkader, Clayton county, July 2, 1868. He is a son of Fred and Mary (Kamin) Wilke, both of whom were born in Germany, the father May 1, 1844, and the mother July 15, 1838. The former crossed the Atlantic with his parents when he was about ten years of age and located with them on a farm in Clayton county, Iowa, where he grew to manhood, continuing to reside there until 1893. In that year he removed to a farm in Dallas county, near Des Moines, whereon he now lives retired, his sons managing the property and all his business interests. His first wife passed away in 1878, leaving only one child, the subject of this review, and he later married again, becoming, by this second union, the father of three children.

Henry J. Wilke was reared on his father's farm in Clayton county and in his childhood divided his time between the work of the homestead and attendance at district school. He remained at home until he was twenty-four years of age and then began his independent career, buying land in Post township, upon which he resided for a number of years, making it in the meantime a well improved and valuable property. About 1907 he sold his farm and bought forty acres which he still owns. He purchased also another farm of one hundred and four acres, eighty rods distant, and the two properties are connected by a roadway, making it possible for him to give personal supervision to the development of both. He carries on general farming, raising fine crops of hay and grain and engaging extensively in stock-raising, keeping high grade cattle, hogs and horses. The farms are substantially improved and neat and attractive



MR. AND MRS. HENRY J. WILKE



in every particular, evidencing in many ways the owner's practical methods and his well directed care and labor.

On the 21st of February, 1893, Mr. Wilke was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Ziegler, who was born in McGregor, Iowa, December 18, 1871. She is a daughter of George and Mary (Bierbaum) Ziegler, natives of Germany, where her father learned the carpenters' trade. In early life he followed that occupation but later turned his attention to farming, purchasing land near Luana, Iowa, whereon he resided until his death, which occurred about the year 1893. His wife survived him some years, dying in 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Wilke became the parents of two children: Wilbert, who was born in 1894; and Mabel, born March 3, 1898.

Mr. Wilke is a member of the Lutheran church of Postville and his upright life has always been in closest harmony with his professions. He gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and, as a loyal and public-spirited citizen, takes an intelligent interest in community affairs. He is especially interested in the promotion of public education and since 1898 has been a member of the school board, accomplishing a great deal of valuable and important work during that time. His attention is, however, chiefly concentrated upon the development of his farms and by his able work along agricultural lines he has made substantial contributions to the growth and progress of the community where he makes his home and where he is counted among the representative and valued citizens.

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#### E. E. BAKKUM.

In the rich agricultural state of Iowa there is no section more fertile than that of Allamakee county, and in that county no farm which bespeaks more thorough methods or returns better yields than that of E. E. Bakkum, who farms one hundred and ninety acres on section 19 in Center township. He is a son of a pioneer and was born on the farm upon which his father settled, on February 5, 1861, a son of Erick Bakkum, who is mentioned at greater length in another part of this work.

In the acquirement of his education E. E. Bakkum attended the district schools and subsequently a Waukon school, completing his training by a course at Breckenridge Institute in Decorah. Early he learned agricultural methods from his father and when old enough the latter gave him property comprising one hundred and fifty acres, upon which E. E. Bakkum engaged independently and where he has since made valuable improvements and installed modern machinery in order to increase the yield of his acres. He engages in mixed farming, giving attention to grain raising and his live-stock interests, and that his work is crowned with success is evidenced by the fact that he has been enabled to add forty acres to the original tract.

In Allamakee county Mr. Bakkum was united in marriage to Miss Isabelle Sevaton, a daughter of Severt Sevaton, and they have five children, Ida K., Melinda G., Selma E., Egbert R. and Emily I. All of these are yet at home. Mr. and Mrs. Bakkum are members of the Lutheran church and ever interested in its expansion and beneficial work. He gives his allegiance to the republican party

and keeps intelligently informed upon all questions that affect his locality, his county and his state. Mr. Bakkum has ever shown a laudable interest in education and has given evidence thereof by his service as school director of his township. Of an old pioneer family, he has preserved the family tradition by a worthy career and is highly respected and esteemed in his community, enjoying the confidence and good-will of all who know him.

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FRANK L. MAY.

Allamakee county is fortunate in numbering among her public officials so able, efficient and far-sighted a man as Frank L. May, now serving as county attorney. He is in addition a successful and able lawyer, practicing at the bar as a member of the firm of May & Dempsey and connected through his representative patronage with much important litigation. He was born in Crawford county, Kansas, March 29, 1873, and is a son of Roan C. May, who was born in Summit county, Ohio, in 1838, and was a representative of one of the pioneer families in Iowa, his father, John May, having moved from Ohio to Allamakee county in 1852. He settled in Lansing township, on what is now known as May's Prairie, and there entered land, opening up and developing a new farm. His son Roan was fourteen years of age when the removal was made and he spent the remaining years of his childhood and youth in helping in the work of clearing and improving the property. He later engaged in farming for himself in Lansing township but finally moved to Crawford county, Kansas, where he purchased land. Upon this he resided for seven years but at the end of that time moved back to Iowa and located in New Albin, where he now resides in retirement. He married in Allamakee county Miss Elizabeth Yeoman, a native of Illinois and also an early settler in Iowa, having come to this state in 1853.

Frank L. May was reared in his parents' home and acquired his primary education in the public schools. After completing it he became a teacher and engaged in that occupation for five years before going to Valparaiso, Indiana, where he took up the study of law. After receiving his degree he went to South Dakota, locating at Madison, where he opened an office and began the practice of his profession, remaining there for one year. At the end of that time he returned to Iowa and made his home at Lansing, where he secured a large and representative patronage and won recognition as a strong and able practitioner, whose ability in the handling of intricate legal problems justified his classification with the most successful lawyers in the state. Mr. May remained in Lansing until 1910, when he was nominated and elected county attorney of Allamakee county. After the expiration of his first term of office he was reelected to the position, which he is now filling, discharging his duties in an energetic and able way. He is connected also with the general practice of law here, for in 1911 he formed a partnership with J. W. Dempsey, a young man of excellent education and unusual legal ability, under the firm name of May & Dempsey. The partners are connected with much important litigation and the firm is known as strong and reliable.

Mr. May married, near Lansing, on the 2d of April, 1896, Miss Marie Goettle, who was born and reared in Allamakee county, a daughter of Carl Goettle, of this vicinity. Mr. and Mrs. May have one daughter, Marie H. E. Mr. May is a Master Mason, holding membership in Evergreen Lodge, No. 144, F. & A. M., at Lansing. He has proven himself in professional and official life an efficient and forceful worker, possessing a strength of perseverance which enables him to overcome difficulty and conquer obstacles. His analytical mind has proven valuable in his practice as well as in his public service and, whatever line claims his attention, his judgment is always sound and his methods practical.

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#### DE VILLO A. HOLMES.

De Villo A. Holmes has been since 1896 prominently connected with business interests of Lansing as the proprietor of a harness manufacturing and selling establishment, his progressive methods, his industry, honesty and ability bringing him a substantial measure of success. He carries also a fine stock of gentlemen's furnishings and he has made both branches of his business important and profitable.

Mr. Holmes is numbered among Allamakee county's native sons, his birth having occurred in La Fayette township, June 9, 1869, and he is a son of Oliver Wendell Holmes, who was born in Oneida county, New York, May 5, 1835. The father was reared on a farm in his native community and after acquiring a fair education in the public schools came west to Iowa in 1853, settling in Dubuque where he engaged in teaming. He married in that city Miss Catherine Treanor, a native of Dubuque, born in 1845. They moved to Allamakee county in 1861 and in La Fayette township the father purchased a tract of raw land which he cleared, broke and fenced, opening up and developing a new farm. He was successful in his agricultural operations and from time to time bought more land owning finally a farm of two hundred and forty acres upon which was a fine residence and barn and all the necessary outbuildings. Failing health obliged him eventually to leave the farm and go west to Denver, Colorado, where he died February 6, 1891. He is buried in the Catholic cemetery at Lansing.

De Villo A. Holmes was reared on his father's farm and from his early childhood aided in the operation of the homestead becoming thoroughly familiar with the best agricultural methods. After reaching maturity he took charge of the farm and continued to manage it even after he moved into Lansing where he learned the harness making trade. He abandoned farming, however, when he purchased an established harness business in the city, conducting it first upon a small scale and gradually expanding his enterprise to meet the demands of his growing trade. He now carries a complete stock of factory-made harness and he also makes fine goods to order. He sells also robes, horse blankets and all the other articles to be found in a first-class harness establishment. Since 1908 he has also dealt in gentlemen's furnishings and has secured a profitable trade in this line, his patronage coming to him in recognition of the excellent qualities of his goods, his reasonable prices and his progressive and honorable business standards. His entire stock is valued at five thousand dollars and his business

house is one of the finest in the city, a substantial brick structure which he bought in 1897.

In Allamakee county on the 12th of November, 1895, Mr. Holmes was united in marriage to Miss Mary Regan who was born in Lyncurgus, a daughter of Dan Regan, one of the well known pioneers of this part of Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes have four children, Cornelius D., Daniel O., Mary K. and Joseph G. The family are members of the Lansing Catholic church.

Mr. Holmes gives his political allegiance to the democratic party but he is not active as an office-seeker although he takes a deep and intelligent interest in public affairs. He is one of the progressive and representative business men of the community, adhering always to high standards of commercial ethics and managing his interests in a careful and conservative manner, and his success rewards many years of honest, capable and well directed labor.

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#### FRANK J. SPINNER.

Frank J. Spinner, senior member of the firm of Spinner Brothers, dealers in farm implements, gasoline engines, automobiles, wagons, buggies, etc., is one of the progressive, straightforward and enterprising business men of Lansing, his own initiative, determination and dominating ability having brought him a success which places him in a position of influence in commercial circles. He is a native of Allamakee county, born in Village Creek, July 17, 1861, a son of Peter Spinner, a native of Germany. The father left that country when he was fifteen years of age and came to America, settling first in Davenport, Iowa, where he worked at the blacksmith's trade which he had learned in Germany. After a few years he moved to Allamakee county and located at Village Creek in 1855. He there built a shop and did general blacksmithing and repairing for several years, building up a large and profitable business. Eventually, however, he turned his attention to farming, purchasing raw land which he cleared, fenced and improved, his sons assisting him upon the homestead and also with the work of the shop during the busy seasons. Peter Spinner married in Ohio, Miss Katherine Markt, a native of Germany, and they became the parents of a number of children. The family was reared in Village Creek and the father spent the last years of his life on the farm there, dying in 1890. His wife survives him and makes her home in Lansing with one of her daughters.

Frank J. Spinner was reared in Village Creek and learned the blacksmith's trade from his father. He moved with the family to the farm and assisted with its operation until he was twenty-four years of age when he formed a partnership with his brother and they opened a shop in Waterville where for four years they carried on a blacksmith, wagon and repair business. At the end of that time Mr. Spinner of this review sold out his interests to his brother and went to Helena, Montana, where for a year and a half he worked at his trade, finding business conditions much better there and wages higher. Upon his return to Iowa he took charge of his father's shop at Village Creek and there carried on a profitable business until 1895, when he came to Lansing and formed a partnership with his brother Fred—an association which has continued to the present



time. At first their enterprise was a blacksmith, wagon and repair shop but they soon added a full line of farm implements and they now carry a complete and well selected stock of these articles, such as gasoline engines, cream separators, automobiles, wagons and buggies. The brothers own their own shop and control a large and representative trade for their goods are the best that can be found on the market, their business standards are progressive and honest and their methods practical and modern. Their large and well managed enterprise is the more creditable to them in that they began on a small scale and by industry, frugality and good business judgment have become successful, being now ranked among the city's able and substantial business factors. Frank J. Spinner was one of the organizers of the Peoples State Bank of Lansing and is now one of the large stockholders in the institution. He was formerly for many years identified with mercantile interests of Waterville as a partner with his brother C. A. Spinner in the conduct of a general store. The association was formed about 1894 and Mr. Spinner of this review continued as a silent partner until February, 1913, when he sold his interests.

In Waukon, on the 27th of March, 1894, Mr. Spinner married Miss Kate McGeough, a daughter of E. McGeough, one of the early settlers in Allamakee county. Mr. and Mrs. Spinner became the parents of nine children, Francis Earl, Raymond J., Katherine Leonette, William D., Marie J., Edward P., Frank, Kenneth and James. The family are members of the Catholic church of Lansing. Mr. Spinner gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and he served eight years as a member of the city council, discharging his duties in an earnest, straightforward and capable manner. An able and discriminating business man he carries forward to completion whatever he undertakes and his name on the list of promoters of any enterprise is a guaranty of its weight and importance as well as of its ultimate success.

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#### H. R. BAKKUM.

H. R. Bakkum, a well known agriculturist of Center township, Allamakee county, who was born upon the farm which he now owns, is of Norwegian stock, his father, Andrew A. Bakkum, being a native of Nordre Land, Norway, whence he came to America when a young man, locating in Allamakee county in 1852 or 1853. Here he bought one hundred and twenty acres of wild land, upon which he first erected a log house, which he later supplanted with a brick residence which still stands. All his active life he spent in agricultural pursuits and died here, highly respected and esteemed, at the age of seventy-eight years. He married, in Allamakee county, Miss Bertha Reiarson, a native of Norway, who is also deceased. In their family were six children: Mrs. Olans Peterson, of Swift county, Minnesota; H. R., of this review; C. M., of Ulen, Minnesota; Albert, of Kerkhoven, that state; G. A., of Fosston, Minnesota; and Hannah Gilbertson, of Makee township, this county.

H. R. Bakkum was reared under the parental roof and in the acquirement of his education attended the schools in the neighborhood of the homestead. He early assisted his father with the farm work, acquiring thorough methods of

agriculture. Subsequently he came in possession of the home farm and now owns and cultivates one hundred and sixty-two acres located on section 30, where he engages in general farming. His property by its appearance bespeaks the prosperity of its owner and Mr. Bakkum has made some extensive improvements since his father's death. His land brings him annual returns of gratifying proportions and he has come to be considered one of the foremost agriculturists of his locality.

In Allamakee county, Mr. Bakkum was united in marriage to Miss Carrie M. Larson, a daughter of Ammund Larson, of Makee township. Mr. and Mrs. Bakkum have three children, Arnold, Roy and William. In his political views Mr. Bakkum inclines toward the republican party, whose measures and candidates he upholds at the polls. His religious faith and that of his family is of the Lutheran denomination, of which church he and his family are members. Of township offices he has served in the capacity of school director, giving every evidence of his interest in the cause of education. He is public-spirited and progressive in his tendencies and the success which has come to him is but the natural outcome of incessant energy and industry, and is highly merited.

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#### EDWARD L. KRUEGER.

Edward L. Krueger, the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and seventy-five acres on section 14, Franklin township, is widely recognized as an enterprising and progressive agriculturist. His birth occurred near Viroqua, Vernon county, Wisconsin, on the 29th of July, 1882, his parents being Charles and Carolina (Lefler) Krueger, natives of Germany. The father did the required service as a soldier of the German army and during his active career followed general agricultural pursuits. In 1873 he crossed the Atlantic to the United States, locating in Dayton, Ohio, where he secured employment in the paper mills and resided for ten years. On the expiration of that period he removed to Vernon county, Wisconsin, purchased land and there followed farming during the remainder of his life, his demise occurring in 1897. His widow remained on the farm until 1912, when she disposed of the property and took up her abode in La Crosse, Wisconsin, where she has since resided. They were the parents of ten children, seven of whom survive.

Edward L. Krueger, who was the fourth in order of birth in his father's family, obtained his education in the schools of his native county. He remained at home until twenty-five years of age and then spent a year in La Crosse, Wisconsin, working for Mitchell Brewer as coachman and in other capacities. Subsequently he came to Iowa and here worked for his brother Charles for one year, while later he spent a similar period in hauling cream. He next rented the farm of Henry Hahman for one year and then purchased a tract of one hundred and seventy-five acres on section 14, Franklin township, where he has since carried on general agricultural pursuits with gratifying success. The property is well improved in every particular and in its neat and thrifty appearance gives evidence of the care and progressive spirit of its owner.

On the 27th of October, 1910, Mr. Krueger was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Hahman, who was born in Clayton county, Iowa, on the 16th of August, 1881, her parents being Henry and Augusta (Wittenburg) Hahman, more extended mention of whom is made on another page of this work in connection with the sketch of Amos W. Nagel, a brother-in-law of Mrs. Krueger. Our subject and his wife have one son, Henry, whose natal day was January 16, 1912. Mr. Krueger gives his political allegiance to the republican party, while his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church. He is well known throughout the community and his many friends esteem him highly for his personal worth.

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#### OLE L. REMA.

Ole L. Rema owns and operates a highly improved farm of one hundred and ninety-five acres on section 34, Center township, which is the old family homestead. He has remained within the borders of Allamakee county from his birth to the present time, having been born in Paint Creek township on the 3d of October, 1851. His parents, L. O. and Guri (Opheim) Rema, were natives of Aal, Praestehjeld, Hallingdal, Norway, and were married in that country in 1836. The father's birth occurred on the 15th of September, 1805, while the mother's natal day was February 12, 1811. Four daughters were born to them in Norway. In 1849 they crossed the Atlantic to the United States, spending two years in Rock county, Wisconsin. In 1851 they came to Allamakee county, Iowa, and during the first summer lived on what is now the Swenson farm in Paint Creek township. L. O. Rema then homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in Center township, which is now included within the boundaries of his son's farm. That place remained his home during the remainder of his life and in its operation he won a gratifying and well merited measure of success. His son-in-law, John S. Bryson, in compiling a genealogical record of the Bryson and Rema families, wrote of the latter: "They saw hard times of pioneer life, but by hard work and economy made a good home and succeeded in raising and educating a family of four girls and a boy." Mr. Rema gave his political allegiance to the republican party, while his religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Lutheran church, to which his wife also belonged. His demise occurred at Village Creek on the 18th of March, 1885, while his wife passed away on the old home farm on the 2d of February, 1892, the community thus losing two of its respected pioneer settlers and representative residents. Their children were as follows: Julia L., born in Norway on the 13th of December, 1837, who wedded Paul Halverson on the 26th of April, 1857, and is now a widow residing in Baudette, Minnesota; Margaret L., born in Norway on the 13th of July, 1840, who is the widow of Andrew Strand; Tilda L., whose birth occurred in Norway on the 7th of April, 1844, and who is the widow of John S. Bryson; Cecile L., born in Norway on the 5th of August, 1846, who wedded Stengrim Hesla and after his demise gave her hand in marriage to David Skinner, of Sioux Rapids, Iowa; Ole L., of this review; and Tolef B., who was born in Center township on the 1st of May, 1854, and died there on the 9th of November, 1858.

Ole L. Rema attended the district schools in the acquirement of an education and after attaining his majority came into possession of the old family homestead. His holdings now embrace one hundred and ninety-five acres of rich and productive land on section 34, Center township. General agricultural pursuits have claimed his attention throughout his entire business career and his efforts in this direction have been attended with excellent results. His land is well improved in every particular and annually yields good crops which find a ready sale on the market.

In Allamakee county, on the 13th of June, 1871, Mr. Rema was united in marriage to Miss Bertha J. Swain, a native of Norway, by whom he has five children, namely: Julia, the wife of Gilbert Jeglum, of Paint Creek township; John T. and Henrietta, both at home; Emeline, the wife of Gilbert Leikvold, of Taylor township; and Leonard S., who is still under the parental roof. The last named and his brother John T. now own a valuable tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land in North Dakota.

Mr. Rema is a democrat in politics and during the years 1907, 1908 and 1909 did able service as a member of the county board of supervisors, making a creditable and enviable record in that connection. In 1913 he was once more elected to the office and will again assume its duties on the 1st of January, 1914. He and his family are devoted members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Rema is widely known in the county where his entire life has been spent and the sterling qualities which he has displayed in his social and business relations have gained him a high place in the regard and good-will of his fellow townsmen.

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#### HON. OTTO A. HELMING.

Hon. Otto A. Helming is the present representative of his district in the state legislature and is accounted one of the most able, far-sighted and discriminating men in public life in Iowa. In Allamakee county he is known also as a progressive and successful agriculturist and a stock breeder and dealer on an extensive scale, his activities having done much to promote the development of the farming industry along modern and scientific lines. He was born upon the farm where he now lives March 9, 1868, and is a son of Frederick W. Helming, a native of Germany, who grew to manhood in that country and settled in pioneer times in Allamakee county, Iowa. He purchased land in Ludlow township and developed there a valuable and productive farm upon which he spent the last years of his life, dying in 1875.

Otto A. Helming is one of a family of five children. He was reared upon the home farm and acquired his primary education in the district schools of Ludlow township, supplementing this by two winter terms at the Waukon Seminary. After his father's death he and his brother, Charles G., took charge of the home place and operated it together for some years, becoming well known as stock breeders and dealers. Eventually, however, Mr. Helming of this review purchased the interests of the other heirs and retained the homestead, whereon he has since resided. He gives a great deal of his attention to stock-raising and has a fine herd of pure-blooded Aberdeen Angus cattle and a number of fine Percheron horses and Chester White hogs. He is also active in the



OTTO A. HELMING



dairy business and was one of the principal promoters of the Ludlow Cooperative Creamery Association, of which he served as vice president and later as president for a number of years. He is very much interested in the modern and scientific aspects of farming and has been for many years identified with the Agricultural Short Course at Waukon, serving as director of that body. His own farm exemplifies the scientific principles of which he has made a close study, for it is one of the most productive and highly improved in this township and reflects everywhere his competent supervision and careful management. He has added to and remodeled the house, built a new barn and several out-buildings and steadily carried forward the work of development in an able and practical way.

It is not alone along agricultural lines, however, that Mr. Helming is widely and favorably known, for he is one of the leaders in republican politics in this state and has had a varied and important public career. Upon the republican ticket he was elected for six consecutive years assessor of Ludlow township and in 1912 was elected by a large majority to the state house of representatives. He has served with ability and distinction since that time and has left the impress of his work and personality upon a great deal of important legislation. He has served on numerous important committees, including those of school and textbooks, the Soldiers & Orphans' Home, public charities, agriculture, the School for the Deaf and the committee on federal relations, these connections indicating something of the scope of his interests and the weight of his political influence.

In Richfield, Wisconsin, on the 12th of November, 1902, Mr. Helming was united in marriage to Miss Lena Whittenberger, who was born, reared and educated in that state. Mr. and Mrs. Helming have two children, Clara and Florence. The parents are members of the Ludlow Presbyterian church.

Mr. Helming is a man of varied interests but these all lie along lines of progress and improvement. He is a broad-minded man who places a correct valuation upon life and while in business affairs he has achieved a gratifying measure of prosperity, he has also been a force in the political development of the state, his activities in various fields proving of benefit to the community at large. He stands today among the men of marked ability and substantial worth in Allamakee county.

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#### CHRISTIAN ECKERT.

Christian Eckert, an enterprising and up-to-date agriculturist of Franklin township, is the owner of a modern and well improved farm of seventy-nine acres on section 14. His birth occurred in Clayton county, Iowa, on the 26th of March, 1868, his parents being Christian and Anna (Nicolai) Eckert, who are mentioned at greater length on another page of this work in connection with the sketch of John Eckert, a brother of our subject. Christian Eckert of this review obtained his education in the district schools of Franklin township and remained under the parental roof until twenty-five years of age. Subsequently he operated the home-stead place for one year and then purchased a farm of seventy-nine acres on

section 14, where he has since carried on his agricultural pursuits. Practically all of the improvements thereon were made by him and the place is now a model and up-to-date farming property, equipped with modern and substantial buildings for the shelter of grain and stock. The land is rich and productive and the well tilled fields annually yield golden harvests in return for the care and labor which is bestowed upon them. Mr. Eckert makes a specialty of the production of corn and the raising of Poland China hogs and in all of his undertakings has won a well merited measure of success. He is a stockholder in the Luana Creamery the Luana Shipping Association and the Monona State Bank.

On the 30th of November, 1894, Mr. Eckert was united in marriage to Miss Anna Roffman, who was born in Michigan, on the 17th of March, 1873, her parents being John and Minnie (Blank) Roffman. They are mentioned at greater length on another page of this work in connection with the sketch of Frank Roffman, brother of Mrs. Eckert. Our subject and his wife have one son, Lloyd, whose birth occurred on the 8th of September, 1897. Mr. Eckert is a democrat in politics but has never sought the honors and emoluments of office. Both he and his wife have spent their entire lives in this part of the state and enjoy an extensive and favorable acquaintance here.

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#### OSTEN JOHNSON SORUM.

Osten Johnson Sorum, deceased, was an honored pioneer and prominent agriculturist of Allamakee county, where he owned nearly five hundred acres of valuable land and made his home for a period of fifty-seven years. He reached the venerable age of eighty-five years, having been born in Norway in 1824 and passing away April 25, 1910. In 1850, when a young man of twenty-six years, he crossed the Atlantic to the United States and spent two years working on a log raft on the Mississippi river and at Monona. In 1852 he came to Allamakee county, Iowa, and purchased eighty acres of unimproved land in Makee township, erecting a log house, fourteen by sixteen feet, which remained the family home for many years. Coming here in pioneer times, he endured all of the hardships and privations incident to life in a sparsely settled and undeveloped district. The nearest trading point was McGregor and in making the trip, which consumed two or three days, he usually went to Harpers Ferry and then down the river on the ice. While he was absent on one of these trips his family were driven from their log house by a fire which totally destroyed the little home. As the years passed and his financial resources increased, owing to his capable management and untiring industry, he purchased an additional tract of land on section 31, Center township, and erected thereon a frame dwelling, barns and out-buildings. Here he spent the remainder of his life, devoting his attention to general agricultural pursuits with excellent success. His holdings embraced nearly five hundred acres of land, which was divided among his sons a number of years prior to his demise. He was a man of powerful physique and was able to do a great amount of work, though for years he was handicapped by a broken hip which had been left to grow crooked. In his demise the community lost one of



its respected pioneers and most esteemed citizens and one whose labors had been a potent element in the work of upbuilding and development here.

It was in Allamakee county that Mr. Sorum was united in marriage to Miss Gunhild Bakkum, a native of Norway, who passed away on the old home farm in October, 1909. They became the parents of three sons. Andrew, the eldest, inherited the original family homestead in Makee township and wedded Miss Bertha Marie Johnson. He is deceased but his widow still resides on the old farm. John and Christ Sorum were born in the log house in Makee township and now reside on the farm in Center township. Their property is well improved in every particular and they carry on general farming with gratifying success, having gained an enviable reputation as substantial and enterprising citizens of their native county. The religious faith of the family is that of the Lutheran church.

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#### HILAS C. BURNHAM.

Hilas C. Burnham, who owns and operates a fine farm of one hundred thirty-two and one-fourth acres on section 32, Franklin township, has been a resident of Allamakee county since his birth and the greater part of his active life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits. A spirit of enterprise and progress actuates him in all that he does and he now owns one of the productive and well managed farms of this vicinity and is classed with substantial and progressive agriculturists. He was born in Franklin township, August 24, 1864, and is a son of Charles and Elizabeth (Dee) Burnham, natives of Ohio, both born on the line between Union and Champaign counties. The father spent his entire life engaged in farming, coming at an early date to this township and county. After one year he returned to Ohio, where he married, afterward settling again in Franklin township, where he resided on the farm which now forms the Lamborn homestead. He purchased the land in an unimproved condition and with characteristic energy turned his attention to its clearing and cultivation, he and his wife spending the remainder of their lives upon the property. The mother passed away in 1879 and the father in 1891. He had been prominent in local public affairs, having held practically all the township offices, including those of trustee, tax collector, assessor and justice of the peace, filling the latter position with credit and ability for twenty years. He and his wife were the parents of four children: Pearl, deceased; Hilas C., of this review; Elma M., the wife of W. E. Hinman, of Franklin township; and Edna, who died in infancy.

In the acquirement of an education Hilas C. Burnham attended district school in his native township and from his early childhood aided his father with the work of the homestead. At the age of eighteen he became a farm laborer, living at home, however, until he was twenty-one. Having attained his majority, he engaged in hauling cream, but after one year married and turned his attention to farming. He went to Ford county, Kansas, one hundred miles northwest of Wichita, spending one summer in that vicinity. Returning to Iowa at the end of that time, he rented a farm in Allamakee county and continued to reside upon it for two years, moving then to a farm in Clayton county, near the dividing

line. In the spring of 1894 he purchased forty acres of land on section 32, Franklin township, in Allamakee county, and this formed the nucleus of his present farm. To it he has made substantial additions from time to time and owns today one hundred thirty-two and one-fourth acres of excellent land. Upon it he has erected fine buildings and he has installed modern equipment, nothing being neglected which will add to the value or attractive appearance of the place. He operates his land as a general stock farm, raising high-grade cattle, horses and hogs. He is a stockholder in the Cooperative Creamery at Luana and was one of the promoters of the Farmers Cooperative Shipping Association and is a director in the Luana Savings Bank, being respected in business circles as a man of unusual ability, integrity and enterprise.

On the 31st of March, 1887, Mr. Burnham was united in marriage to Miss Carrie May Sawyer, who was born in Franklin township, March 9, 1863. They have become the parents of two children. Ray Hilas was born May 3, 1890, and makes his home with his parents. He holds the position of rural mail carrier from the Luana postoffice. Bessie M. was born June 19, 1891, and is now attending Carlton College at Northville, Minnesota. Both are graduates of the Postville high school.

Mr. Burnham is a member of the Modern Brotherhood of America and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party, never seeking office but taking an active and intelligent interest in community affairs. A resident of this part of Allamakee county since his birth, his upright and honorable life has commanded for him the respect and esteem of his neighbors and his success has placed him in the front ranks of progressive and substantial agriculturists.

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#### FRANK DOLPHIN.

Frank Dolphin, one of the prominent and deservedly successful business men of Lansing, was born in La Crosse county, Wisconsin, and there acquired his education in the public schools. With his father he came to Iowa in 1886 and settled in Lansing where they worked in a sawmill and engaged in the manufacture of lumber for two years. Mr. Dolphin of this review later bought a drilling outfit and for five years thereafter worked at drilling wells, building up a large and profitable patronage along this line.

Being ambitious for a broader field of labor and for a wider and more suitable scope for his activities, Mr. Dolphin determined to study electrical engineering and accordingly took a correspondence course in this science, becoming an expert practical engineer. Upon receiving his degree he joined William Nopper, who was in charge of the installation of the electric light and power plant at Lansing which was later merged into the Upper Iowa Electric Light & Power Company in which Mr. Dolphin is now the manager of the Lansing plant. He is also associated in business with Mr. Olson with whom he owns a steam power machine and a large blacksmith and wagon and repair shop, a large patronage being accorded them in recognition of the excellent quality of the work done and their straightforward and honorable methods.

Mr. Dolphin married in Waukon on the 10th of October, 1904, Miss Bertha Magnusson, who was reared and educated in Lansing. They occupy a comfortable and modern residence just adjoining the business plant and shop and they have made their home a center of warm-hearted hospitality. Mr. Dolphin is a Master Mason and belongs to the blue lodge in Lansing. He is identified also with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Yeomen. In politics he is independent, voting according to the dictates of his personal judgment, and while he is not in any sense an office seeker he is now in the second term of his able service as a member of the city council. In Waukon, Lansing and throughout Allamakee county he is known as a man of good business ability, of strict integrity and moral worth—an active, progressive and public-spirited citizen whose official record is marked by the same energetic, straightforward and conscientious work which has distinguished and made successful his business career.

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#### FRED F. KRUSE.

Since 1895 Fred F. Kruse has lived upon his present farm of one hundred and eighty acres on section 33, Franklin township, and since 1901 has owned the property, which in its neat and attractive appearance reflects everywhere his careful supervision and practical labors. He is one of the many sturdy, industrious and enterprising citizens whom Germany has given to America, having been born near Berlin, June 6, 1859. He is a son of Fred and Sophia (Brunstein) Kruse, also natives of that locality, the former born October 22, 1839, and the latter in 1840. In his native country the father worked in the employ of others and for a time served in the army, taking part in the war with France. He crossed the Atlantic in 1871 upon the close of hostilities and came directly to Iowa, settling in Garnavillo township, Clayton county. After working in the employ of others for some time he purchased land of his own and for many years thereafter engaged in farming in that locality. He now lives retired and makes his home in Guttenberg, having survived his wife since June, 1908.

Fred F. Kruse is the eldest in a family of seven children. He was about thirteen years of age when he crossed the Atlantic with his parents and he completed an education begun in Germany in the district schools near Elkader. After laying aside his books he worked in the employ of others for a few years, giving his father all of his earnings until he was twenty-one years of age. After attaining his majority he continued at farm labor until 1895, when he rented the farm which he now occupies. In 1901 he bought the property, which comprises one hundred and eighty acres on section 33, Franklin township, and which under his able management has become one of the finest agricultural properties in the vicinity. He is a member of the Luana Shipping Association and is a stockholder in the Luana Creamery.

In 1882, Mr. Kruse was united in marriage to Miss Minnie H. Bleatz, who was born in Blaeswitz, near Berlin, Germany, October 23, 1859, a daughter of Charles and Caroline (Radloff) Bleatz, natives of the same section, the former born June 15, 1826, and the latter February 18 of the same year. The father served the required term in the German army and afterward came to

America, locating near Clayton Center in 1872. He died in 1887, having survived his wife for ten years. Mr. and Mrs. Kruse became the parents of seven children. William Fred was born on the 7th of December, 1882. He married Miss Bertha Bleatz and is now engaged in farming in Franklin township. Henry was born October 7, 1884, and is engaged in farming in Clayton county. His wife was in her maidenhood Miss Amanda Meyer. Alice, whose birth occurred on the 21st of December, 1887, became the wife of John Nuehring, a farmer near Luana, in Clayton county. Fredrick was born May 6, 1890, and lives at home. Etta was born January 18, 1893. George was born May 23, 1895. Mabel, the youngest child in this family, was born November 8, 1900.

Mr. Kruse owes a great deal to his wife, who has been his able assistant in the development of the farm, cooperating in all of his plans for its improvement and development. He is a member of the Lutheran church at Luana and he gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, being active and progressive in matters of citizenship, although never seeking public office. His many friends in this county respect his ability and honor his sterling integrity of character, according him a high place among representative citizens and substantial farmers of this locality.

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#### ALBERT G. WINTER.

Farming and dairying interests of Ludlow township find a progressive and worthy representative in Albert G. Winter, who owns and operates the Pleasant View homestead, a neat and well improved place of eighty acres on section 1. He has been a resident of Iowa since 1876, but was born in Dodge county, Wisconsin, December 8, 1858. His father, Rev. H. A. Winter, a minister in the Presbyterian church, was born in Germany and came to America when a young man, settling in Wisconsin, where he remained for many years.

Albert G. Winter acquired his education in the public schools of Wisconsin, graduating from the Madison high school and later attending Mount Carroll College. In 1876 he came to Iowa and here turned his attention to farming, working in the harvest fields for a few seasons and afterward renting land. Eventually he bought the Pleasant View homestead, a property with some improvements, to which he steadily added. He also remodeled the house and erected in 1912 a large and commodious barn. He installed also a wind pump and built a silo with a capacity of ninety tons, making the property one of the finest and best equipped in this vicinity. In addition to general farming Mr. Winter engages in dairying and stock-raising, keeping a fine herd of milch cows and feeding a number of high-grade hogs every year. Both of these departments of his business are ably and carefully conducted and under his competent supervision have become important and profitable. The farm is today one of the most attractive in the township, the house being set in the midst of a fine level lawn broken here and there by groves of evergreen and forest trees. Mr. Winter was one of the promoters of the Ludlow Cooperative Creamery Association and served as secretary and treasurer of that body. He is identified with the German Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of which he was for a time secretary and treasurer, and

he aided in the organization of the Farmers Cooperative Stock & Produce Company.

In Ludlow township, in 1883, Mr. Winter was united in marriage to Miss Mary M. Pieper, a stepdaughter of Carl Pieper. They became the parents of five children: Carl S., of Lexington, Nebraska, who is married and has one son; Helen, the wife of James G. Smith, of Lexington, Nebraska, by whom she has one son; Marion E.; Fred B., a student in the University of Iowa; and Earl A., a student in the Waukon high school. Mr. and Mrs. Winter are members of the German Presbyterian church of Ludlow.

Mr. Winter is connected fraternally with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is interested in everything pertaining to the growth and progress of Allamakee county and his labors have been forces in the agricultural development of the township which has been his home for over thirty-five years and where he is held in high regard by reason of his business enterprise, his integrity and his sterling personal worth.

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#### JOSEPH FRANCIS MITCHELL.

Joseph Francis Mitchell is carrying on general farming and stock-raising upon one hundred and eighty acres of excellent land in Hickory Creek valley, a valuable tract which owes its present well improved and productive condition entirely to his many years of careful supervision and competent management. Mr. Mitchell is a native of Iowa, born in Clayton county, on the Military road, near Monona, April 8, 1871. His parents, Jackson and Bridget (Welsh) Mitchell, were born in Green county, Wisconsin, near Monroe, in 1846 and the mother passed away in 1874. The father spent practically all his active life engaged in farming, although for three years during the Civil war he engaged in buying and selling horses, being at that time a mere boy. After the close of hostilities, about the fall of 1865, he came to Iowa and for some years thereafter worked as a farm hand, later becoming a landowner. From the year 1870 until 1906 he continued to improve and develop his excellent farm and secured an enviable place in the ranks of progressive and substantial agriculturists. In the latter year he moved to Monona, where he has since lived practically retired, having sold his farm in 1911. He was three times married, his first wife having been Miss Catharine Stapleton, by whom he had one child. By his second marriage, to the mother of the subject of this review, he was the father of two children, and by his third wife, who was Mrs. Sarah (Flack) McGoon, he had five daughters.

Joseph F. Mitchell acquired his education in district school No. 10, Franklin township. He remained at home until he was nineteen years of age and then married, purchasing soon afterward forty acres of land on section 28, Franklin township, this tract still forming a portion of his present farm. Upon it he resided for eleven years and at the end of that time added to his holdings, removing his residence to its present location. He has now one hundred and eighty acres of valuable land and upon it he carries on general farming and stock-raising, keeping high grades of cattle, horses and hogs. He is preparing to specialize in dairy work and intends to make this an important branch of his business. He

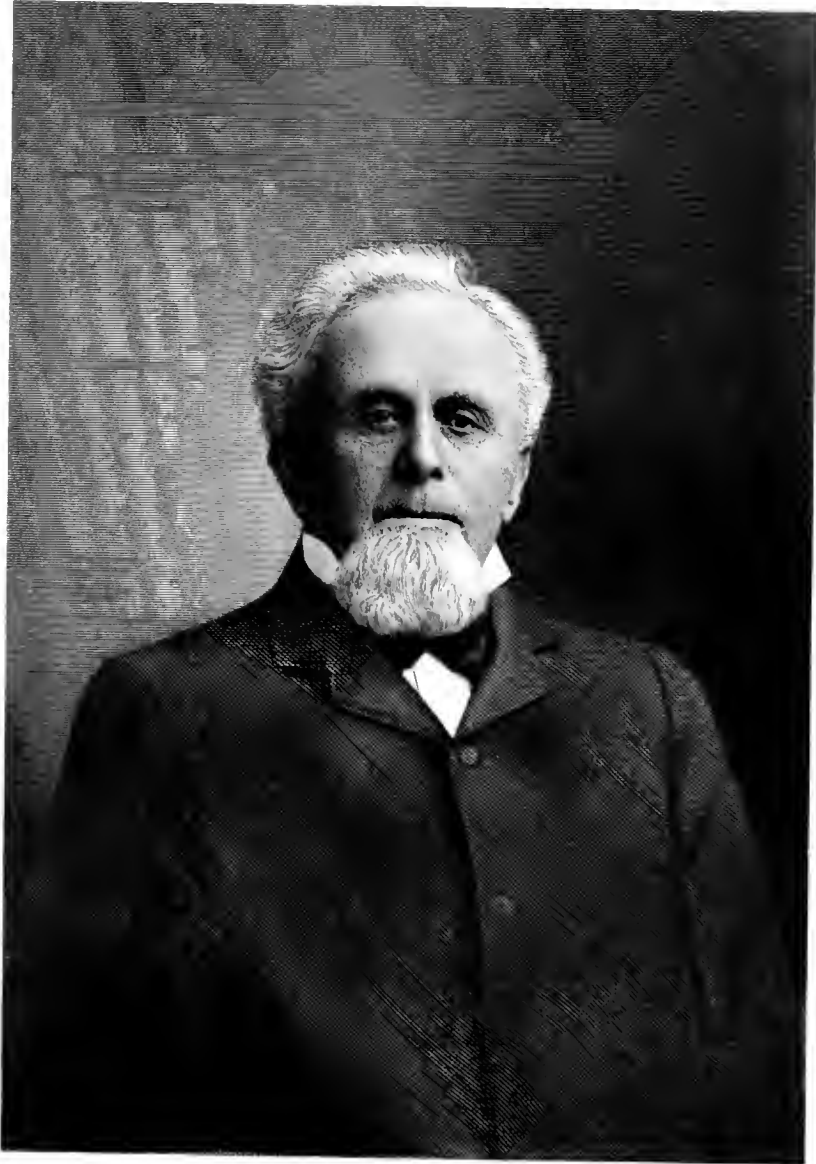
devotes practically his entire time to his farm and has few outside connections, although he is a stockholder in the Monona Union Cooperative Creamery.

On the 31st of August, 1890, Mr. Mitchell was united in marriage to Miss Cleopatra Viola Baughman, who was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, November 12, 1869. She is a daughter of John and Susan (Heddington) Baughman, the former born in Boone county, Kentucky, January 5, 1818, and the latter in Ohio, February 21, 1832. Both have passed away, the father dying March 4, 1901, on the anniversary of his wedding, and the mother May 10, 1889. John Baughman as a young man acted as overseer on a large plantation in Kentucky and he afterward went to Ohio, where he turned his attention to farming. He there married his first wife, who afterward died in that state, leaving one child, Electa, who passed away in Nebraska. The father afterward came to Iowa, locating in Winneshek county in 1869. He here became an extensive landowner and continued a resident of the state until his death. To his second union, which united him with Mrs. Mitchell's mother, he had six children, of whom the wife of the subject of this review is the second youngest. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell became the parents of seven children: Ray Aretus, who was born May 29, 1892; Perry Montus, born November 2, 1894; Cloa Elva, born September 14, 1896; David Patterson, born June 19, 1899; Frances Pearl, who was born September 20, 1900, and who died February 25, 1901; Lillian May, born February 15, 1902; and Dennis Jackson, born April 28, 1905. Mr. Mitchell is one of the most prosperous and substantial farmers in Allamakee county and his success is the more creditable to him since he depended on no outside aid or influence in its attainment but achieved prosperity through his well directed and practical labors. He gives great credit to his wife for his achievements and concedes that much of his success is due to her able collaboration, her sound advice and good judgment.

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#### G. KERNDT & BROTHERS.

One of the most familiar names in Allamakee county is that of Kerndt, honored and respected, as generation has followed generation, to the present day, for what members of the family have done in advancing the interests of the section in various ways. We first present a chronological record of these distinguished pioneers and their descendants, who played so great a part in the history of this county for sixty years and builded a reputation which is more lasting than tomes in stone and marble. Their history reveals an interesting bit of the early life and early settlers in the middle west. It gives a vivid picture of the trials and hardships of the early pioneer and to what tasks and occupations one had to turn in order to gain a living and a foothold in a new country yet unsettled. The story increases the respect one has for the early settlers who developed civilization out of a wilderness and made possible the prosperous conditions the present generation enjoys. Our particular story tells how a family courageously set out from hearth and home in order to find new opportunities and improve them, and furnishes a worthy example of inspiration to the young men of today, being a spring of hope to everyone who



Moritz Kerndt.

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.



labors under difficult conditions and an incitement to again take up the burden of the daily tasks, no matter how discouraging.

The first ancestor to be here recorded is Johann August Kerndt. He was born in 1801, in the province of Silesia, Germany, married in 1822, and of this marriage were born five sons and three daughters. Herman was born in 1823, married in Germany in 1846, his wife passing away in 1901, leaving five children. Herman Kerndt died on his farm in 1911. Gustav, the second in order of birth, was born in 1825. He emigrated to America in 1849 and died on January 5, 1873. He held the office of supervisor for ten years, was elected, in 1865, president of the First National Bank of Lansing and held the office until his death. William Kerndt was born in 1826 and married in Germany in 1852. His wife arrived in Lansing in 1866 with three children. They are two daughters, who are married, and one son, G. W. Kerndt, the present vice president of the State Bank of Lansing. William Kerndt died in 1898 and his wife followed him to the better land in 1905. Moritz Kerndt was born in 1830, married in 1863 Mary Nimsger, who was born in Alsace-Lorraine, at the time of her birth a province of France but now a part of Germany. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom three died, four sons and four daughters growing to maturity. Moritz Kerndt was a member of the city council of Lansing for eleven years and in 1873 was elected president of the State Bank, holding the office until 1893, when he retired, remaining a director. Of his sons, Charles married, in 1891, Frieda Grulich, of Milwaukee. The oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Moritz Kerndt was married in 1901 to M. F. Healy, of Fort Dodge, this state, and the second was married in 1895 to H. F. Grau, of Milwaukee. Moritz Kerndt, Jr., was in 1908 married to Miss Mary Martin, of Oskaloosa, Iowa. The next son of Johann August Kerndt was Julius, born in 1834, who married Margaret (Gretchen) Gruber in 1857. He died in 1871 and his wife in 1872. They had five sons, four of whom, after they had grown to manhood, engaged in business in Kansas. Theodore, the youngest, is at present a partner in the firm of Nielander & Company. Clara Kerndt was born in 1838 and in 1858 married Jacob Haas. She died in 1877, leaving one son and one daughter, the latter marrying Jacob Keffler, both settling in Sturgis, South Dakota. Jacob Haas died in 1882. He was engaged in the brewing business with Julius Kerndt as his partner. The oldest daughter of Johann August Kerndt was married to John Rieth, in Dubuque, in 1855, and the second in 1856 to Eduard Boeckh. Mrs. Rieth died in 1873, leaving six children, and Mrs. Boeckh in 1910, leaving the same number of descendants. Eduard Boeckh died in 1910. Mr. Rieth and Mr. Boeckh were partners in the foundry business and both built a large brick factory in 1868 in Lansing, Iowa.

Jacob Haas, engaged in the brewing business, removed to the "old building" in 1869 and subsequently erected a large new brick brewery building at a cost of fourteen thousand dollars, the whole cost of the plant, including malt house, ice house, power house, underground vaults and residence, being about forty thousand dollars. In 1886, when the prohibition law was enforced, the brewery was closed and it stood idle until 1903, when the whole property was sold for one thousand dollars, so that his two children received but one thousand dollars from the father's estate—an example of how a law generally beneficial worked a great hardship upon one who legitimately followed an honest calling.

In 1820, when nineteen years of age, the father, Johann August Kerndt, inherited a small tannery in Germany which he operated for a few years, at the end of which time he branched out into contracting and building. This venture, however, by a peculiar accident, proved most lamentable for the family. A small village in the fatherland, including church and schoolhouse, had burned to the ground when he made a contract to rebuild, and all went well until the work was nearly finished, when, on a dark night, coming home on horseback, his pony stumbled and he fell. They brought him to his home and for five days he lay unconscious, passing away without recognizing a member of the family after the accident happened. As the work was then not finished and had to be completed by others, his death also resulted in the loss of his fortune to the family, it taking seven years for two guardians, who were appointed, to settle the estate, and after the intricate law problems were worked out there was left not much beside the little tannery which was given him by his father. Johann August Kerndt was a broad-minded man, a man far above ordinary intelligence in his time and a man with a wonderful memory—not one who had gained his knowledge in books but a man of the world who had learned in the university of life and was gifted with mother wit and natural abilities. To gain a living for the large family the mother carried on the tannery in order to educate her children, who attended school to the age of fourteen, when they were turned out to make their way in the world. Herman embarked in the same business as his father—that of building. Gustav apprenticed himself to learn the grocery business and had to stay for six years under contract. William learned the tanner's trade and so did Moritz. Julius, who had an advantage in regard to educational opportunities, became an architect. The two oldest daughters also had to work out in order to be self-supporting and contribute to the family exchequer.

In 1849, when twenty-four years of age, Gustav Kerndt decided to emigrate to America to test out the stories which he had heard of the advantageous conditions prevailing in this country and to gain, if such were within the reach of possibility, a position of substance. He had not enough money to engage in business in the fatherland and saw no road ahead of him which would lead to independence. Therefore taking a step in an unknown and uncertain future, he came to Schenectady, New York, where he soon found work in a broom factory, being so engaged for two years. He then learned to make cigars and afterward kept a little cigar stand. Industriouslly applying himself to the task in hand and thriftily laying dollar upon dollar, he became encouraged with the outlook and in 1852 wrote to the family in Germany that it would be well for them to emigrate. In the spring of 1853 he became more insistent and advised them to sell out as quickly as possible and that Moritz should come at once to find a place where the family could settle. Encouraged by these reports, Moritz started out immediately and landed in New York in October, 1853, staying there until early in spring, when he left for the west, going by railroad to Cincinnati and thence by the steamer Franklin on the Ohio river to Cairo and St. Louis, where he made a sojourn of a couple of days. He then went to Fort Madison and, in order to become acquainted with land conditions, there hired out to an American farmer for six dollars a month or about twenty cents a day, this munificent remuneration giving an idea how hard it was in those times to lay a

foundation for independence. The farmers at that early time could really afford to pay no more for help, as eggs in those days were sold at the rate of three cents a dozen and dressed pork at the price of one and one-half cents a pound. For two and a half months he so worked, benefiting by learning the English language, which he was forced to speak, as there was no one near him who could speak his mother tongue. This experience he always considered one of the best parts of his American education, as it helped him not only to learn the native tongue but also to become acquainted with American methods of agriculture. While near Fort Madison he heard of Dubuque and that railroad construction was going on there, a road being built from Chicago. When he came there the railroad had been built about twenty-five miles east of the river and Dubuque was but a small place. The outlook seemed discouraging, as work was not easily to be had and money was scarce even for those days. Moritz Kerndt, however, made up his mind to succeed at whatever cost and after a week of assiduous hunting for work he found a place of employment at Harmony Hall, the remuneration being thirteen dollars per month. He then wrote to Gustav, who was still in New York, that they all should come from Germany. They had sold out their little interests in the meantime and in July, 1854, the family arrived by sailing vessel, after a long, tedious, even perilous journey of six weeks, in New York. Gustav had also sold out his cigar stand and the family arrived in Dubuque in August by the old Walker stage coaches, the emigrant company consisting of about thirty people. The family included the mother, Herman with his father and mother-in-law and five children, Gustav, William, Julius and the three daughters. The party also included the Ruprecht family and the Ritter family. Herman Kerndt and Mr. Ruprecht began at once to look for a suitable farm property on which to settle and in search of the new home they came to Allamakee county, where Herman bought land at Lycurgus. Mr. Ruprecht also stayed at a farm near there but subsequently moved to Lansing, where he entered in the hotel business. Herman came to Dubuque after his family had settled there in September, 1854, and Gustav then rented a store building, where he and his brother William made cigars. Moritz stayed on his place until 1856, and Julius, in the spring of that year, also went to Lansing to build a store and broom shop. This was finished by October and the whole family then settled in Lansing in 1856, Messrs. Rieth and Boeckh, the two sons-in-law, coming from Dubuque in 1857. Gustav and William manufactured cigars and made brooms, the material for which came from Herman's farm, and Moritz attended to the selling end of the business by conducting the store. To begin with Moritz had a very small stock which some friends in Dubuque had let him have and, though all worked hard, the returns were but small. The winter from 1856 to 1857 was severe in the extreme, with much snow, many deer being destroyed by the extreme weather and many starving to death. In 1857 the farmers, on account of the severe weather, had little to sell and even for what there was no price could be obtained, oats and corn selling for ten and twelve cents a bushel and wheat at the price of thirty-five cents. In 1858 the neighborhood became settled more quickly and there was plenty of grain, prices rose and the goods in the store could be moved. However, the broom business was not a financial success and money was yet scarce, so that often the Kerndts turned back in thought to their little

comfortable home in the fatherland and discouragement well nigh overtook them. Another incident which added to the sorrows of the family was the death of the beloved mother, who died in November, 1856, when they came to Lansing. In the fall of 1858 a gentleman from Galena, William Ryan, came into the store and inquired after business conditions. Moritz told him that goods could be sold then if he had them, but that they as yet had not the means to acquire a large stock. Mr. Ryan, being convinced of the honesty of purpose of these sturdy sons from the German soil, said: "I will give you the goods;" and sold a big bill of various merchandise on long credit. This was the beginning of the firm of G. Kerndt & Brothers, the personnel of the concern consisting of Gustav, William and Moritz. In 1859 they bought a lot on the levee and built a warehouse, branching out into the grain business, and in 1861 they built a substantial brick store, twenty-five by eighty, three stories in height, quite an improvement over the little broom stand where Moritz had at first attended to an occasional customer. In 1866 an addition was built covering the same amount of space as the original store and making in all a building fifty by eighty feet. In 1868 they removed the frame warehouse where grain was stored and constructed a brick elevator. Already in 1862 they had added to their line of groceries dry goods and crockery, and after 1865 the Kerndt brothers conducted a regular department store, as good as could be found in the county. During war times business was good and farmers came to Lansing with grain twenty or even thirty miles away. Although there were fourteen warehouses, farmers had often to wait in line to unload. As the years went by the business grew in volume, in financial stability and in the variety of goods carried, having become one of the foremost enterprises of its kind in this part of the county. In 1885 William Kerndt was enabled to retire from the firm and gave his interest to his son, G. W. The firm was incorporated with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars, the stock being divided between Moritz, his sons and G. W. In 1900 G. W. Kerndt sold out and the business was then carried on under the name of G. Kerndt & Brothers by Gustav, William and Moritz, Jr., sons of Moritz, the same names under which it was started in 1856. In 1908 the Kerndt Brothers Savings Bank was founded by M. Kerndt and his four sons with a capital of thirty thousand dollars, its officers being: Gustav Kerndt, president; Charles Kerndt, cashier; Moritz, Jr., vice president; and Moritz Kerndt, Sr., and William M. Kerndt, directors. The bank has wonderfully prospered ever since its foundation and as the name of Kerndt has had for sixty years the highest reputation in the county, is well entitled to the confidence it is given by its patrons. All members of the family connected with the bank are capable, earnest and conscientious, ever observant of the smallest detail that might contribute to the prestige of the institution, careful in the investments of the resources of the bank and ever ready to extend credit to a worthy applicant.

As indicated in the first part of this sketch, many members of the Kerndt family have taken active part in the public life of the county and this section and have ever been conspicuous for their public spirit and their liberality in contributing to a public cause. That tenacious, fighting spirit peculiar to the German race has stood them in good stead and brought them to the fore among the most influential citizens of the county. What they have achieved personally

is worthy of the highest commendation and worthy of their efforts, yet their real importance lies in the pioneer work they have done and the role they have played in advancing the interests of Allamakee county, having been not only witnesses of the wonderful transformation that has occurred here but helpful and cooperant factors in the general advancement along material, moral and intellectual lines.

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#### FRANK E. TEEPLE.

The Spring Valley Stock Farm, a fine property of two hundred and seventeen acres lying on section 11, Ludlow township, is the property of Frank E. Teeple, one of the most prominent farmers and stock-raisers and most progressive citizens of Allamakee county. He is a native of Iowa, born in Winneshiek county, October 8, 1854, and is a son of George Teeple, a native of New York, who in his childhood went to Canada with his parents, where he remained until he was twenty years of age. The father came to the states when a young man and spent some time in Michigan and Illinois, arriving in Iowa in September, 1852. He located in Glenwood township, Winneshiek county, and there purchased land and opened up a farm, afterward buying and disposing of several agricultural properties in that vicinity. In 1864 he moved to Allamakee county and bought the Spring Valley Stock Farm which he improved and developed with the other lands he held until his death, which occurred in 1877. He had married in Winneshiek county on the 22d of October, 1853, Miss Annette Penfield, who was born in Pennsylvania, where she was reared and educated. She later came to Iowa and was the first teacher in Glenwood township, Winneshiek county. She passed away in 1875, two years before the death of her husband.

Frank E. Teeple is the oldest in a family of five sons. He was ten years of age when he came with his parents to Allamakee county and the greater part of his life has been spent on the Spring Valley Stock Farm. He assisted his father with its operation until the latter's death and then purchased the interests of the other heirs and succeeded to the management of the homestead, whereon he has continued to reside to the present time. There is an excellent residence upon the property, fine barns and outbuildings and labor-saving machinery, while three good springs furnish an abundance of water for stock and domestic purposes. Mr. Teeple is a stock-raiser on an extensive scale, keeping high-grade milch cows for dairy purposes, one hundred head of Durham cattle, Poland China hogs and Norman and Belgian horses. In addition to this farm he owns another fine property of one hundred and sixty acres in Franklin township, this being a well improved and well managed stock farm. He was one of the promoters of the Ludlow Cooperative Creamery and has served as a director, vice president and president of this association, to which he sold more cream than any other member. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Hog & Produce Company, of which he has been auditor for several years, and in business circles his resourcefulness, energy and ability are recognized and respected.

In Ludlow, on the 29th of April, 1879, Mr. Teeple was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda Fuller, who was born, reared and educated in Winneshiek county

and who previous to her marriage taught in the public schools. She passed away November 17, 1901, leaving four daughters: Angie, who is her father's housekeeper; Cora, the wife of J. E. McCabe, a prominent farmer of Jefferson township; Ida, who married J. E. Wittenberger, station agent at East Dubuque for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad; and Bessie, a graduate of Fayette College. Mr. Teeple's four daughters are all well educated and cultured women, having completed full college courses. They and their father are devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which Mrs. Teeple also belonged. Fraternally Mr. Teeple is connected with the Masonic lodge and chapter. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has held various important positions of public trust and honor. He is one of the well known and substantial farmers and stock-raisers of Allamakee county and is besides a public-spirited and progressive citizen, cooperating heartily in all movements for the growth, advancement and development of the section in which he has so long resided.

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#### SETH N. STAFFORD.

Seth N. Stafford has been a resident of Allamakee county since pioneer times and is today accounted one of the successful agriculturists of Franklin township. He owns three hundred and forty-six acres of valuable land on section 23 and success has rewarded his well directed efforts in its cultivation, so that it is now a valuable and productive property. Mr. Stafford was born in Virginia, on the Monongahela river, near Morgantown, on the 1st of June, 1848, and is a son of James Harrison and Christina (Trisler) Stafford, also of the same state and locality. In early life the father was a boatbuilder and a river man in the Old Dominion, but in 1852 came to Iowa, making the journey by boat up the Mississippi river and thence overland to Allamakee county. He located next in Linton township and entered government land, which he cleared of timber and continued to operate for a few years. Eventually he bought a saw and grist mill at Smithfield and was active in its conduct for some time, although he still gave a great deal of attention to the development of his farm. About the year 1859 he sold his mill and went to Pikes Peak in Colorado, where he remained until the spring of 1860. He then returned to Iowa but in the following year went again to Colorado, this time taking his son, Seth N., with him. They returned to Allamakee county on the 10th of June, 1862, and soon afterward the father bought a carding mill, which was located on what is now a portion of his son's homestead. This he operated for two or three years thereafter but at the end of that time left this neighborhood, his death occurring some time afterward. His wife died in 1887.

In the acquirement of an education Seth N. Stafford attended public school in Smithfield and has spent practically his entire life in Allamakee county with the exception of the one year which he passed with his father in Colorado. At the age of nineteen he assumed charge of the homestead and continued to develop it for a number of years, residing thereon until his marriage. During this time and for a long period thereafter he also operated a threshing outfit and made this

a profitable source of income to him. When he left the homestead he purchased eight acres of land in Franklin township and this still forms a portion of his present farm. To it he added from time to time until he acquired a tract of over four hundred acres, one of the finest farms in this vicinity. Eighty acres of this has been given to his son and eighty acres he has sold, his holdings now comprising three hundred and forty-six acres. This he operates with the aid of his sons, carrying on general farming and also engaging extensively in stock-raising, keeping at times as many as one hundred head of cattle. Success has rewarded his well directed efforts and his farm is today a valuable property, evidencing everywhere his constant and careful supervision.

Mr. Stafford has been twice married. He wedded on the 25th of February, 1873, Miss Mary White, who was born in Franklin township in 1850, a daughter of John and Mary Ann White, natives of Ireland. They came as very early settlers to Allamakee county and the father became an extensive landowner, engaging the remainder of his life in farming. Mrs. Stafford passed away in 1876, leaving two children: Edna May, the wife of Peter Hefner, a farmer in Linton township; and David E., who is residing on the home farm. On the 1st of January, 1879, Mr. Stafford was again married, his second wife being Miss Betty C. Entwisle, born in this township in 1858, a daughter of William and Martha (Hancock) Entwisle, the former a native of England and the latter of Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Stafford have been the parents of seven children: Ethel, the wife of Roy Palmer, of this township; Roy, a resident of Waukon; Jessie, the wife of Clarence Henderson, engaged in farming in Franklin township; Bert, who resides with his father and who married Miss Henderson; Catherine, who died in childhood; Ollie, the wife of William Nebaugh, who resides near Monona, Clayton county; and Ernest Hampton, who makes his home with his parents.

Mr. Stafford is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery and the Farmers Shipping Association. He gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and he is progressive and public-spirited in matters of citizenship without being active as an office seeker. His long residence in this township has made him widely and favorably known throughout the community.

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#### G. B. OLSON.

G. B. Olson, who devotes his attention to general agricultural pursuits, is the owner of a well improved tract of land comprising one hundred and sixty acres on section 35, Center township. It was on this farm that his birth occurred, his natal day being July 2, 1867. His father, Peter S. Olson, was born at Gol, Hallingdal, Norway, and when a lad of ten years accompanied his parents on their emigration to the United States, the family home being established in Minnesota, where he grew to manhood. In the early '50s he came to Allamakee county, Iowa, and was here married to Miss Betsey Larson, a sister of L. O. Larson, of Taylor township. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land, erected thereon a log house and here made his home for many years. Subsequently he removed to Mower county, Minnesota, and six years later went to

Nebraska, where he preempted a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. Keeping this tract, he later homesteaded another one hundred and sixty acres near Alliance, Nebraska, and there spent the remainder of his life. Unto him and his wife were born fourteen children, as follows: Mary Ann, who is the wife of August Jahnke and resides in Canada; Oscar, who is deceased; Oliver, living in Nebraska; Josephine Matilda, who is the widow of John Peterson and resides in Fargo, North Dakota; G. B., of this review; Ida, the wife of Peter Rensvald, of Alliance, Nebraska; Louis, who when last heard from was in Alaska; Elizabeth, the wife of Albert Rensvald, of Alliance, Nebraska; Emma, who died in childhood; Rosa, living in Salt Lake City; Addie, who is the wife of John J. Zwingle and resides in Canada; Sophia, the wife of Henry Rabbit, of Alliance, Nebraska; Stanley Washington, who was killed by a horse in Wyoming when twenty-eight years of age; and Isabel, who passed away at the age of eighteen years.

G. B. Olson spent the first eleven years of his life on the home farm in Center township, this county, and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Minnesota, while later the family home was established in Nebraska. Twenty years ago he returned to the old homestead in Center township, this county, purchasing the property from his father. The place comprises one hundred and sixty acres and he has made all of the improvements thereon, erecting a substantial frame residence and barns. Success has attended his efforts as an agriculturist, the well tilled fields annually yielding bounteous harvests in return for the care and labor which he bestows upon them. He and his son, William, each have a cream route, hauling cream to the Waterville and Calhoun creameries respectively.

At Alliance, Nebraska, Mr. Olson was united in marriage to Miss Inger Kaasa, a native of Winneshiek county, Iowa, and a daughter of Tosten Kaasa, who was an early settler of that county. They have seven children, namely: William, at home; Tilda, who is the wife of Walter Huff; and Gunda, Jhalmer, Inga, Evelyn and Clara, all of whom are still under the parental roof. The family belong to the Synod church. In politics Mr. Olson is a democrat, stanchly supporting the men and measures of that party. He is widely and favorably known throughout the community and enjoys an enviable reputation as one of the substantial agriculturists and respected citizens of his native county.

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#### JOHN FREDERICK MILLER.

John Frederick Miller is one of the most extensive landowners in Franklin township, his holdings comprising several fine farms, all in a high state of cultivation. Upon his home property of one hundred and twenty acres he carries on general farming and stock-raising and, being influenced at all times by a spirit of enterprise and initiative, has achieved a gratifying measure of success. He has lived in this part of Iowa since he was six years of age, but was born at Frankville, Winneshiek county, February 15, 1858, a son of John Casper and Catherine Barbara (Merkel) Miller, natives of Baden, Germany, the former born January 2, 1821, and the latter November 29, 1836. The father acquired his education in the public schools of Germany and at the age of fourteen began





MR. AND MRS. JOHN E. MILLER



learning the blacksmith's trade, at which he worked for some time in Switzerland and other European countries. He crossed the Atlantic in early life and settled first in New York, later in Pittsburg and then in Dubuque, whence he went to Frankville, Winneshiek county, Iowa, about 1851. He set up a blacksmith shop in Frankville and followed his trade there until 1864, when he came to Franklin township, Allamakee county, buying forty acres of land on section 19 and turning his attention to general farming. Upon this property he built a log house and brush-thatched sheds, his stock at this time consisting of one horse. The breaking of the soil was done by hired men with ox teams and after it was accomplished Mr. Miller turned his attention to the further development of his land, continuing to reside upon it until his death, which occurred on the 2d of May, 1874. His wife survived him some time, dying April 19, 1909. To their union were born four children, of whom the subject of this review is the eldest.

John F. Miller acquired his education in district school No. 7, Franklin township. When his father died he assumed the entire management of the homestead, transacting all the business connected with its operation and proving himself a practical and able agriculturist. About 1886 he purchased a farm adjoining the homestead. In 1898 he bought the farm upon which he now lives and in 1909, after his mother's death, purchased the homestead, where he was reared. He has improved his farm with a fine modern residence and substantial barns and outbuildings, installing also labor-saving machinery. In addition to the cultivation of the fields he is also extensively interested in stock-raising, breeding pedigree stock and dealing in pure-bred shorthorn cattle. He now owns altogether four hundred and forty acres of farming land in Franklin township, operating one hundred and twenty in his home farm and supervising the management of about half the remainder. The other half is rented to responsible tenants and brings him a gratifying annual income. Mr. Miller is a director and vice president of the Luana Savings Bank, president of the Luana Shipping Cooperative Society and a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery of Luana, and his ability is widely recognized in business circles.

On the 13th of December, 1888, Mr. Miller was united in marriage to Miss Nettie Sawyer, who was born in this township March 7, 1866, a daughter of Cuyler and Elizabeth (Wartenbe) Sawyer, natives of Ohio, the former born in 1822 and the latter at Defiance in 1832. They emigrated to Wisconsin and settled near Janesville, whence they came after one year to Iowa, locating in Monona township, near Hardin, in Clayton county, in 1852. They soon afterward moved to Franklin township, Allamakee county, where the father became an extensive landowner and prominent in public affairs, serving as township trustee and school director for several years. He died upon his farm on the 4th of November, 1883, and was survived by his wife until April 2, 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Miller became the parents of six children. Winnie May, who was born December 17, 1889, is a graduate of the Highland Park College at Des Moines and is now a stenographer in Kellogg, Iowa. Frank Leslie, whose birth occurred on the 7th of May, 1891, is operating a portion of his father's property. Florence Annetta, born January 5, 1895, is attending high school at Postville. Earl Frederick, who was born August 8, 1897, is also attending the high school at Postville. Ross Caspar, born December 19, 1900, and Harva Oscar, born December 18, 1903, are both pupils in the school at Hardin.

Mr. Miller is a devout member of the United Brethren church and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. He is public-spirited and progressive in matters of citizenship and has held various responsible public positions, serving from 1879 to 1913 as school director. He has been also township trustee and township assessor and his public service has been at all times capable, loyal and disinterested. He has made substantial and important contributions to the agricultural development of this part of the county and during the long period of his residence here has commanded and held the confidence and high regard of all his associates.

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### JONATHAN JENKINS.

A history of the pioneer settlement of Allamakee county contains the record of no more worthy, upright and honorable man than Jonathan Jenkins, who came to this part of Iowa in 1852 and who has since that time borne an active and useful part in its upbuilding and development. Through his untiring energy, industry and well directed activity he has evolved from an unimproved tract the valuable farm in Ludlow township which is his today and has achieved a success which places him among the men of weight and influence in the township where he makes his home.

Mr. Jenkins was born in Ireland and he grew to manhood in his native country, acquiring a public-school education. As a young man he crossed the Atlantic to America and soon after his arrival settled in Iowa, working at any occupation which would bring him an income. He soon afterward purchased land in Ludlow township, Allamakee county, and began clearing the timber, making his home in a wagon under an oak tree while doing this work. With the logs which he cut down he erected a little cabin and here he resided for many years thereafter, steadily and with characteristic energy carrying forward the work of clearing, improving and developing his land. He erected fences around his fields and in the course of time built a substantial residence, a commodious barn and the necessary outbuildings, developing from an uncultivated tract a modern and productive farm. The years brought him not only success but the esteem, confidence and high regard of his neighbors and he is today one of the prosperous and substantial men of Ludlow township. He owns one hundred and sixty acres in the home place and two tracts of pasture land adjoining, one comprising eighty acres and the other two hundred. He carries on general farming and also engages in dairying and stock-raising, feeding hogs and cattle and keeping also high-grade milch cows and a number of horses. He was one of the promoters of the Ludlow Cooperative Creamery Association, in which he is now a stockholder, and his ability is widely recognized in business circles.

Mr. Jenkins married Miss Catherine Evans, a native of Pennsylvania, who came in her childhood to Allamakee county. She was born December 31, 1836, and passed away December 11, 1908, within a few days of her seventy-second birthday, which would also have been her fiftieth wedding anniversary. Their marriage occurred in Waukon, when that thriving city was only a crossroad village. Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins became the parents of seven children now living.

Joseph W. and John W. are aiding in the operation of the home farm. John W. is married and has three children, Catherine, John C. and Herbert M. The other children born to Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins are as follows: Sarah, who married W. A. Wamsley, of Dexter, Kansas; Ellen, the wife of I. M. Peterson, of McIntire, Iowa; Martha, who married R. H. Waters, of Frankville, Iowa; Eliza, the wife of L. L. Miller, of Ludlow township; and Mary, who is her father's housekeeper. Miss Mary Jenkins was educated in the schools of Waukon, Decorah and Fayette and engaged in teaching in Allamakee county for ten years. She and her brother John are members of the Waukon Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Jenkins is also a regular attendant and member, guiding his honorable and upright life by the principles in which he believes. A resident of Allamakee county for over sixty years, he has witnessed a great deal of the development of this section of Iowa, his own labors proving valuable forces in promoting growth. He is widely and favorably known in Ludlow township and holds a high place in business and farming circles as well as in the ranks of Iowa's honored and successful pioneer citizens.

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#### ADAM HERMAN.

For almost a half century Adam Herman has been a resident of Allamakee county, and he is today numbered among the most prosperous and successful farmers and stock-raisers of this section of the state, owning a well improved tract of two hundred acres, located on section 21, Makee township. He was born near Centerville, Wisconsin, December 18, 1861, a son of George and Caroline (Lukee) Herman, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father came to the new world as a young man, first locating in Wisconsin. He was married in that state, and subsequently located in Allamakee county, the year of his arrival here being 1865. He purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Union Prairie township, only twenty of which were cleared. He eventually cleared the entire tract, erected buildings and made it a valuable place. He continued to make his home on the farm until the time of his death, which occurred in 1895. He had survived his wife for many years, her death having occurred in 1873.

Adam Herman was a little lad of three years when the family removed from Wisconsin to Allamakee county. He was reared to farm labor, assisting in the work of the fields during the spring and summer seasons, while in the winter months he pursued his education in the district school. He remained with his father until the time of his marriage in 1891, after which he located on leased land. He then purchased a tract of raw land in Union Prairie township. He broke the sod and prepared the fields for cultivation, fenced the land and erected buildings, making his home thereon for a long period. In 1904 he disposed of that tract and purchased his present farm of two hundred acres located on section 21, Makee township. Since coming into possession of this place he has made many improvements, has built a modern home, and outbuildings for the shelter of his grain and stock, and in addition to farming and dairying he raises good grades of stock, making a specialty of Holstein cattle and Berkshire hogs. He

is likewise a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company at Waukon, and is one of the board of directors of the company.

As above stated, Mr. Herman was married in 1891, the lady of his choice being Miss Eliza Svebakken who was born in Paint Creek township, of Norwegian parentage. Of this marriage four sons and three daughters survive. The sons are Roland O., Clarence G., John L., and Harold J., while the daughters are Luella, Stella G. and Esther E. Benjamin and Ruth M. died in infancy. Mrs. Herman has also passed away, her death occurring March 26, 1913.

Mr. Herman gives his political support to the republican party but he has never held political office. He has, however, served as school director. In religious faith he is a Presbyterian, belonging to the church in Waukon. Owing to his long residence in Allamakee county, Mr. Herman is thoroughly familiar with the progress and development that has here been made, and has himself done much to advance the best interests of this section of the state.

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#### EDWARD HAMANN.

Edward Hamann owns and operates a fine farm of eighty acres on section 34, Franklin township, constituting the homestead upon which he was born, July 2, 1885. He is a son of Christof and Louisa (Haas) Hamann, natives of Germany, born in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, the former July 18, 1843, and the latter December 17, 1851. The father worked at farming in the employ of others in his native country and in 1871 crossed the Atlantic to America, locating at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, where he remained for one year. At the end of that time he came to Iowa, settling in McGregor, and after six years he removed to Monona, renting a farm in the vicinity of that city. Upon the expiration of ten years he purchased land on section 34, Franklin township, an entirely unimproved tract, which he had to clear of a heavy growth of timber before beginning the work of cultivation. This work, however, he carried forward with characteristic energy and determination, improving the farm with modern and substantial buildings and installing the necessary equipment. Here he remained an active and able agriculturist until he retired from active life, removing to Monona, where he and his wife now reside. They are the parents of four children: John, who is engaged in carpentering; Charles, a mason by occupation; Christof, a resident of Mason City, Iowa; and Edward, of this review.

The last named was reared at home and from an early age assisted his father with the operation of the homestead, learning the best agricultural methods and becoming a progressive and able farmer. He continued to help with the work of the home property until 1913, when he purchased a farm whereon he has since carried forward the work of development along progressive and modern lines. He keeps everything about the place in excellent condition and its neat and attractive appearance reflects everywhere his careful supervision and careful management. His parents frequently drive from Monona and spend the night upon the old homestead, assisting Mr. Hamann, who is unmarried, with the household duties. This assistance, although appreciated, is not very badly needed, for Mr. Hamann has proved very capable in the management

of his home, being able to bake a loaf of bread and provide a meal worthy of comparison with those of a most competent housewife.

Mr. Hamann is a stockholder in the Luana creamery and the Luana Shipping Association, and is recognized as a resourceful, progressive and able business man. He gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and is a member of the Lutheran church. Although still a young man, he has attained a gratifying measure of success and his record is a credit to a name that has long been an honored one in this locality.

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#### ASAHEL P. ARNOLD.

A fine farm of one hundred and thirteen acres on section 24, Ludlow township, is the home of Asahel P. Arnold and wife, which has rewarded their industry and thrift by constantly increasing productiveness and value. Mr. Arnold was born in Lake county, near Cleveland, Ohio, June 22, 1846, and is a son of Jonathan J. Arnold, a native of Connecticut, who as a young man went to Ohio, where he later married Miss Cordelia Crosby, who was born in New York state. The father was a farmer and shop keeper in Ohio but after he moved to Illinois purchased land and turned his attention to farming. He afterward came to Iowa and after spending a few years in Mitchell county moved in 1872 to Allamakee county, where he made his home until he retired from active life. He then returned to Mitchell county, where his death occurred.

Asahel P. Arnold was ten years of age when he came to Iowa with his parents and in the public schools of Mitchell county he acquired his education. After he grew to manhood he turned his attention to farming, operating two different properties with constantly increasing success. In 1872 he moved to Allamakee county and after renting for a time purchased the farm on section 24, Ludlow township, upon which he has since resided. He made this property what it is today, for it was entirely unimproved when it came into his possession and he cleared it of timber and broke the soil before beginning the work of development. This he has steadily carried forward since that time and the property is today one of the finest in this section of the state. He has added to his holdings from time to time and he and Mrs. Arnold now own one hundred and thirteen acres of valuable and productive land. Upon it he first erected a small house and barn, which was later replaced by a commodious and substantial residence and a large basement barn. He has made other substantial improvements in buildings and equipment and the entire property reflects everywhere his many years of careful supervision. Mr. Arnold engages in general farming and stock-raising and is especially interested in breeding high-grade cattle and Norman horses. Since he was a young man he has been engaged in the contracting and building business in Allamakee, Winneshiek, Howard and Clayton counties, confining his attention to the construction of bridges. He has developed a large and important patronage along this line and has accomplished a great deal of important work. He was one of the promoters of the Ludlow Creamery.

Mr. Arnold married, in Mitchell county, April 15, 1864, Miss Eliza Teeple, who was born in Canada and reared in Iowa. They became the parents of ten children, seven of whom survive: W. S., who is engaged in farming and dairying

in Jefferson township; John, a farmer and stock buyer of Waukon; Ellis Grant, who is following agricultural pursuits in North Alberta, Canada; Ida, who became the wife of H. G. Miller, of Jefferson township; Ella, the wife of Mills Fuller, residing near Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Grace, who married John West, of Waukon; and Ruth, at home.

Politically Mr. Arnold gives his allegiance to the republican party. He is a Master Mason, holding membership in the Waukon blue lodge, and is a member of the Presbyterian church. He is well known in Allamakee county, where his upright and honorable life has commanded for him the respect, esteem and confidence of his neighbors and friends.

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### JEREMIAH LEAS.

Allamakee county numbers among its representative and successful pioneer citizens Jeremiah Leas, of Rossville, who came to this part of Iowa in 1856 and who was for forty-six years thereafter one of the greatest individual forces in the agricultural development of Linton township, where he made his home. The years have brought him success, prominence and a substantial fortune, upon which he has been able to retire from active life, his period of leisure rewarding earnest and untiring labor in the past.

Mr. Leas was born in Harrison county, Ohio, on the 23d of January, 1830, and he grew to manhood in that vicinity, acquiring his education in the common schools and becoming, before he was of age, a practical and progressive agriculturist. He had very limited educational advantages but has supplied his early deficiencies along this line by study and reading, since coming to mature years, and is now a well informed and well educated man. In his early manhood Mr. Leas operated his father's farm in Ohio for several years but in 1856 came to Iowa, locating in Allamakee county in pioneer times. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Linton township and partially cleared it of timber, adding to his holdings from time to time until he owned at length four hundred acres. He cleared over two hundred of these of a dense growth of trees and upon it built a fine residence and good barns and outbuildings, making it one of the valuable and well equipped properties in this section of the state. He continued to make his home thereon for forty-six years thereafter, engaging in general farming and stock-raising, breeding high-grade cattle, hogs and horses and keeping also a flock of three hundred and sixty-five sheep. He sold the farm in 1902 and in that year moved to Rossville, where he has since lived retired.

In Ohio, in the fall of 1853, Mr. Leas was united in marriage to Miss Susanna Henderson, who was born near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but reared in Ohio. They became the parents of nine children: Albertus, who resides in Rossville; George, who owns and operates the home farm; John, who resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Seldon, also of Minnesota; William Leslie, of North Dakota; Margaret Jane, the wife of H. C. Campbell, a farmer of Jefferson township; Estella, the wife of A. D. Emmerson, of Minnesota; Finley, who grew to mature years and engaged in farming in Jefferson township, meeting death by accident



in 1909; and Mary, who died in early life. The parents are members of the Presbyterian church, of which Mr. Leas has served as trustee and treasurer.

A staunch democrat, Mr. Leas has always been interested in public affairs and has cooperated heartily in all movements for the advancement and growth of Allamakee county. In 1857 he was elected road supervisor and afterward township trustee, and he served also as township clerk and township collector for two terms. He was for nine years justice of the peace and for three terms township supervisor and he held various other important positions of public trust and responsibility. Since coming to Rossville he has made some judicious investments and is always ready to stimulate industrial activity by lending his money where he considers that circumstances justify such action. He is one of the most prominent and deservedly respected citizens of that community and in his retired life is enjoying the fruits of many years of untiring and well directed labor.

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#### CLARENCE A. EVANS.

Clarence A. Evans, one of the industrious and substantial farmers of Jefferson township, owns and operates a fine property of one hundred and eighty acres on sections 9 and 10 and is also farming a large tract of land adjoining. One hundred and sixty acres constitutes the homestead upon which he was born March 31, 1871. He is a son of Charles Evans, who was born in Ireland in 1832 and who remained in his native country until he was six years of age. He then crossed the Atlantic to America and in 1853 settled in Allamakee county, Iowa. For some time thereafter he followed teaming and by the exercise of thrift and economy managed to save enough money to purchase an eighty acre tract of land in Paint Creek township. He made some improvements upon it and farmed there for several years, later disposing of his holdings and entering a government claim of forty acres. This property formed the nucleus of an extensive farm, for he added to it from time to time and eventually became the proprietor of one hundred and sixty acres. This he cleared, fenced and improved, making it a valuable and productive farm and becoming one of the well known and prosperous agriculturists of this township. He still resides upon his holdings. He married Mrs. William Bordwell, nee Martha Beeman, a daughter of Cyrus Beeman, who was numbered among the first settlers in this part of Iowa.

Clarence A. Evans is one of a family of two children by his father's second marriage, the other being a daughter, Elvida, the wife of Rev. A. Allison, a minister of the Presbyterian church and now pastor at Oregon, Wisconsin. Clarence A. Evans was reared upon his father's homestead and acquired his education in the public schools of Jefferson township. From his childhood he assisted with the farm duties and after he had attained his majority assumed charge of the property, upon which he still resides and which under his careful supervision is daily increasing in value. He owns one hundred and eighty acres of land, successfully engaging in general farming and stock-raising. He is es-

pecially interested in the conduct of his dairy and raises fine cattle and a number of hogs and horses every year.

Mr. Evans married, on the 21st of November, 1900, Miss Edith Durant, who was born and reared in Winnebago county and previous to her marriage taught in the public schools. Mr. and Mrs. Evans have two sons, Horace and Leslie. Mr. Evans is widely and favorably known in the township where his entire life has been spent and where his industry, honesty and success have gained him place with the representative and substantial agriculturists and the progressive and public-spirited citizens.

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#### W. O. BOCK.

W. O. Bock, well known in New Albin by reason of many years of capable, intelligent and faithful service as postmaster of the city, was born in Sweden in 1859, and is a son of Charles J. and Mary E. Bock, natives of that country. The parents crossed the Atlantic to America in 1868 and came immediately to Iowa, settling in Lansing, where the father followed his trade until his retirement from active life, when he moved to New Albin, where he made his home until his death, which occurred when he was eighty years of age. The mother had also reached the age of eighty when she passed away. Of the eight children born to their union seven survive, the youngest having died in infancy. The others are: Charley, who resides in New Albin; Julius, of Dubuque, Iowa; Alfred, who makes his home in Wausau, Wisconsin; Andrew, of Waukon; W. O., of this review; Mary, who married W. A. Cutting; and Edward, a resident of New Albin.

W. O. Bock was nine years of age when his parents settled in Lansing and there he grew to manhood, acquiring his early education in the district schools and later attending high school, where he completed the full course. At the age of sixteen he began his business career, securing a position as clerk in a store and continuing this connection for sixteen years, the last four of which he spent as manager. In 1888 he formed a partnership with J. M. Tartt, and they opened a grocery and drug store in New Albin, continuing to conduct it until the fall of 1912 and securing in the meantime an important and representative patronage, accorded to them in recognition of their upright and honorable business methods and their earnest desire to please their patrons. Mr. Bock was first appointed postmaster of New Albin in 1888 by President Harrison and at that time he served for four years in a capable and thoroughly satisfactory manner. He was appointed to the position for the second time in 1903 and he has since served, having in the meantime accomplished a great deal of constructive and beneficial work, managing the department under his charge with ability, foresight and public spirit. For the past two years he has been connected with business interests in the city as the proprietor of a profitable real-estate business and he has handled a great deal of valuable property, his judgment being considered sound and reliable on all matters relating to present or future land values. His business career has been successful because his methods are both practical and modern and because he has won the confi-



W. O. BOCK

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dence of his patrons and the public at large by his straightforward and upright dealings throughout the years of his residence here. He has valuable individual holdings, owning a quarter of a section of land in North Dakota, four hundred acres, well improved, in Minnesota and a fourteen hundred acre tract in one of the best agricultural districts of Montana. He owns also a fine home in New Albin and is connected with important business interests here. Having come to the city in the days of its pioneer settlement, he took advantage of the opportunities for investment, and purchased a great deal of property on the town site, being today part owner of all of the vacant lots within the original town limits. His business interests are at all times capably conducted and his success has followed as a natural result of his earnest, straightforward and persistent labor.

In 1881 Mr. Bock was united in marriage to Miss Cora E. Tartt, a native of Allamakee county and a daughter of James and Phoebe Tartt, the former born in Tennessee and the latter in Illinois. They spent the last thirty years of their lives in New Albin, the father dying in this city at the age of seventy-five and the mother passing away at the age of seventy-four. In their family were seven children, of whom three survive, as follows: Walter B., of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin; Oscar C., also of this city; and Cora E., the wife of the subject of this review. Among those deceased was Mrs. H. F. Hutter, the former wife of Dr. Hutter, of New Albin. Mr. and Mrs. Bock became the parents of two children, the eldest of whom died in infancy. The other is a son, Forest W. M., who was born in 1892. He is a graduate of the New Albin high school and is now attending college at Mount Vernon, Iowa. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Bock is an active and successful religious worker, having for the past twenty-five years served as Sunday school superintendent and a member of the official board. Fraternaly Mr. Bock is connected with the Masonic lodge and his wife is a member of the Eastern Star at Lansing. He gives his political allegiance to the Republican party and is at all times interested in the growth and development of Allamakee county, cooperating heartily in movements for the general advancement and expansion. The period of his residence in New Albin covers a quarter of a century and the many sterling traits of his character are, therefore, well known to his fellow-townsmen, the great majority of whom number him as a friend.

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#### WILLIAM D. BIGGS.

Among the honored and respected residents of Franklin township and among Allamakee county's most progressive and able native sons is numbered William D. Biggs, who owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land on section 34. He was born in Linton township, December 1, 1865, and is a son of David and Elizabeth (Fitch) Biggs, the former born in Holmes county, Ohio, November 4, 1831, and the latter in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 18, 1840. In early life the father went to Ohio, and from that state in January, 1853, came to Iowa, settling in Volney, where he operated a sawmill

for a number of years. He formed a partnership with his father and a brother and they conducted this enterprise together with excellent results. About the year 1860 he went overland to the Rocky mountains and remained for two months in the vicinity of Pike's Peak. Upon the expiration of that time he returned to Iowa and in Linton township purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he continued to improve and develop until 1908, becoming during that time a prosperous and successful farmer. In that year he retired from active life and moved into Rossville, where he and his wife now reside. The paternal branch of this family has been in America since Revolutionary times, William D. Biggs' great-grandfather having come to the colonies as a soldier in the English army to fight in the Revolutionary war. After his arrival, however, he and his brother joined General Washington, allying their interests with the Continental cause and serving with ability and credit throughout the war. The great-grandfather later married and had eight children, all sons, each of whom he named after some officer in Washington's army. The father of the subject of this review is well known among the old Iowa pioneers, who delight in telling a story of his connection with the naming of Big Foot school-house and of the entire section known as Big Foot. In early times, while he was on a hunting trip, he noticed in the deep snow which lay over everything tracks made apparently by a man with enormously large feet. There was at that time a famous Indian chief called Old Big Foot, who frequently came to the vicinity and invariably committed some depredation here, being much dreaded by the early settlers. Mr. Biggs' father followed the trail for a short distance and then came upon a hunter who in order to keep out the cold had wrapped his feet in rags, this accounting for the large tracks made in the snow. The incident proved a much appreciated joke in the community and resulted in the naming of the district Big Foot, a title under which it is known today.

William D. Biggs acquired his education in Big Foot school, Linton township, and spent his childhood upon his father's farm, becoming familiar with the best agricultural methods by assisting in the operation of the homestead. When he was twenty-three years of age he built upon the property a small factory, wherein he engaged in the manufacture of rustic chairs, selling these throughout the surrounding states for ten years thereafter and developing a large and important patronage. He was also at this time interested in the real-estate business and was well known and highly respected in business circles. Eventually, however, he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, renting in Franklin township the farm owned by D. J. Murphy. He cultivated this for one year and then bought one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 34, Franklin township, whereon he has since resided. He engages in general farming and is also extensively interested in stock-raising, keeping high-grade cattle, sheep, hogs and horses. He is a stockholder in the Cooperative Creamery at Monona and is known as a resourceful, far-sighted and progressive business man, who owes his success in life entirely to his own well directed efforts.

On the 1st of January, 1896, Mr. Biggs was united in marriage to Miss Effie Diamond, who was born in Clayton county, Iowa, near McGregor, in 1874. She is a daughter of John and Ellen (Barnhouse) Diamond, the former a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, born February 10, 1848, and the latter of Ohio, born May 30, 1848. The parents came to Iowa separately in 1852 and located five

miles southwest of McGregor, where afterward their marriage occurred. The father became an extensive landowner in that vicinity but later sold his holdings and moved to the vicinity of Summerfield, Kansas, whence after a short time he went to Wisconsin, spending eight months in Iowa county. At the end of that time he went to Monona, Iowa, and he has since lived retired in that city. Mr. and Mrs. Biggs have three living children: Carrie Ellen, born October 29, 1897; Dorothy Amelia, born October 14, 1902; and Lois Althea, born March 30, 1907. One, born July 16, 1900, died in infancy.

Mr. Biggs is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and gives his political allegiance to the republican party, serving as township trustee and school director. He takes a great interest in public affairs and since the beginning of his independent career has been active in promoting the permanent interests of the community, bearing an honorable and worthy part in the work of upbuilding. His sterling qualities of mind and character have gained him many friends in Franklin township and the high regard in which he is held merits his classification with the representative and honored citizens of his native county.

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#### ROBERT BOYCE.

Esteem and veneration is due to Robert Boyce not only for what he has achieved along agricultural lines and for the financial successes which have come to him but also for the service which he rendered his country at the time of the Civil war, for he is one of that fast disappearing band of volunteers who willingly offered his life in order to preserve the unity of the nation. A native of Pennsylvania, Robert Boyce was born in McKean county, August 23, 1841, a son of Samuel and Betsy Ann (Hall) Boyce. Both parents were natives of County Armagh, Ireland. The father always followed agricultural pursuits and in his early manhood became a resident of Pennsylvania, where he resided about one year before coming to Iowa. Here he located at Garnavillo, Clayton county, where he remained only about a year, when he died. The mother subsequently married again, her second husband being Charles Lord, and they soon thereafter came to Allamakee county and settled near the mission house in Linton township. Later they came to Franklin township and there Mr. and Mrs. Lord resided on the farm which is now a part of our subject's holdings. Both spent their latter lives retired in Monona, where they passed away.

Robert Boyce is the fifth in order of birth of the six living children born to his mother's first marriage. Of the second marriage there were born three children, all of whom have passed away. Robert Boyce attended school in Clayton county, receiving his lessons in the district school of Reed township, and later continued his lessons in the schools of Franklin township. When eighteen years of age he bought forty acres of his present farm from his father and engaged independently in agricultural pursuits until on February 18, 1862, he enlisted with Company H, First Battalion, Sixteenth United States Regular Regiment, as a private. He valiantly served his country for three years, enduring the hardships of the campaign and the dangers of battle and camp until he was mustered out at Lookout Mountain, Tennessee. He was never wounded but contracted sickness,

spending some time in a hospital at Keokuk, Iowa. After being discharged from the service he returned to the farm and has continued here ever since, having increased his holdings as prosperity has come to him and now owning one hundred and eighty acres. His fields are under high cultivation and his buildings kept in good repair. The most modern machinery has been installed upon the place and his methods have resulted in a gratifying degree of prosperity to him. Mr. Boyce also owns valuable property in Monona. He is a stockholder in the Citizens Bank of that place and has other interests.

On September 11, 1866, occurred the marriage of Mr. Boyce to Miss Mary Jane Tapper, who was the first white child born at Fort Atkinson, Iowa, her day of birth being January 16, 1841. She is a daughter of James and Ellen (Irwin) Tapper, the father a native of England and the mother of Ireland. The father was one of the pioneers in this section and for many years was in the employ of the United States government at Fort Atkinson as a carpenter. He was prominent and highly esteemed in his locality, holding several township offices, serving as trustee, justice of the peace and supervisor.

Although Mr. Boyce has never aspired to public office, he has been prevailed upon to serve as trustee of Franklin township and in that capacity discharged his duties with conspicuous ability. His political faith is that of the republican party and he ever upholds its candidates and principles. He keeps in touch with his comrades of the battlefields of the south as a member of Grand Army Post, No. 445, at Monona. The spirit of patriotism which led him to follow the flag at the time of the great civil conflict has never left him and he is today, in times of peace, as much a force for good as he was when he upheld the Union cause in the south. He is ever interested in worthy public enterprises and ever ready to give of his means and influence in the support of the same. Such prosperity as has come to him is but the natural result of well applied labor and there is none who begrudges him his present affluence. On the contrary, he is highly respected for what he has achieved and is venerated and beloved for his sterling traits of character.

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#### WILLIAM WURTZEL.

William Wurtzel, whose residence in Allamakee county covers more than a third of a century, is now numbered among the substantial and representative agriculturists of his community, owning and operating a well improved farm of one hundred and nine acres on section 35, Center township. His birth occurred in Brandenburg, Germany, on the 11th of March, 1848, his parents being Carl and Elizabeth (Beymert) Wurtzel, who came to this county with their son Gustave in 1881. They made their home with him throughout the remainder of their lives, both passing away when seventy-nine years of age. Their family numbered three sons and three daughters, as follows; Caroline and Augusta, both of whom died in the fatherland; Henrietta, who is deceased, as is also her husband, Ernst Kuehn; Carl, who is supposed to be still in Germany; William, of this review; and Gustave, a successful agriculturist of Center township.



William Wurtzel spent the first thirty years of his life in his native country, being there reared, educated and married. In 1878, in company with his wife and two children, he crossed the Atlantic to the United States, arriving in the new world with a capital of less than one hundred dollars. He here worked by the month as a farm hand for two years and on the expiration of that period purchased a tract of one hundred and nine acres in Center township, Allamakee county, Iowa, which had but poor improvements. The property has since remained in his possession and he has remodeled the residence and other buildings thereon and generally improved the place until it is now a neat and model farm. He cultivates the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and annually gathers good crops which find a ready sale on the market. As the years have gone by he has prospered in his undertakings and is now recognized as one of the substantial and esteemed citizens of the community.

While still a resident of the fatherland Mr. Wurtzel was united in marriage to Miss Amelia Schoenbeck, a daughter of Ludwig and Caroline Schoenbeck, both of whom are deceased, having passed away in Germany. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wurtzel have been born five children, as follows: William, a native of Germany, who wedded Miss Clara Hermann and resides on a farm in Center township; Carl, also born in Germany, a resident of this county; Fred, a native of Allamakee county, Iowa, who passed away in January, 1912, at the age of thirty-two years; Louise, the wife of Gustave Dee, of French Creek township; and Herman, at home.

Mr. Wurtzel is a republican in his political views but at the last election supported Wilson and Marshall. He and his family are devoted members of the German Reformed church at Waukon. Coming to the new world in early manhood, he eagerly availed himself of the greater opportunities here afforded and has gradually worked his way upward to a position among the successful and representative residents of Allamakee county.

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#### GEORGE B. RALSTON.

George B. Ralston, serving as township trustee of Jefferson township and numbered among the progressive citizens and successful farmers of that locality, was born in Ludlow township, this county, February 21, 1869. He is a son of John Ralston, who was born in Scotland and who remained in his native country until he was seventeen years of age. He then came to America and resided for three years in New York city, where he became very proficient as a brown-stone setter, working for his uncle. Eventually he moved to Illinois and there worked on a farm for three years, coming about the year 1854 to Allamakee county, Iowa. In Ludlow township he purchased a tract of eighty acres and this he cleared of timber, broke the soil and began the work of development. After he had made it a valuable and productive farm he disposed of the property and purchased one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity, and this also he substantially improved, erecting a fine residence, good barns and outbuildings. He engaged in general farming upon that place for some years, but later moved to

Waukon, where he spent his retired life, dying in that city about 1911. His wife survives him and makes her home with her daughter in Waukon.

George B. Ralston was reared upon his father's farm in Ludlow township and early became acquainted with the best agricultural methods, for he aided in clearing, improving and developing this property. For one year after his marriage, which occurred in 1892, he remained upon the homestead, but at the end of that time bought eighty acres of land on section 21, Jefferson township. This was at that time a raw tract, but with characteristic energy Mr. Ralston carried on the work of its improvement, clearing the timber, grubbing up the stumps, breaking the soil and fencing the fields. He later erected a substantial residence, a large basement barn and good outbuildings. He also set out an orchard, planting a number of fine trees, and he has neglected nothing which would add to the attractive appearance or the value of the property. In addition to general farming he is a stock breeder on an extensive scale, keeping high-grade cattle, Poland China hogs and a number of good horses. He was one of the promoters of the Waukon Cooperative Creamery, to which he sells the product of his dairy which he has been operating for a number of years.

In Waukon, on the 14th of February, 1892, Mr. Ralston was united in marriage to Miss Mary Douglas, a daughter of David Douglas, a veteran of the Civil war and for many years a prosperous farmer in Allamakee county. A more extended mention of his career appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Ralston became the parents of nine children: Earl J., who is assisting his father on the farm; John D.; David G.; Ruth; Jessie; Marie; Florence; Eugenia; and Doris.

Mr. Ralston is a republican in his political beliefs and is interested in public affairs, cooperating heartily in movements for the general good. In 1910 he was elected trustee of Jefferson township and has served by reelection since that time, discharging his duties in a way which reflects credit upon his ability and his public spirit. The cause of education finds in him a staunch champion, and he did effective work along this line during the years which he served as president of the school board. He is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has held various official positions in the lodge of that organization. He and his wife belong to the Rebekahs at Rossville and the entire family attend the Rossville Presbyterian church. Mr. Ralston has won substantial success, but it has come as the result of earnest labor, unflinching industry, and sincerity and honesty of purpose. No one envies him his prosperity, so worthily has it been won, and he ranks today among the respected and representative citizens of Allamakee county.

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#### LARS J. LARSON.

Lars J. Larson, now serving his second term as assessor of Jefferson township and connected with agricultural interests in this locality as the owner of a valuable and well improved farm on section 11, has been a resident of Iowa since 1854, his birth having occurred in the vicinity of Christiania, Norway, January 6, 1850. His father, John Larson, was also a native of that country

and there grew to maturity and married Karen Johnson. Later he and his wife crossed the Atlantic and located in Wisconsin, where the mother passed away in the summer of 1853. In the fall of that year Mr. Larson and his children came to Iowa, making a permanent location in Jefferson township, Allamakee county. He was numbered among the pioneers in this locality and homesteaded an eighty-acre tract of land, upon which he built first a log house in which he resided while the work of improving and developing the farm was carried forward. He married here in 1857, Miss Anna Bondelie, also a native of Norway, and he continued to make his home upon his farm in Jefferson township until his death in 1866. His wife survived him many years, living to be almost a hundred years of age. By his first wife John Larson had two children: Lars J., of this review; and M. J., a substantial farmer in Jefferson township.

Lars J. Larson was reared in this vicinity and acquired his education in the district school. His childhood was spent among pioneer conditions and he early became familiar with the best methods of farming and developing raw land. After the father's death the brothers carried on the operation of the homestead for some time, but later Mr. Larson of this review purchased his brother's and his mother's interests and succeeded to the home place. This he has since greatly improved, having erected a neat and modern residence, a large barn, a granary, corncribs and sheds, and having installed the necessary labor-saving machinery. He engages in general farming and is an extensive stock-raiser, keeping high-grade shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and good horses. He was one of the promoters of the Waterville Cooperative Creamery Association and is still a stockholder in this concern, of which he was one of the first members of the board of directors. He has also of late years been extensively interested in dairying and his ability and resourcefulness are recognized and respected in business circles.

In April, 1872, in Jefferson township, Mr. Larson was united in marriage to Miss Anna P. Osgard, who was born in Norway, and who lived in that country until she was sixteen years of age. She then moved to the United States with her parents and settled in Allamakee county. Mr. and Mrs. Larson became the parents of nine children. The eldest son, Julius, who is married and engages in farming near Stillwater, North Dakota, has three children. Albert, Paul and Ludwig are all known in business circles of Waukon as joint proprietors of the Model Restaurant in that city. Carrie married Ole Albert, a railroad engineer in Minnesota, and they are the parents of a daughter. Annie became the wife of Albert Johnson, who assists Mr. Larson in the operation of his farm. Henry passed away when a young man of thirty-two years. Another son died in infancy, and Carrie passed away at the age of two years.

It is not alone in agricultural circles that Mr. Larson has gained prominence and recognition, for he has always taken an active part in politics and has rendered his township excellent service in various positions of trust and responsibility. He served for a number of years as township trustee and as justice of the peace and has been a delegate to state, county and congressional conventions. For a number of terms he was on the grand and petit juries. He was elected assessor of Jefferson township and after serving one term was reelected in 1912, his return to office indicating the value of his work and its acceptability to the public. His influence is found always on the side of right, reform and progress, and

his cooperation is never lacking in any movement to promote general advancement. In Jefferson township, where he has spent practically his entire life, he is regarded as a conscientious and progressive citizen and one whose record is a credit to a name that has long been an honored one in this community.

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#### HENRY WEBB.

Henry Webb will long be remembered as one of the most successful farmers Allamakee county has known and as a man of remarkable ability whose judgment was seldom at fault and whose fidelity to trust and sincerity in anything which he undertook were never questioned. For forty-one years he was a resident of this section of Iowa and here he spent an active, useful and honorable life, terminating in his death on the 27th of March, 1905. He was born in Livingston county, New York, September 26, 1839, and was a son of John and Elizabeth (Webb) Webb, of Irish descent, who resided on a farm near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for a number of years. In the fall of 1864 they came to Iowa and in this state spent the remainder of their lives. The father was born in 1803 and died in 1870, while the mother was born in 1797 and died in 1887.

Henry Webb acquired his education in the public schools of Wisconsin and there grew to manhood. In the spring of 1864 he came to Iowa, settling near Postville, where he obtained a position in a grain elevator but was later employed at the depot. In the year of his arrival here he was married and he made his home with his wife's parents until the following spring, when he rented a farm one mile east of Postville, upon which he continued to reside for one year. At the end of that time he purchased the property, which comprised one hundred and twenty acres, and upon this he carried forward the work of cultivation for ten years, finally selling the farm and buying another, upon which his widow now resides. Mr. Webb turned his attention with characteristic energy to the improvement and development of his land, carrying on the work along progressive and modern lines, success steadily rewarding his well directed labor. The property became a valuable one, equipped with fine buildings and labor-saving machinery and reflecting everywhere the care and supervision of a practical and able agriculturist. Mr. Webb built his home in the midst of a beautiful evergreen grove and here he resided until his death, which occurred March 27, 1905.

On the 29th of November, 1864, Mr. Webb was united in marriage to Miss Rozilla Dresser, who was born in Champaign county, Ohio, on the 18th of February, 1845. She is a daughter of Calvin and Sallie (Hawkins) Dresser, the former a native of Canada and the latter of New Hampshire. The father, who spent his entire active life engaged in farming, remained a resident of Ohio, until 1855, when he located on a farm just north of Postville, which he cleared and improved, developing an excellent and valuable farm. There he died May 14, 1892, when he was seventy-eight years of age. His wife survived him only a short time, dying when she was eighty-one. In their family were twelve children, of whom Mrs. Webb was the eighth in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Webb became the parents of six children: Lucy Augusta, who was born July 16, 1860, and married C. P. Smith, a farmer living in the vicinity of Postville;



MR. AND MRS. HENRY WERE



Melissa Arvilla, who was born on the 1st of December, 1870, and is now the wife of Jean Owen, a farmer in Winneshiek county; Ida Jane, whose birth occurred on the 29th of November, 1872, and who became the wife of John Staadt, engaged in farming near Ottawa, Kansas; Herman D., who was born January 14, 1875, and resides at home; Bertha May, who was born July 3, 1877, and married Adolph Thias, a clerk in Portland, Oregon; and Eva Blanche, who was born April 24, 1879, and married George Fay, a druggist in Postville. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Webb has added forty acres to the homestead and manages the property in an able and successful manner. She is a woman of high ideals and lovable character and holds the respect, confidence and high regard of all with whom she comes in contact.

Mr. Webb gave his allegiance to the republican party but never desired political honors, his interests centering in his home and his farming operations. He was a kind parent, a true friend and firm upholder of the law, a citizen whose work made a lasting impress upon those with whom he came into contact and upon the region where he made his home.

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#### MICHAEL KANE.

Among the substantial agriculturists of Allamakee county is Michael Kane, who owns a valuable farm of one hundred and eighty acres in Franklin township. A native of Ireland, he was born in County Limerick in 1848 and is a son of Michael and Bridget (Benson) Kane, both born in the same county. The father always followed farming and about 1852 crossed with his family to the United States, locating in Ohio, where he passed away. In that state the Kanes resided near Columbus. They only remained a short time in Ohio, whence they removed to Iowa. A sister of our subject, after her marriage, had gone to McGregor, this state, and the family soon followed. The mother located near McGregor but later removed to this vicinity where she spent the remainder of her life, passing away in 1896. To Mr. and Mrs. Kane were born six children, of whom Michael Kane of this review was the third in order of birth.

Michael Kane attended school in McGregor and at Monona, receiving but a limited education, as the facilities in those primitive pioneer days were not the best. After laying aside his schoolbooks he worked for a time for a Mr. Humphries in Monona, having started out in life when but eleven years of age in order to help his mother with the support of the family. He continued to contribute to the family exchequer until 1873, being employed as a farm hand, in which latter year he was enabled to acquire forty-five acres of land in Franklin township. This tract is now a part of the farm. As the years have passed prosperity has come to him as the result of his good judgment and his incessant labor and he now owns one hundred and eighty acres of the most fertile land to be found in this section, one-half of which he rents out, while he operates the balance himself. He engages in general farming and also gives some attention to stock, deriving a gratifying income from both lines of endeavor. He is a stockholder in the Cooperative Creamery Company and also belongs to the Shipping Association of Monona.

In September, 1898, Mr. Kane was united in marriage to Miss Mary Tiernan, a native of Ireland, where she was born in March, 1871. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Tiernan, who always remained in the Emerald isle. Mrs. Kane arrived in this country about one year before her marriage, residing in New York city before arriving here, the ceremony taking place about one year later. To Mr. and Mrs. Kane have been born three children: Mary, whose birth occurred in May, 1900; Michael, who was born in April, 1902; and John, born in June, 1905. Mr. Kane is a devout member of the Roman Catholic church, attending in Monona. Politically he is a democrat but has never aspired to public office, although he takes a laudable interest in local affairs. For some time he has served as school director and has done the best in his power to improve educational facilities here. Much credit is due him for what he has achieved, for he started out in life empty-handed and even handicapped, as he not only had to support himself from earliest childhood but had even to help his mother to rear the younger children. He enjoys in a large measure the esteem and respect of all who know him, and such prosperity as has come to him is but the just reward of intelligent and incessant labor.

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#### JOHN E. McCABE.

One of the finest farms in Allamakee county is that owned by John E. McCabe. It is known as the Jefferson Park Stock Farm and comprises one hundred and sixty acres, being in many respects a model property and reflecting everywhere the careful labor and constant supervision which its owner has expended upon it. Mr. McCabe was born on this property, March 16, 1873, being the eldest son of Hugh McCabe, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work.

In the acquirement of an education the subject of this review attended the common schools in Jefferson township, supplementing this by one season in Waukon Business College. He is, however, largely self-educated, having made up for his early limitations along this line by constant study and reading since reaching mature years. He was reared upon his father's farm and at the age of fifteen took part charge of the property, which he purchased when he was twenty-six years of age and upon which he has since made extensive and substantial improvements, planting a beautiful grove of pine trees and cultivating a neat and level lawn which surrounds the attractive residence. The buildings are all modern and in good repair, and the fields are fenced and cross-fenced with woven wire between cedar posts—in short nothing has been neglected which will add to the attractive appearance or the value of the place. Mr. McCabe makes a specialty of raising shorthorn cattle, keeping twenty-five pure-blooded animals and some valuable high-grade stock, his entire herd comprising between one hundred and sixty and seventy head. He raises also high-grade Percheron horses and Poland China hogs. He is a large stock-feeder, and as he is a good judge of live stock and understands his business thoroughly he usually receives the best prices quoted for his grade of stock on the market. In addition to general farming and stock-raising, he also conducts a large dairy business and



is a stockholder in the Waukon Cooperative Creamery, his ability being widely recognized and respected in business circles.

On the 3d of September, 1912, Mr. McCabe was united in marriage to Miss Cora Teeple, who was reared and educated in Allamakee county, a daughter of Frank E. Teeple, mentioned elsewhere in this work. Mrs. McCabe is a well educated and refined woman and before her marriage taught for several years in the public schools of her native county. Mr. and Mrs. McCabe made a wedding tour, visiting the state fair at Minneapolis, Minnesota, and then going west crossed the continent by way of the Northern Pacific Railroad to Portland, and down the coast to Los Angeles. They have one child, Alice Margaret, born June 18, 1913. Mr. McCabe holds membership in the Catholic Order of Foresters and is a member of the Catholic church. He is well known as a careful, conservative and reliable business man and enjoys a high reputation throughout Allamakee county, where his sterling characteristics and his upright and honorable life have won him an extensive circle of friends.

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#### JACOB G. RUPP.

A well tilled and highly cultivated farm on section 17, Jefferson township, pays tribute to the agricultural skill of Jacob G. Rupp, who is there engaged in general farming and stock-raising. His property is known as Evergreen Stock Farm and comprises two hundred and forty acres of valuable land, reflecting everywhere the careful supervision and practical labor which the owner has bestowed upon it. Mr. Rupp's birth occurred upon this property, August 4, 1869, his parents being Jacob and Mary (Negel) Rupp, natives of Germany, the former born in 1833. The father grew to manhood in his native province and about the year 1855 came to America, settling first near Rochester, New York, where for some years he worked upon a farm. About 1866 he came to Iowa and bought one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 17, Jefferson township, a property which he cleared and improved. He afterward added to his holdings from time to time until he accumulated two hundred and forty acres, upon which he continued to reside until 1908, when he rented the homestead and retired. He is now making his home in La Crosse, Wisconsin. His wife, who was born in Germany and came to America in her childhood, died in Iowa about the year 1910.

Jacob G. Rupp was reared upon his father's farm and in his childhood learned the best agricultural methods by aiding in its operation. He married when he was twenty-eight years of age and then rented land which he developed and improved for three years. In 1900 he removed to Winneshick county, this state, and there rented two hundred and forty acres, upon which he resided for twelve years. During that time, however, he had purchased the old homestead from his father and in December, 1912, moved on to the property, turning his attention to its further improvement. He has fenced the fields with woven wire fences, has added to the buildings, which he keeps always in good repair, and has erected a fine new garage. In addition to general farming he conducts also an extensive business in buying and shipping stock, dealing in cattle, hogs and

a good grade of Belgian horses. His dairy interests are also large and are well managed, for Mr. Rupp is a man of resourcefulness and business ability, and most assiduous in the conduct of his interests.

In Jefferson township, in the same house in which he now resides, on the 15th of September, 1897, Mr. Rupp was united in marriage of Miss Leona Davis, who was born and reared in Allamakee county. They have become the parents of six children: Mabel C., who is a student in Waukon high school; Frank M.; Doris L.; Gladys L.; John Jacob; and Helen Irene, who died in Winne-shiek county in 1905, at the age of six months.

Mr. Rupp is a devout member of the Presbyterian church and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party. A capable business man as well as agriculturist, he has so intelligently directed his labors during the period of his active career that he is now recognized as one of the substantial and representative citizens of the community in which he resides.

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#### CHARLES CUMMINGS.

There is no one in Allamakee county who has more truly earned the title of self-made man than Charles Cummings, a prosperous farmer owning one hundred and seventy-four acres in Franklin township and a carpenter by trade, which occupation he followed in earlier years for some time with gratifying success. He was born at Forest City, Iowa, May 1, 1879, and is a son of Thomas and Alice (Van Horn) Cummings, the father a native of Ireland, where he was born in County Meath, September 10, 1832, and the mother of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where her birth occurred March 21, 1848. Both have passed away, the father's death occurring November 1, 1905, and that of the mother June 17, 1911. The father in early life followed the occupation of a sailor on the Great Lakes and on the Mississippi river. He had come to this country with his father when a boy of but ten years of age, their first location being New Jersey. Later they came to Allamakee county, where Thomas Cummings subsequently married and became a landholder. Still later he went to western Minnesota, there engaging successfully in farming for twenty years, at the end of which period he returned to Franklin township in 1889. Here he settled upon a farm upon which he continued until his death, the mother also remaining there until she passed away. The father was ever interested in the welfare of his locality and prominent and influential with his fellow citizens, although he never aspired to public office.

Charles Cummings was the sixth of a family of seven children. He attended school at Walnut Grove in Monona township, Clayton county, and remained with his mother until 1903, when he moved to Monona, having previously learned the carpenter's trade. He worked at that occupation there for three years and then rented his mother's farm for seven years. In 1912 he bought the farm upon which he now resides. It comprises one hundred and seventy-four acres of fertile land, devoted to general farming and stock-raising. His buildings are kept in good repair and his land brings him rich harvests. He is modern and progressive and follows the latest methods, having installed up-to-date mach-

inery and equipment upon his place. Mr. Cummings is also a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery at Monona and in the Farmers Commission Company of that place, both of which organizations were founded in order to facilitate a more profitable disposal of farm products.

On March 26, 1903, Mr. Cummings was married to Miss Exa White, a native of Farmersburg, Clayton county, where she was born July 27, 1879, a daughter of Edward and Martha (Gast) White. The father was born in New Jersey, December 28, 1843, and died August 9, 1891, and the mother was a native of Indiana, her day of birth being August 2, 1841, and her death occurring April 30, 1913. The father came with his parents to Iowa, where they made settlement near Farmersburg, in Clayton county. There he grew to manhood, learning the carpenter's trade, which he followed all his life. He died in that vicinity and the mother subsequently moved to Monona, where she made her home until her demise. Mrs. Cummings was the sixth in their family of seven children. Mr. and Mrs. Cummings have become the parents of two children: Evelyn Maxine, born May 15, 1904; and Thomas Edward, born February 7, 1906.

Politically Mr. Cummings is a democrat, taking an intelligent interest in all matters that affect the government. He has never aspired to official honors, however, preferring to give his support to worthy public measures as a private citizen. He is a member of the Modern Brotherhood of America but has no other fraternal associations. Such prosperity as has come to him is well merited, as it is but the outcome of intelligently applied efforts and what he has achieved is not only a source of satisfaction to him, but as part of the agricultural development which has taken place in Allamakee county, is a factor in the growth and progress that makes up this rich district of the middle west.

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### JOHN S. RYAN.

John S. Ryan, the owner of Lilac Lawn Farm, comprising one hundred and forty acres and one of the finest agricultural properties in Jefferson township, is numbered among the earlier settlers in Allamakee county. He was born at Troy, on the Hudson river, New York, July 26, 1848, and later moved with his parents to Clinton county, where they resided until about the year 1861, when they removed to Iowa, settling at McGregor. There John S. Ryan engaged in teaming and in railroad construction work for several years, but afterward came to Allamakee county with his father, who located in Taylor township. He there purchased land and Mr. Ryan of this review then turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, aiding in the improvement and development of his father's property. He afterward purchased his father's interest in this farm and has since made his home upon it. In the beginning this was a tract of raw land, covered by a heavy growth of timber and brush, and John S. Ryan cleared a space upon which he built a small frame dwelling with lumber hauled from Lansing. With a five-yoke team of oxen he broke his own land and for some years thereafter did this work for his neighbors, also engaging in this business for some time during the breaking season. He also broke out a residence lot in Waukon. As a result of his unflagging labor through the years, he has his farm

today in excellent condition, its neat and attractive appearance reflecting everywhere his careful supervision and practical labors. He has divided his one hundred and forty acres into convenient fields with fences and cross fences of woven wire, and has provided it with a large, neat, two-story house, a double barn, granaries, cribs and other outbuildings, including a buggy shed and a hoghouse. He has also sunk a good well, provided with a wind pump, and has neglected nothing which will add to the attractive appearance or the value of his place. He raises high-grade stock, cattle, horses and hogs, and has for a number of years been operating a large and well managed dairy, all branches of his enterprise proving important and profitable under his able supervision.

In Allamakee county, in 1871, Mr. Ryan was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Manning, who was born in Franklin county, New York, and who came to Iowa when she was twelve years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Ryan were the parents of the following children. The eldest, John F., owns and operates a farm near the family homestead. He is married and has three children. William is engaged in the life insurance business in Cedar Rapids. Edward owns a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Jefferson township; he is married and has one son. James is engaged in farming upon his father's property. Thomas died at the age of twenty-five. Leo passed away when he was one year old, Margaret at the age of five, May at the age of six months, Irene at the age of thirteen years, and Lizzie at age of fourteen.

Mr. Ryan gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and has held various important public offices, serving for two terms as township trustee, for a time as roadmaster, and for a number of years as a member of the school board. His hearty cooperation is given always to improvements of a character to advance the permanent interests of the community, and he is known as a progressive and public-spirited citizen, who during a residence of over fifty-one years in Iowa has done much to promote general development while advancing his individual interests.

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#### GUSTAVE WURTZEL.

Among those of foreign birth who came to the new world in search of the superior opportunities offered by this country and who through hard labor, well directed efforts and unfaltering perseverance realized their expectations in substantial manner is Gustave Wurtzel. As the name indicates he is of German descent and in his life has ever exemplified the sturdy characteristics of that race. Born in Brandenburg, Germany, January 22, 1851, he is a son of Carl and Elizabeth (Beymert) Wurtzel, also natives of the fatherland. The parents accompanied their son Gustave to the new world in 1881 and continued to make their home with him throughout their remaining years, both passing away at the age of seventy-nine.

Gustave Wurtzel was reared to manhood in his native country and in German schools acquired a good education. There he was married to Miss Augusta Wilhelmina Schwock, a daughter of Carl and Johanna Louise (Beck) Schwock, and in 1881, with his wife and two children, came to the United States. The

young couple had not been particularly successful in the struggle for a living in their native country, and when they arrived in Iowa their entire worldly possessions consisted of but seven hundred dollars. Hope was strong within them, however, and neither feared hard work, and for two years after they took up their home in La Fayette township, Allamakee county, both worked out for wages. At the end of that period their combined savings permitted Mr. Wurtzel to purchase eighty acres of land in Center township, which is now known as the Thomas Zeglum farm. At the time it came into his possession it was a wild tract, but, with characteristic energy, he set about clearing and improving it and when at the end of twelve years he sold the land it had been converted into rich fields, productive of good harvests. After disposing of that property he invested in one hundred and sixty acres on section 36, Center township, upon which he still makes his home. It had been but slightly improved but under his supervision has become a highly cultivated tract. He remodeled the house, built commodious barns and outbuildings, introduced modern machinery to facilitate the work of the fields and in many ways made it a model farm. He carries on general farming and his energy, industry and thrift are meeting with excellent results.

As the years passed Mr. and Mrs. Wurtzel became the parents of eight children, of whom five are now living: William, who was born in Germany and there passed away; Gustave, who was also born in the old country but died after the arrival of the family in the United States; Marie, the wife of Herman Schultz, of Traer, Iowa; Louise, who married William Schultz, of Paint Creek township; Otto and Bernard, both at home; Julius, deceased; and Robert, also at home. The members of the family belong to the German Methodist church. Mr. Wurtzel gives his political support to the principles of the republican party. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he found the opportunities which he sought and in their utilization has been signally successful.

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#### HIRAM F. DENNING.

Hiram F. Denning, who is one of the well known farmers and successful stock-raisers of Allamakee county, owning and operating eighty acres of valuable land in Jefferson township and one hundred and six acres in Makee township, was born in Linton township, this county, September 26, 1857, a son of Samuel Denning, who was born in Harrison county, Ohio, March 1, 1831, and whose father passed away in that state when Samuel Denning was still a child. The latter grew to manhood in his native county and in 1851 joined his mother in Allamakee county, Iowa, buying land in Linton township. This he operated for a number of years, later selling it in order to buy a farm in Jefferson township, upon which he continued to reside until his death, which occurred in 1909. He married Miss Elizabeth Frances, who was born in Wisconsin and who came to Allamakee county when she was still a child. She died in Iowa some years after her husband's demise.

Hiram F. Denning is one of a family of ten children, all of whom grew to maturity and five of whom still survive. He was reared upon his father's farm

and acquired his education in the district schools, spending a great deal of time when not engaged with his books in aiding in the operation of the homestead. When he began his independent career he rented a farm and operated this until some time after his marriage, which occurred in 1884. He then purchased eighty acres of fine land on section 16, Jefferson township, and upon this property he has since made his home, carrying forward the work of improvement and development along modern and progressive lines. He repaired the buildings upon the place and erected others, including a good two-story residence, a large barn and a number of outbuildings. In addition to this he planted a fine orchard and a number of ornamental trees, neglecting nothing which would add either to the attractive appearance or the value of the property. Besides general farming Mr. Denning has also engaged in stock-raising on an extensive scale, raising high-grade Poland China and Chester White hogs and shorthorn cattle. In addition to his home farm he owns also one hundred and six acres in Makee township and he gives a great deal of his time to its operation with the result that it is today one of the finest farms in the locality.

In Jefferson township, on the 9th of September, 1884, Mr. Denning was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Jennewine, who was born in West Virginia, a daughter of Jacob Jennewine, one of the early settlers in Jefferson township. Mr. and Mrs. Denning became the parents of eight children, of whom the following are deceased: Eva, who died at the age of five years; Mary Ella, who passed away when a year old; and Percy, who died at the age of six or seven months. Those who survive are: Paul, who makes his home in North Dakota; Fred, who is engaged in farming in Makee township; Hobart, who is assisting his father in the operation of the home farm; Francis; and Marie, at home. The family attend the Presbyterian church at Waukon.

Mr. Denning gives his political allegiance to the republican party but has never sought nor desired public office, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his business affairs. He has been connected with farming interests of Jefferson township during practically all of his active life and has made substantial contributions to farming development, his individual prosperity forming an important factor in the general growth.

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#### CHARLES H. BARTHELL.

Charles H. Barthell is known as one of the most extensive and successful breeders of pure-blooded Aberdeen Angus cattle in Allamakee county, where he is prominently connected with agricultural interests as the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres and another tract of sixty acres on section 21, Union Prairie township. He is in addition a member of the firm of Barthell Brothers of Waukon, controlling an important real-estate business in that city and by his integrity, his upright and honorable methods and the standards by which he has directed his activities he has made his labors a source of prosperity to himself and of profit to the community at large.

Mr. Barthell was born in Winneshiek county, December 29, 1866, and as a child came to Allamakee county where he was reared, acquiring his education in



CHARLES H. BARTHELL





the public schools and at a select school in Waukon. When he was fifteen years of age he made his home with his brother Jonathan, with whom he remained until his marriage. Upon the death of his father he inherited two hundred acres of land upon which he now resides and after he was married he moved to this property, which he has made one of the finest farms in this section of the state. Upon it he made substantial improvements, erecting a commodious frame house, a basement barn and the necessary outbuildings and carrying on its operation along the most modern and practical lines. After eight years, however, he rented out the farm and moved into Waukon where he joined his brother in the conduct of a hardware business, later selling his interest in order to deal in farm implements, wagons, buggies and gasoline engines. He built up a large and profitable business along this line, managing it successfully for five years and purchasing in the meantime a fine residence and business house in Waukon. In 1907, however, he disposed of his interests in Waukon and moved back upon the farm whereon he has since made his home. He brought with him a few pure-blood Aberdeen Angus cattle and established himself as a breeder and shipper, giving the greater part of his attention to the development of his herd. This now numbers one hundred and five head, all pure-blooded or high-grade animals and they command a high price and a ready sale in the market. In addition to stock-raising Mr. Barthell carries on general farming and dairying and he has made all branches of his business important and profitable. He was one of the promoters of the Waukon Cooperative Creamery Association, of which he has served as director and of which he is now a large stockholder, and he is besides a partner with his brother M. J. Barthell, in the real-estate business. Under the firm name of Barthell Brothers they control extensive holdings in Winneshiek and Allamakee counties and valuable business and residence property in Waukon. Mr. Barthell's interests are always carefully and conservatively conducted and his success in the management of his enterprises proves him a resourceful, far-sighted and discriminating business man who thoroughly understands modern business condition and possesses the aggressiveness, the energy and the personality necessary to cope with them.

In Union Prairie township on the 14th of April, 1891, Mr. Barthell married Miss Mary Engrav, a native of that section and a daughter of Haulver Engrav who was born and grew to mature years in Norway. He afterwards came to the United States, settling in Allamakee county where he is numbered among the earliest residents. Mr. and Mrs. Barthell have five children: Martha J., a graduate of Waukon high school and now engaged in teaching in Allamakee county; Irene, also a graduate of the Waukon high school; Grant O.; Esther; and Mary Charlotta. The family attend the Waukon Presbyterian church, of which the parents are members and liberal supporters.

Mr. Barthell does not adhere to any particular political party, preferring to vote according to his personal convictions without regard to party lines. Although not an office seeker he has at different times been honored by election to office having served seven consecutive terms as township assessor, and one term as a member of the school board. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Masonic order, holding membership in the lodge, chapter and commandery, while his wife and daughter, Martha, belong to the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Barthell is essentially a man of affairs, his broad

and varied interests touching many important phases of business and political progress and his individual prosperity forming an element in community growth and advancement.

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### HENRY A. KRÜGER.

That this is a land of opportunity is evidenced from the career of Henry A. Krüger, who came to this country in 1890 from Germany and in 1895 came to Iowa, where he has since prospered along agricultural lines. He now owns a valuable farm of one hundred and forty-three acres in Linton township which he has highly improved with modern buildings and from which he derives a gratifying income. He was born in Pomerania, Germany, April 3, 1869, a son of William and Albertina (Rosien) Krüger, both natives of that province. The father was born February 13, 1833, and the mother August 3, 1835. They crossed the Atlantic in 1890 leaving home and friends in order to profit by the advantages which are offered here to all who are willing to work. The father located in Chicago, where he and his wife resided until their deaths, his demise occurring on October 20, 1912, and that of his wife on February 18, 1911.

Henry A. Krüger attended school in Germany and after laying aside his textbooks there engaged as a farm hand, remaining in that country until he came to America in the fall of 1890. He made his way to Chicago with his parents and there engaged in driving a team for a stone quarry and also worked in the stock yards for a time, later finding employment with a lumber company and a coal yard, in which latter position he remained for two years. At that time he was unable to speak English, a great handicap to his progress in life, but by self-study he soon overcame this difficulty. He came to Iowa on February 18, 1895, and bought a farm of sixty acres in Franklin township, having by thrift and industry accumulated the means to make possible the purchase. There he resided for one year and then sold his share in the property to his wife's father and for two years rented land in the same township. He then removed to a farm in Clayton county, near Luana, where he remained for four years, and then went to McIntire, Mitchell county, where for one year he rented land. From that place he removed to another farm in the same county farther west on the state line and remained there for six years, at the end of which time he bought his present place. It comprises one hundred and forty-three acres and he has since considerably added to its value by making improvements, putting up modern buildings and erecting a large and well appointed barn. In 1912 he also built a new machine house which furnishes added facilities for his undertakings. He operates the farm along general lines, giving considerable attention to stock-raising, and is also a shareholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company at Monona and the Shipping Association of that place. Thrifty, energetic and industrious, Mr. Krüger has in a comparatively short time attained a high degree of success and his achievements are the more commendable for having been accomplished entirely through his own efforts.

The marriage of Mr. Krüger to Miss Mary Heller occurred on July 30, 1892. She is also a native of Pomerania, her birth having occurred on July 2, 1871. She

is a daughter of August and Wilhelmina (Haas) Heller, both of that province, where the father was born July 2, 1835, and the mother December 13, 1837. They came to America in April, 1892, and located in Chicago, where the father worked for a time as a wagon maker, later coming to Allamakee county, where he settled in Franklin township. The death of the mother occurred here in June, 1897, and the father subsequently went to Kewanee, Illinois, where he resided with a son until his demise in October, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Krüger have become the parents of ten children: Lizzie, born April 15, 1893; Anna, November 26, 1894; Minnie, August 26, 1896; Ida, March 3, 1898; Helene, December 1, 1899; Margarita, April 25, 1901; Ella, May 1, 1903; Willie, March 15, 1905; Lorence, December 3, 1909; and Otto, February 11, 1912.

Mr Krüger and his wife are members of the Lutheran church at Monona. He gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and although he has never aspired to public office he is interested in all worthy measures undertaken in the interests of the general welfare. Coming to this country a little over twenty years ago practically empty-handed, he has attained to an enviable degree of prosperity and his achievements are not only a source of satisfaction to himself but have played a part in the growth and development that have occurred in this district along agricultural lines. Mr. Krüger has made many friends since locating here who appreciate him and esteem him for his high qualities of mind and character.

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#### PETER P. HEFNER.

A valuable stock farm of two hundred and nineteen acres in Linton and Franklin townships, located in the Yellow river valley, stands as a monument to the labors of Peter P. Hefner, a native of Linton township, where he was born May 30, 1870. He is a son of Peter and Emilie (Soler) Hefner, both natives of Bavaria, Germany, where they were born. They crossed the ocean and came to the middle west about 1857, making their home near McGregor for one year. They then bought a farm in Linton township, where they resided for a number of years, subsequently removing to the farm upon which our subject now resides. Both parents there passed away. The father died on May 30, 1888, and the mother about fifteen years later, in October, 1903. While yet in Germany the father served in the regular army, wearing the two-colored cloth, as all German citizens are compelled to do. Although he was prominent in his community, he never aspired to public office, preferring to use his influence for good in a private way.

Peter P. Hefner, of this review, is the seventh in a family of eight children. He attended district school in Linton township and since seventeen years of age has been independent. At first he rented part of the homestead and looked after the estate for his mother until twenty-one years of age, when he bought the property. Here he has continued ever since with increasing success and now has two hundred and nineteen acres in the Yellow river valley, part of his land running into Franklin township. His farm is mostly devoted to stock-raising and he gives particular attention to high-grade Durham cattle, although he also raises

hogs and horses. As the result of his ability and his determined efforts he has become one of the substantial men of his neighborhood. He is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery Company and also profits by his membership in the Farmers Shipping Association of that place.

On March 29, 1893, Mr. Hefner married Miss Edna Stafford, oldest child of Seth N. Stafford, a prominent farmer of Franklin township, by his first wife, who before her marriage was Miss Mary White, the ceremony taking place on February 25, 1873. Her mother passed away in 1876, and the father, subsequently married Miss Betty C. Entwisle, by whom he had seven children. Mrs. Hefner also has one brother, David E., who resides on the Stafford home farm, making his home with his father. Mr. and Mrs. Hefner have five children: Ezra Muriel and Hazel Pearl, twins, born March 21, 1894; Elmer Gerald, born October 24, 1897; Leo Wayne, whose birth occurred August 21, 1899; and Clara Elfrieda, born August 24, 1902. All of the children are yet at home. Mr. and Mrs. Hefner are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which they take an active and helpful interest.

Politically Mr. Hefner is a democrat but has never aspired to office. He is, however, intensely interested in all that affects his locality and is ever ready to place his influence and means at the disposal of the public when worthy objects are to be obtained. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Rossville Lodge, No. 172, and also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America at Rossville. He is popular in these organizations, in which he has many friends. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hefner are widely and favorably known in Allamakee county and particularly in their neighborhood and are most highly esteemed by those who know them best and are most appreciative of their high qualities of mind and character.

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#### L. T. CHRISTIANSEN.

L. T. Christiansen, one of Center township's energetic and progressive farmers, is one of Allamakee county's native sons, his birth occurring on the old family homestead in Paint Creek township on the 11th of May, 1857. He was the third in order of birth in a family of seven children born to Thyge and Ingeborg Larson (Lien) Christiansen, natives of Norway, both of whom are now deceased. More extended mention is made of the parents in another part of this volume in connection with the sketch of C. T. Christianson.

L. T. Christiansen received a good education in the district schools while his father's farm was the training ground where he received practical experience in agricultural pursuits. He has always engaged in general farming and now owns one hundred and twenty acres located on section 34, Center township, which he inherited from his father. He has greatly improved the place since it came into his possession and erected all of the buildings which now stand upon the property. They are neat and substantial and the general appearance of the farm bespeaks a life of industry, energy and thrift upon the part of the owner.

Mr. Christiansen was married, in Allamakee county, to Miss Mary Ann Thompson, a native of Norway and a daughter of Torsten and Annie Guneld-

son. Mr. and Mrs. Christiansen are the parents of five children now living, namely: Amanda Idelia; T. T.; Luella M.; Inger M.; and Annie G. One daughter, Ruth, died in infancy. Had Mr. Christiansen followed the custom of his native land his surname would have been Thygeson, but he followed the American custom and has borne his father's surname. Wishing, however, to honor his father, he has made arrangements whereby his children shall bear the name of Thygeson. The family hold membership in the Lutheran church. Mr. Christiansen gives stalwart support to the republican party. He has resided in Allamakee county from his birth to the present time and has ever enjoyed in the fullest degree the respect and confidence of his fellowmen, his worth as a man and citizen being widely acknowledged.

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### ALBERT G. MOSIER.

Albert G. Mosier, a well known farmer of Jefferson township and a successful stock breeder and dealer, owns and operates on his home place one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 22, and by following practical and progressive methods has surrounded himself with a gratifying measure of success. He was born in Franklin township, this county, May 16, 1852, and is a son of Jacob Mosier, a native of Fayette county, Pennsylvania, born in 1821. The latter was reared in that locality and there married Miss Malinda Phillips, also a native of Pennsylvania. The parents came west to Iowa in 1852 and the father bought one hundred and twenty acres of raw land in Franklin township, turning his attention with characteristic energy to breaking the soil, clearing it of timber and improving the property. He made it in the course of years very valuable and productive, and when he sold it purchased a farm in Jefferson township, becoming one of the well known and prosperous agriculturists of this locality. His death occurred in Jefferson township in 1908, he having survived his wife for ten years. They were the parents of two children: Albert G., of this review; and Jennie, the deceased wife of William Clark.

Albert G. Mosier grew to manhood on his father's farm and in his childhood learned the best agricultural methods. He later assumed entire charge of the homestead, caring for his father in his declining years, and he remained upon this property until after his marriage. He then located on a farm, which he operated for three years thereafter, moving at the end of that time to the vicinity of Postville, where he remained for one year. He next purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land near Rossville and there resided five years, selling his property at the end of that time in order to purchase the one hundred and twenty acre tract on section 22, Jefferson township, upon which he now resides. To this he has since added, and his farm is today one of the neatest and best improved in this locality. Upon it Mr. Mosier has made extensive improvements, erecting an attractive two-story residence and substantial and modern barns and outbuildings, which he keeps always in good repair. Realizing the advantages of a grove, he has set out a number of evergreen trees and these with his well kept and level lawn add greatly to the beauty and pleasant appearance of his homestead. In addition to general farming, Mr. Mosier

engages extensively in stock-raising and is a well known dealer in pure-blood cattle, high-grade shire horses and Poland China hogs.

On the 13th of November, 1877, Mr. Mosier was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Beall, who was born in Pennsylvania but reared and educated in Allamakee county, a daughter of Conrad Beall, a pioneer in this part of Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Mosier are the parents of two children: Alden R., who is married and engages in farming; and Earl, who is assisting in the operation of his father's homestead.

Mr. Mosier is a republican in his political beliefs and is active in politics, having been honored by his fellow citizens by election to various positions of trust and responsibility. He has served as a delegate to numerous county and congressional conventions and has been on the petit jury a number of times, while for fifteen years he did conscientious and capable work as township trustee. In the county where his entire life has been passed he is widely esteemed and respected, being recognized as an able farmer, a careful, conscientious business man, and a public-spirited and useful citizen.

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#### FRANK C. MIELKE.

Crossing the Atlantic from Germany in 1885, Frank C. Mielke came directly to Iowa and here has attained to a prosperity which entitles him to be numbered with the well-to-do agriculturists of Allamakee county. He owns a stock farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Linton township and for nearly two decades has given his time and attention to the improvement of this property. He was born in Pomerania, Germany, on December 19, 1853, and is a son of August and Caroline (Christopher) Mielke, both natives of the same province. The parents never came to America, the father passing away in 1870, in Germany, where the mother still makes her home.

Frank C. Mielke attended school in his native country and when twenty years of age entered the army and served for three years as a bugler. Laying aside his uniform, he then worked for two years for his mother and also for others until he came to America in 1885 in order to profit by the opportunities which he had heard were waiting for all who came here ready to work determinedly and persistently. He came directly to Iowa and to this county, where for a few years he made his living in the employment of others and then rented a farm in Clayton county, which he operated for three years. His dreams came nearer to realization when he was enabled at the end of that time to buy his present farm, which comprises one hundred and sixty acres of fertile land. It is largely devoted to stock-raising and as the years have passed Mr. Mielke has made it a valuable property. He is a stockholder in the Monona Cooperative Creamery and also belongs to the Shipping Association.

In October, 1880, when still in the fatherland, Mr. Mielke married Miss Matilda Czech, also a native of Pomerania, born March 10, 1854, whose parents spent their entire lives in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Mielke became the parents of nine children: Charles, who resides near Sixteen, Linton township, and engages in agricultural pursuits; Otto, born July 2, 1882, who farms near Vol-

ney, this state; Paul, born March 1, 1884, at home; Fred, the first to be born in this country, his date of birth being March 22, 1886, at home; Emma, born March 5, 1888, who married Paul Levenhagen, a farmer of Fairview township; Leo, born September 20, 1889, at home; Frank, whose birth occurred February 6, 1892, also at home; Anna, who was born May 9, 1895, and married Frank Hertramps, who follows agricultural pursuits in Linton township; and Lena, born October 9, 1898, at home. Mrs. Mielke, the wife and mother, passed away on May 16, 1905, deeply mourned by her family and a large circle of devoted friends.

Mr. Mielke is a member of the Lutheran church and reared his family in that faith. Politically he is not a party man, preferring to vote independently, following his own judgment in supporting candidates. Although Mr. Mielke had to begin under disadvantages, including his inability to understand English, he has become a prominent and substantial citizen of this section of Allamakee county and today stands high in the regard and esteem of all who know him.

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#### WILLIAM H. SELBERG.

Allamakee county numbers among her progressive and substantial farmers and her successful native sons William H. Selberg, who owns and operates a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 18, Jefferson township. He was born in Ludlow township, March 20, 1868, and is a son of Henry Selberg, a native of Germany, who remained in that country until he was fifteen years of age. He then crossed the Atlantic with his parents and after his arrival settled in Wisconsin, where he grew to maturity. His marriage occurred in that state and he later moved to Iowa, buying one hundred and sixty acres of land in Ludlow township, this county. Upon this he continued to reside for a number of years, carrying forward the work of improvement and development until his death.

William H. Selberg, is one of a family of seven children. He was reared upon his father's farm and educated in the Ludlow township district schools. From his childhood he assisted in the operation of the homestead and for a time managed it in partnership with his brother. However, in February, 1901, he purchased the farm upon which he now resides, this property comprising one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land on section 18. He has repaired the buildings and remodeled the house, has fenced the entire place with woven wire, and has made many other substantial improvements, adding materially to the value and attractiveness of this property. In addition to general farming he engages also in stock-raising, keeping fine herds of shorthorn and polled cattle and raising also Chester White hogs and high-grade horses and sheep. For the past fifteen years he has operated a model sanitary dairy and milks at the present time from fifteen to twenty cows. The dairy products are sold to the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company of Waukon, in which he is a stockholder.

Mr. Selberg married Miss Lisette Straate, who was born and reared in Jefferson township, and they have become the parents of two sons, Elmer C. and Leo H. Mr. and Mrs. Selberg are members of the German Reformed church of

Waukon and are people of exemplary character, holding the respect and high esteem of all who know them. Mr. Selberg is independent in his political views, supporting always men and measures which he deems most worthy without regard to party lines. He has remained a resident of this community from his birth to the present time and enjoys an enviable reputation as an enterprising agriculturist and a representative citizen.

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### JACOB MARTI.

The list of Allamakee county's pioneers contains the names of many upright, enterprising and courageous men whose labors have been potent forces in upbuilding and development. None, however, has displayed more energy in business relations, more integrity and honor in personal life, than Jacob Marti, who has resided here since 1855. He was born in Canton Glarus, Switzerland, June 12, 1842, and is a son of Henry and Catherine (Blumer) Marti, the former born in 1800 and the latter in 1803. They emigrated to America with their five children in 1855 and established a home in Allamakee county on a farm belonging to a cousin. Henry Marti suffered a stroke of paralysis and was an invalid for seventeen years prior to his death, which occurred at the home of his son Jacob when he was seventy years of age. His wife survived him some years, dying at the age of eighty-three. They became the parents of five children: Henry, who died upon the ocean; Jacob, of this review; Mrs. Fred Riser, deceased; Mrs. Peter Riser, who resides in Lansing township; and Mrs. Blumer, who has passed away.

Jacob Marti was thirteen years of age when he was brought to America by his parents. He remembers well the journey across the ocean which was made in a sailing vessel, the John Hancock, and which was the last trip of this vessel as a passenger carrier. Thirty-three days were spent on the journey from Liverpool to New York city and from there the family pushed westward to Dubuque, whence after a short stop they came to Allamakee county. Jacob, however, remained for sometime with an uncle in Dubuque. He had acquired a common-school education in Switzerland and after coming to America spent three months in a German school in Dubuque and three months in the public schools of Allamakee county. He remained with his parents until he was twenty years of age and then began his independent career as manager of a farm belonging to the widow of his cousin, Frederick Marti. He subsequently married the widow, who was in her maidenhood Miss Catherine Wilhelm and who had two children by her former marriage: John, who lives on a farm in Makee township; and Casper, living in Minneapolis, Minnesota. By her marriage to Jacob Marti she had five children: Henry, who resides upon a farm in Lansing township; George, engaged in agricultural pursuits in the same locality; Catherine, the wife of W. R. Gaine, of Chicago, Illinois; William, a resident of Kasson, Minnesota; and Emma, who died at the age of eighteen. Mr. Marti's first wife passed away at the age of forty years and he afterward married Miss Sarah Iverson, a native of Norway. They have three children: Jacob J., who is em-





MR. AND MRS. JACOB MARTI



ployed in the postoffice at Mason City, Iowa; Anna, the wife of Charles Alfred Petrehn of Austin, Minnesota; and Philip, a farmer in Allamakee county.

Since the farm came into Mr. Marti's possession he has continued to conduct it successfully, owning at the present time four hundred and fifty-four acres of good land upon which is one of the finest sets of buildings in the county. The original residence was burned down about ten years ago and in its place he has erected at a cost of over four thousand dollars a large modern home. It is finished on the inside in oak and is complete in furnishings and accessories, one of the finest private residences in this section of the state. Mr. Marti engages in general farming and is interested in the conduct of his dairy, which is well equipped and sanitary in every particular. For a number of years he made a great deal of cheese which he sold in the Dubuque markets, where it commanded a high price and a ready sale. A man of broad views and modern ideas, well informed on the questions and issues of the day, Mr. Marti is probably one of the most popular of Allamakee county's pioneer citizens and his place in the respect and esteem of his fellowmen has been won by reason of an honorable, upright and worthy life, the activities of which have contributed in an important way to the development of the section. It is said that he never knowingly wronged any man, and his name is today a synonym for kindness, geniality and courtesy.

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### JOHN J. ARNOLD.

The advanced and scientific methods which have of late years practically revolutionized agricultural pursuits find a progressive and worthy representative in John J. Arnold, one of the extensive landowners and most prominent stock breeders and shippers in Allamakee county. In association with his brother he owns one hundred and eighty-five acres of land in Jefferson township, another tract of one hundred and thirty acres, and another tract of one hundred and sixty acres, and has proven far-sighted and practical in the conduct of his important interests. For the past fifteen years he has bred stock on an extensive scale and also devotes a great deal of time to buying, selling and shipping, and his business affairs, being carefully conducted, have resulted in a success which places him among the leading men engaged in this line of work in this part of Iowa. He was born in Mitchell county, this state, July 6, 1870, and is a son of A. P. Arnold, a well known farmer and bridge contractor, of whom more extended mention is made elsewhere in this work.

John J. Arnold was three years of age when he came with his parents to Allamakee county. He was reared in Waukon and in Ludlow township. He acquired his primary education in district school, supplementing this by a term in the Waukon high school, after which he devoted practically all of his time to assisting his father with the cultivation of the homestead and in his bridge-building operations. After three years, however, he turned his attention to buying and shipping stock, and he has been connected with this line of work for the past fifteen years. His land holdings are today extensive and important, comprising three fine farms, one of one hundred and eighty-five acres, another of

one hundred and thirty, and another of one hundred and sixty, lying principally in Jefferson township. In connection with his brother he operates these as model stock farms, and upon the one hundred and eighty-five acre tract has erected a fine residence and a modern silo with a capacity of one hundred and sixty tons. His barns house fifty cows and a fine herd of high-grade cattle. His property here is today one of the finest and best equipped in the township. Mr. Arnold, however, makes his home in the vicinity of Waukon, where he has rented eighty acres of land, upon which is a comfortable and attractive residence. Mr. Arnold makes his home upon this property because of its proximity to the Waukon stock yards, and he is well known in business circles of that city, owning a half interest in a local meat market and a half interest in an ice business there.

In Waukon, on the 21st of June, 1910, Mr. Arnold was united in marriage to Mrs. Elsie Ashbacher, who was born and reared in Allamakee county, and a daughter of James Thompson. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold have become the parents of a daughter, Florence, and Mrs. Arnold has two children by her former marriage, Leora and Harriet.

Mr. Arnold is a member of the Presbyterian church of Waukon, to which he is a liberal contributor. He is connected fraternally with the Knights of Pythias, taking an active interest in the affairs of that organization. He has constantly and earnestly labored to stimulate the interest of his neighbors in all that tends to promote progress along agricultural lines, demonstrating in his own success the result of practical methods and well directed industry. His prosperity is well deserved and Allamakee county numbers him among her most progressive, prominent and desirable citizens.

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#### CHARLES L. KEENAN.

Among the men widely known in Allamakee county as breeders of pure-blooded and high-grade cattle is Charles L. Keenan, who from his youth has been closely identified with this line of work and who is today the owner of the Maple Leaf Stock Farm of one hundred and fifty acres and of fine herds of shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and Percheron horses. A spirit of enterprise has distinguished all the activities of his career and has brought him today to a gratifying position in his chosen line. Mr. Keenan was born upon the farm which he now occupies on the 27th of February, 1871, and is a son of Patrick Keenan, one of the first settlers in Jefferson township, having located here in 1847. The father purchased wild land, securing over five hundred acres, and this he cleared of timber, breaking the soil and improving the place with substantial buildings. He became in the course of years one of the well known men in Allamakee county, continuing to make his home in this part of Iowa until his death, which occurred March 14, 1878. In 1854, in Allamakee county, he married Miss Catherine Scanlan, who survived him for a number of years, carrying on the operation of the homestead and becoming the owner of one of the first herds of shorthorn cattle in Allamakee county. She passed away September 14, 1909.

Charles L. Keenan, who is one of a family of nine sons and three daughters, was reared upon the family homestead in Jefferson township and acquired his primary education in the country schools. He supplemented this by a business course at La Crosse Business College and then returned to the farm which he aided his mother in operating for a number of years, continuing as assistant until the estate was settled, when he succeeded to the portion of the farm which contained the homestead. From his youth up he was closely connected with stock-raising interests here and is today one of the leading stock men in the township. His stock is all high grade and his herd of cattle varies from ten to forty animals. In business circles Mr. Keenan is known as one of the promoters of the Farmers Cooperative Stock & Produce Company of Allamakee county and also has stock in the Paint Creek Telephone Company.

In Jefferson township, on the 25th of June, 1901, Mr. Keenan was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Ryan, who was born and reared in Jefferson township, a daughter of John S. Ryan, who is numbered among the first settlers in this locality. A more extended mention of his life is found elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Keenan have become the parents of four children, John Cyril, Mary Lorraine, Katherine Estella and Cecilia. The family are members of the Waukon Catholic church and Mr. Keenan belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters and the Knights of Columbus. He is numbered among the successful farmers and stock-raisers of Allamakee county and among its most progressive business men, his success coming as the direct result of the sound judgment and keen discrimination which have distinguished the activities of his entire career.

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#### FRED S. HANSMEIER.

That Fred S. Hansmeier has been found reliable, conscientious and efficient in positions of public trust is indicated by the fact that he is now in the eighth consecutive year of his service as assessor of Makee township, and that he is also an able agriculturist and a progressive business man his fine farm of one hundred acres on section 27 gives ample testimony. He has been a resident of Iowa since 1869, but is a native of Germany, born in Lippe, June 13, 1860, a son of Fred L. Hansmeier, also a native of that principality. The father married there Minnie Kollinge, who was born and reared in Lippe, and the family emigrated to America in 1869, settling directly in Iowa and making a permanent location in Allamakee county. One year later Fred L. Hansmeier purchased one hundred acres of land provided with a log house and with a few acres under cultivation. For many years thereafter he continued to reside on this property, adding to it the adjoining farm and carrying forward the work of improvement and cultivation. He died upon his holdings in 1909, having survived his wife three years.

Fred S. Hansmeier is the eldest in a family of seven children, all of whom reside in Allamakee county. He was reared and educated here and remained upon the homestead until he was twenty-one years of age, aiding in the work of its development and improvement. He afterward learned the carpentering

trade and for some years engaged in business as a contractor and builder, many of the finest residences in Waukon and upon the farms in the vicinity of the city standing as evidences of his architectural skill. Eventually he succeeded to the old home place and he has since resided thereon, giving his attention to its further development and improvement. He has erected upon it a fine modern residence, good barns, a granary, a corner crib and a henhouse, and has besides sunk a well three hundred feet deep, provided with a gas engine to pump the water to Oak Ridge Farm, by which name it is known. As the result of his efforts he has one of the finest agricultural properties in this vicinity, nothing being neglected which will add to its attractive appearance or its value. Mr. Hansmeier is numbered among the able exponents of enlightened and scientific agricultural methods. In addition to general farming he is also a stock-raiser on an extensive scale, breeding a good grade of shorthorn cattle, Chester White hogs and Shropshire sheep. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery of Waukon and is now in his fourth year of service as president of that concern, to which he sells the products of the model and sanitary dairy which he operates.

In St. Paul, Minnesota, November 27, 1887, Mr. Hansmeier was united in marriage to Miss Annie Umbriet, who was born in Wabasha county, that state. They were the first couple married in North St. Paul and in the Presbyterian church there, an edifice which Mr. Hansmeier aided in erecting. Seven children have been born to their union: Clara, the wife of Ed Raymond, of Waukon; Ella; Calvin A.; Esther; Lillian; Alfred L.; and Arna. Mr. and Mrs. Hansmeier and their children are members of the Waukon German Reformed church.

Mr. Hansmeier is a staunch republican in his political beliefs and takes an intelligent interest in public affairs, cooperating heartily in all movements to promote the permanent interests of the community. In 1901 he was elected assessor of Makee township and after serving one term was reelected. After an interval of one term he was again elected to the office and has since served eight consecutive years, discharging his duties in a capable, reliable and energetic way. He has been a resident of Allamakee county since 1869 and the intervening years have brought him success, prominence and fortune and a place among the substantial agriculturists and men of affairs.

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#### MARTIN J. LARSON.

Martin J. Larson, who has resided in Allamakee county since 1854, is today numbered among the prosperous, substantial and progressive agriculturists of this part, owning and operating the Big Spring Stock Farm, a fine property of eighty acres which in its neat and attractive appearance is a visible evidence of his life of industry and thrift. He was born in Norway, near Christiania, February 4, 1852, and is a son of John and Karen (Johnson) Larson, who came to America at an early date and settled in Wisconsin in 1853. There the mother died and the father afterward came as a pioneer to Iowa, making a permanent location in Jefferson township, Allamakee county. A more extended mention of his career will be found on another page in this work.

Martin J. Larson was reared upon his father's farm in Jefferson township and after his father's death operated the homestead in association with his brother for a number of years. After his marriage, which occurred in 1875, he rented land and continued to develop it until he went to North Dakota, where he spent one season. Upon his return he purchased the property which he now owns and turned his attention to breaking the soil and clearing it of timber. His property is known as the Big Spring Farm and comprises eighty acres of land, well tilled and equipped with substantial improvements. It was Mr. Larson who made this farm what it is today, for he broke the soil, felled the trees and has since carried forward the work of development with characteristic energy and with excellent results. He has divided his land into fields of convenient size enclosed with barbed wire fences, has erected a neat residence, a large barn with a basement, and a spring house and has neglected nothing that will add to the attractive appearance or value of the place. He makes a specialty of breeding and raising high-grade stock and controls also extensive dairy interests, selling the dairy products to the Waterville Cooperative Creamery, in which he is a stockholder. He is connected in the same way with the Peoples National Bank of Waukon, the Farmers Cooperative Stock & Produce Company and the Farmers Paint Creek Telephone Company, and his business ability has been a helpful factor in the development of these concerns.

On the 20th of May, 1875, Mr. Larson was united in marriage to Miss Rachel Sando, a native of Norway, who came to the United States when she was thirteen or fourteen years of age and grew to womanhood in Allamakee county. Mr. and Mrs. Larson have become the parents of six children: John E.; Helmer, of Berlin, North Dakota; Melvin R., who is aiding in the operation of the homestead; Caroline L., the wife of Ed Smeby, of Jefferson township; Rosa, who married A. A. Koontz, of Berlin, North Dakota; and Alma J. The last named supplemented a public-school education by three terms at a college in Austin, Minnesota, and has been for fifteen terms a teacher in Winneshiek and Allamakee counties.

Mr. Larson is a member of the old West Paint Creek United Lutheran church and he is a republican in his political beliefs, having served for about twelve years at different times as township trustee. He is a progressive, loyal and enterprising citizen, a capable business man and a progressive farmer and during the many years of his residence in Allamakee county has commanded and held the respect and high esteem of all who have come in contact with him.

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#### EMIL H. PUFAHL.

Emil H. Pufahl, who is engaged in dairy farming in Linton township on a property comprising one hundred and sixty acres, has taken his place among the substantial farmers of his district. He understands the dairy business thoroughly, having for many years been manager of various creameries, and as the years have passed has made his farm one of the most attractive and paying in the neighborhood, his particular grade or brand of cattle being high-grade Guernseys. He was born in Guttenberg, Clayton county, Iowa, December 21, 1871, and is a son of Gottlieb and Wilhelmina Pufahl, both natives of the province

of Posen, Germany. The father was born April 2, 1831, and passed away May 9, 1913, having passed his eighty-second birthday, and the mother is still residing at Guttenberg. They crossed the Atlantic in 1871, coming directly to Guttenberg, where the father worked for others in a sawmill and continued in that occupation until he retired in 1898. From that time until his death he lived in the enjoyment of a comfortable competency, which his former labors had brought him. While yet in Germany he served with the army and often delighted to recall incidents from his early military life. Mr. and Mrs. Pufahl had eleven children, of whom six are living and seven grew to maturity: Gustav, who resides in Luana, Clayton county, and follows farming; Bertha, who married Fred Williams and resides at Steamboat Springs, Colorado, where her husband is engaged in the hotel business; Julius, who made his home near Guttenberg until his death on November 7, 1910; Herman, who resides at Bolivar, Missouri, where he is a prominent attorney; Emil H., of this review; Otto, who is an art decorator at Butte, Montana; and Hulda, the wife of Orrin Burke, of Los Angeles, California. The four others died in infancy.

Emil H. Pufahl received his educational advantages in Guttenberg, where he attended high school. He left that institution at the age of seventeen and then for one year worked in Chicago, Illinois, where he operated a milk route. Coming back to Clayton county, he was employed on a farm for a short time and then became manager and secretary of the Luana Creamery Company, continuing so for six years. At the end of that time he set himself up independently, conducting a creamery at Nora Springs, Iowa, for four years. Upon selling his plant he bought his present farm comprising one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, which he operates as a dairy farm, keeping a number of high-grade Guernsey cattle. His barns and buildings are substantially built and modernly equipped and in every way sanitary. Mr. Pufahl is a progressive farmer in the best sense of the word and is ever ready to embrace new methods if they promise improvements over older ones. He has made his property one of the most valuable and profitable in his section, and this is the more creditable to him as it has been brought about by his own labors alone. Mr. Pufahl is a stockholder in the Farmers Creamery Company at Monona, an organization formed with the object of affording the farmer an opportunity to dispose of his products in the best possible way.

The date of the marriage of Mr. Pufahl was May 30, 1900, when he wedded Miss Carrie Biggs, the ceremony taking place at McGregor, Iowa. She is a daughter of David and Elizabeth (Fitch) Biggs, the former born in Holmes county, Ohio, November 4, 1831, and the latter in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 18, 1840. In 1853 the father came to Iowa, settling in Volney, where for a number of years he engaged in sawmilling. He conducted an enterprise of this kind in partnership with his sons with excellent results until 1860, when he went to the Rocky mountains, spending two months in the vicinity of Pike's Peak. Upon his return to Iowa he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Linton township, which he continued to cultivate until 1908, becoming a prosperous farmer in this neighborhood. In that year he retired and now he and his wife reside in Rossville. David Biggs comes of an old American family which has been in this country since Revolutionary times, his grandfather having come to the colonies as a soldier in the English army. After his arrival here,



however, he and his brother joined General Washington and they gave their service to the Continental cause. Mr. and Mrs. Pufahl have three children: John Kenneth, born October 17, 1903; Paul Wesley, May 16, 1911; and Florence Eugenia, August 19, 1912.

Mr. Pufahl was born in a Lutheran family and reared in that faith, although he is not now a member of any church. Politically he is a republican, giving his allegiance to the progressive movement in that party. He serves at the present time as clerk of Linton township. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, holding membership in the Nora Springs camp. Careful of his own interests, Mr. Pufahl is always considerate of those of others and ever views his actions from the point of their effect upon the general prosperity. He has done much toward raising agricultural standards in Allamakee county and is therefore a forceful factor in community life.

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#### EMMETT LEROY PALMER.

A thorough and experienced agriculturist and a good manager, Emmett Leroy Palmer takes a prominent place among the younger farmers of Allamakee county. Since 1910 he has owned his present property, comprising one hundred and twenty acres, and within a few years has brought it to a high state of cultivation, his fields yielding rich harvests and being fenced into suitable tracts. His buildings are substantial and modern and the latest farm machinery and implements can be found upon his place. Mr. Palmer is a native of Iowa, his birth occurring at Elkader, Clayton county, on September 21, 1878. He is a son of Aaron V. and Emma (Niblock) Palmer, the former a native of Pennsylvania, born about 1851, and the latter of Allamakee county, her birth having occurred near Waukon about a year later. In early life the father followed the trade of cooper but also engaged in teaming and farming and eventually settled on a property near Waukon, in Jefferson township, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits and where he still resides. Enjoying good health, he is still active and is now enjoying a prosperity which his long years of incessant labor have brought him. He also was engaged for a time in carrying mail from Elkader to West Union and to Postville, making these routes for about thirteen years.

Emmett L. Palmer is the second in a family of nine children, all of whom are living. He attended school in Clayton county and also in Jefferson township, this county. He was early reared to an agricultural life by his father and from him learned the thorough methods which now bring him such gratifying results. He remained at home until eighteen years of age, when he started out upon his independent career by working as a farm hand for others and also engaging in other work until married and then rented land which he operated until November, 1910, with such good results that he was enabled to buy his present farm. He owns one hundred and twenty acres in Franklin township and operates the same in a general way. The farm is now fully equipped with modern buildings, is conveniently fenced and its appearance in every way betrays careful management and well applied labor. Mr. Palmer is also a stockholder in the Farmers

Cooperative Creamery Company at Monona and in the Farmers Shipping Association.

The marriage of Mr. Palmer to Miss Ethel Stafford occurred on September 4, 1901. She is a daughter of Seth N. Stafford and is just nine days younger than her husband, her birth occurring on September 30, 1878. Mr. Stafford is a pioneer of Allamakee county and one of the representative agriculturists of Franklin township. He owns a valuable farm of nearly three hundred and fifty acres on section 23 and there has gained prosperity. A native of Virginia, he was born near Morgantown, on the Monongahela river, on the 1st of June, 1848, and is a son of James Harrison and Christina (Trisler) Stafford. In his early youth he came to Allamakee county, where he spent all his active life with the exception of one year which was passed with his father in Colorado. As the years passed he attained to prosperity and has become one of the prominent citizens of his district. He was twice married and to his first union, with Miss Mary White, two children were born, a son and a daughter. Later he married Miss Betty C. Entwisle, who was born in Franklin township in 1858 and is a daughter of William and Martha (Hancock) Entwisle, the former a native of England and the latter of Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Stafford became the parents of seven children, of whom Ethel, the wife of our subject, is the oldest. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer have four children: Everett Merle, born August 31, 1902; Emmett Earl, August 18, 1907; Greta L., April 21, 1910; and Crayton James, October 17, 1912.

In his political affiliations Mr. Palmer is a democrat and although deeply interested in the affairs which affect the community, he has never aspired to office. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge at Monona and both, he and his wife, belong to the affiliated order of Rebekahs at Rossville. Mr. Palmer also holds membership in the Modern Woodmen of America and in that connection has a life policy and also has protected his family by taking out insurance with other organizations. Mr. Palmer is public-spirited and progressive in all his actions and, as he is a man of natural ability, has already attained a success which many an older man might well envy. He enjoys in full measure the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens and is recognized as a forceful factor for good in his locality.

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#### ALBERT L. CHAMBERLAIN.

Agricultural interests of Franklin township find a progressive and worthy representative in Albert L. Chamberlain who has for many years owned and operated a fine farm of one hundred and ninety acres in this locality, the excellent condition of the property reflecting his careful supervision and practical methods. He was born in Hastings, Dakota county, Minnesota, on the 18th of December, 1858, and is a son of Theodore and Caroline (Felton) Chamberlain, natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in Pittsburg in 1810 and the latter in Susquehanna county in 1830. The father was a great lover of horses and an able horseman, driving stage over the mountains from Pittsburg in his early days. He went to Minnesota in 1853 and entered government land, turning his attention to



MR. AND MRS. ALBERT L. CHAMBERLAIN



the clearing, improving and developing of this property. The years brought him steady and well deserved success and he became well known as a prosperous and able agriculturist, dying upon his property in Dakota county in 1859. In addition to the work of his farm he also engaged in teaming for some time, hauling goods from Dubuque to Hastings and St. Paul over the ice of the Mississippi river during the winter months and becoming known as the best driver in that section of Minnesota. His wife has also passed away, dying in 1888 upon the Dakota county farm. She was a representative of one of the earliest pioneer families in that vicinity. Her father served as the first coroner of Dakota county, her mother was the first white woman who ever baked a loaf of bread there and her sister was the first bride in the county. After the death of her first husband, Mrs. Chamberlain wedded Frederick Myers, a resident of Dakota county, and they became the parents of four children. By her first husband she had seven children, of whom the subject of this review is the youngest in the order of birth.

Albert L. Chamberlain acquired his education in the public schools of Dakota county, Minnesota, and later entered a business college at Winona, that state, which he attended for one term. His childhood was spent upon his father's farm and he assisted from an early age with the work of its operation. After his father's death he remained upon the property until he was twenty-eight years of age, assisting his elder brother in the operation of the homestead. Afterward he worked as timekeeper for a local railroad contractor for one year and then turned his attention to farming, renting land near Castle Rock, Minnesota. At the end of one year he went to the vicinity of New Orleans, Louisiana, and there engaged in the strawberry business for one season, coming at the end of that time to Iowa and purchasing a farm of ninety acres in Allamakee county, near Luana. He found this a practically unimproved tract, forty acres of which were cleared, but with characteristic energy set himself to develop and cultivate the land. Success attended his well directed efforts and from time to time he added to his holdings until he owns today one hundred and ninety acres, all highly cultivated. Mr. Chamberlain has one of the best equipped farms in the township, provided with a modern residence and substantial barns and out-buildings, all of which he keeps in good repair. He specializes in the breeding and raising of high-grade stock, keeping fine herds of shorthorn cattle, his animals commanding a high price and ready sale upon the market. He is a member of the Cooperative Shipping Association of Luana and of the creamery company of that city and his ability is widely recognized in business circles.

On the 31st of January, 1889, Mr. Chamberlain was united in marriage to Miss Anna Sutcliffe, who was born in Hastings, Dakota county, Minnesota, on the 19th of January, 1865, a daughter of James and Anna (Wilde) Sutcliffe, natives of England. The father was born in Yorkshire, March 8, 1835, and the mother, who was some years younger, was left an orphan at an early age and reared by her grandfather. The father was a contractor and builder by trade and at the age of twenty-two crossed the Atlantic to America, going directly to Chicago, Illinois, where he engaged in business until about the year 1855. He then moved to Hastings, Minnesota, and at the outbreak of the Civil war enlisted under General La Duc, going south as an army carpenter. He served for two years and after his discharge returned to Minnesota, where he entered land, continuing active in agricultural pursuits in Dakota county until 1882. In that year

he moved to Franklin township, Allamakee county, Iowa, and became a large landowner, residing in the vicinity of Postville until about 1905, when he moved to Michigan, where he is now residing retired in Vanderbilt. His wife passed away when Mrs. Chamberlain was still a child. The father had been previously married and to his first union were born seven children. Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain have two sons. William LeRoy, born May 11, 1890, married Miss Helen Laughlin and is now engaged in farming in Post township. Leon E., who was born September 16, 1892, is residing with his parents.

Mr. Chamberlain is affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Brotherhood of America. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and served as township clerk for two years, although he has never been active as an office seeker. Mr. Chamberlain gives much credit for his success to the able assistance, helpfulness and sound advice of his faithful wife and helpmate but much must also be attributed to his own energy, enterprise and public spirit. He is today one of the most prosperous farmers of this township, enjoying in large measure the confidence and regard of all who know him.

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#### AARON V. PALMER.

One of the highly successful farmers and stockmen of Allamakee county is Aaron V. Palmer, who owns and operates the Orchard Hill Farm, comprising two hundred and forty acres of valuable land on section 27, Jefferson township. He is numbered among the early settlers in Iowa, his residence in the state dating from 1863, while he has made his home in this township since 1893. He was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, May 23, 1851, and is a son of John Palmer, who was born in New York state, February 12, 1830. As a young man the father moved to Pennsylvania, where for a number of years he engaged in the manufacture of shingles, being a cooper by trade. In Crawford county, that state, he married Miss Sophrona J. Coon, a native of Pennsylvania, and two of their sons were born there. In 1853 the family moved to Wisconsin and located in Marquette county, where the father purchased a tract of land, which he cleared of timber, and grubbing up the stumps opened a new farm. For ten years thereafter he developed and improved this property, but in 1863 moved to Iowa, where he located in the vicinity of Elkader, where he farmed and followed the cooper's trade. He died in Rossville, October 10, 1909, having survived his wife since 1892.

Aaron V. Palmer was twelve years of age when his parents moved to Elkader, and he attended the public schools in that city. His advantages, however, along this line were limited and he is largely self-educated, having made up for his early deficiencies by study and reading in later years. For a time he worked upon a farm and also as stage driver between Postville and Elkader and on other routes. He later turned his attention to the livery business, establishing an enterprise of this kind in Waukon. He remained in that city for a time and then returned to Elkader, where he resumed his livery business, continuing at it until 1893. He had previous to this time bought a farm of two hun-

dred acres on section 27, Jefferson township, and upon this farm property he then located, turning his attention to its improvement and cultivation. He has since added forty acres to his holdings and the Orchard Hill Farm is today a large and well managed enterprise, reflecting everywhere the owner's careful supervision and practical labor. One hundred acres are in hay and grain and the rest affords pasture for Mr. Palmer's fine herd of cattle and his Shropshire sheep. He is a stock breeder on an extensive scale, raising also a good grade of Poland China hogs. In addition to this he keeps milch cows and operates a modern and sanitary dairy, a branch of his business which, like all the others, is important and profitable. Upon his farm Mr. Palmer has made extensive and substantial improvements, including a comfortable residence and a fine barn, in which there is room for twenty-four horses and thirty cows, and which is provided with a loft where fifty tons of hay may be kept. Mr. Palmer is a fruit-grower, also, and has a fine orchard of selected fruits, with one hundred bearing trees. His business interests are all carefully conducted along progressive lines and his success has come as the result of sound judgment, keen discrimination and well directed labor.

On the 24th of August, 1875, in Waukon, Mr. Palmer was united in marriage to Miss Emma Niblock, who was born and reared in Allamakee county, a daughter of William Niblock, who came from Wisconsin to this part of Iowa in 1851 and is numbered among the earliest settlers. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer became the parents of nine children: Emmett Leroy, who is engaged in farming in Franklin township; Fred Carl, who lives at home; James Raymond; Charles, who is engaged in teaching; Merton R., who is assisting in the operation of the homestead; Sophrona Jane, the wife of I. E. Woodmanse, of Waukon; Maggie, who married Alden Mosier, a farmer of Jefferson township; Bessie, the wife of Ora Mitchell, a farmer of Jefferson township; and Doris Etta, who is still at school.

Mr. Palmer is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Rossville and belongs to the Fraternal Brethren. He is a devout member of the Baptist church and gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He served on the school board in this township for a number of years and for eight years as school director in Elkader. Ambition, energy and perseverance are his most prominent characteristics and they have brought him recognition as one of the successful farmers and prosperous stock-raisers of Jefferson township.

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#### CHARLES J. KNUDTSON.

Of the native sons of Allamakee county, none have taken a deeper interest in its welfare than has Charles J. Knudtson, who is numbered among the progressive farmers of Makee township. He was born on the homestead farm, on which he still resides, December 1, 1867, a son of Knudt Knudtson, who was born in Norway, September 28, 1818. After reaching mature years the father emigrated to the new world, first making his home in Wisconsin. Subsequently he removed to Iowa and spent his remaining years in Makee township. His wife bore the maiden name of Rhenild Ambrose. She was likewise a native of Norway, and

by her marriage became the mother of seven children, four of whom are living: Mrs. Cornelia Banks, a widow, residing in Tacoma, Washington; Mrs. Anna Johnson Engrav, of Waukon; Thomas, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; and Charles J., of this review. The parents are now deceased, the father passing away in August, 1902, when he had reached the advanced age of eighty-three years. The mother died about 1887.

Charles J. Knudtson was reared on the home farm and was early trained in the work of plowing, planting and harvesting. After reaching mature years he more and more largely assumed the responsibility of the farm and cared for his parents in their declining years. He eventually succeeded to the east half of the homestead and now has a tract of one hundred and sixty acres. Since coming into possession of the place he has made further improvements, having remodeled the house, barn and other outbuildings, and is today numbered among the successful farmers and stock-raisers of Makee township. He raises Chester White hogs and Percheron horses and also does some dairying.

Mr. Knudtson was married on the 11th of June, 1895, to Miss Amelia Engurburtson, who was born and reared in Taylor township, Allamakee county. Two children have been born of this union, Clyde J. and Beulah.

In politics Mr. Knudtson is a staunch republican, and he and his family are members of the Lutheran church. He is not only a successful farmer but is a public-spirited man, loyal to the best interests of Makee township and Allamakee county.

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#### L. COPPERSMITH.

Not only as one of the foremost merchants of Dorchester, and as such prominent in the business circles of the city, but as a veteran of the Civil war is L. Coppersmith entitled to special mention in a history of Allamakee county. He was born in New Jersey in 1843, a son of Louis and Mary Coppersmith, both natives of Germany. The mother died in 1846, during the childhood of her son. As a young man the father had come to the United States, locating first in New York, but later removing to New Jersey. In the latter state he followed the trade of wagon making until the latter '60s, when he made his way across the country to Iowa and took up a farm near Melbourne. That farm remained his home until his death in 1886, and in its operation he was very successful, accumulating through his well directed efforts valuable property holdings. In his family were four children, but only two, the subject of this review, and his sister, Carrie, survive. The latter is the widow of Oscar Evans, of Rochester, Minnesota.

The period of his boyhood and youth were spent by L. Coppersmith in the state of his nativity, and in the schools of New Jersey he acquired his education. He entered the business world at the early age of sixteen years, when he became a clerk in a store, being thus employed for about four years. In the meantime, however, his patriotic spirit had been aroused by the attempt of the south, to overthrow the Union, and in 1863, a youth of twenty years, he enlisted in Battery H, Second Illinois Artillery, and thus served throughout the



remainder of the war. At the close of hostilities he was honorably discharged at Springfield, Illinois, and returned home with a most creditable military record. He again took up clerking, in which occupation he was engaged until the early '80s, when in partnership with a brother he opened a store at Dover, Minnesota, being desirous of entering business on his own account. Four years later, however, he sold his interest to his brother and came to Dorchester, Iowa, here entering into a partnership with T. C. Smith for the purpose of conducting a general mercantile store. This relationship continued until 1908, when his partner died, since which time Mr. Coppersmith has owned and operated the store alone. This was the pioneer store of the town, having been established in 1854, and at that time operated by G. W. Hayes. It is now a well equipped emporium, handling a modern and select line of goods, and in its operation Mr. Coppersmith, who is a man of progressive tendencies, is meeting with well merited success, for he has sought in every way to meet the desires and wishes of his customers, recognizing the truth of the fact that satisfied patrons are the best advertisement. As Mr. Coppersmith has prospered in his enterprise he has become the owner of valuable land, holding title to his business property as well as his home, and also a tract of land in Union City township.

In 1868 Mr. Coppersmith was united in marriage to Miss C. E. Smith, who was born in Pennsylvania and in childhood was adopted by T. E. Smith, with whom she made her home until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Coppersmith have become the parents of eight children, of whom five survive, namely: George, who was born in 1870 and is a merchant of Des Moines, Iowa; Nora, who was born in 1877 and is the wife of Dr. M. B. Yeoman, of Lansing, Iowa; Leroy B., born in 1880 and still at home; Pearl, born in 1884, who married Christian Plambeck, of Dorchester; and Catherine, born in 1891, the wife of John Whitlinger, who is engaged in the bakery business at Santa Barbara, California. In religious belief Mrs. Coppersmith is a Salvationist, while in fraternal relations Mr. Coppersmith belongs to the Masonic order, in which he has filled a number of chairs up to the third degree. In politics he usually supports the democratic ticket, but is independent in his views and reserves the right to vote for any man or measure, regardless of party ties, if his judgment so sanctions. He has served as county supervisor of Allamakee county for two terms and is an efficient and capable public servant. He is eminently public-spirited in his citizenship, warmly advocating all those movements which have for their object the permanent upbuilding of the community, and is as faithful to the interests of his country in times of peace as when he followed the old flag on southern battlefields.

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#### G. F. WILD.

G. F. Wild, manager of the New Albin Manufacturing Company, Inc., and since 1908 mayor of the city, is numbered among the men who have been active in shaping its business and political development, and along both lines of his interests has proved capable, efficient and public-spirited, leaving the impress of his work and personality upon general progress and advancement. He is one

of Allamakee county's native sons, his birth having occurred at French Creek in 1875. His parents, George and Katie Wild, settled in that community immediately after their marriage and have there resided since that time, a period of almost half a century. To their union were born twelve children: William, of New Albin; George, who makes his home in Lansing; Emma, the deceased wife of Louis Hirth; Rose, who married E. J. Saddler, of Union City township; G. F., of this review; John, who has passed away; Mrs. Louisa Berkland, of Bowman county, North Dakota; Mary, who married Thurlow Hopp, of Spokane, Washington; Elizabeth, the wife of J. W. Snow, of Montana; Gustave, who is residing on the family homestead near French Creek; E. L., who resides near the home farm; and Clara, the wife of Oscar Smerud, of Houston county, Minnesota.

G. F. Wild acquired his education in Allamakee county, and in his childhood divided his time between work upon his father's farm and attendance at the district school. After he had laid aside his books he turned his attention to the occupation to which he had been reared, following general farming until 1897, in which year he made an entire change in his active interests, becoming identified with industrial pursuits. Forming a partnership with C. J. Bjorklund and John Wild, he assisted in the foundation of a manufacturing plant in New Albin, wherein is done all kinds of interior finishing and cabinet work, and he established in connection with it a lumber business, which has since assumed extensive proportions. The concern was incorporated April 15, 1913, under the name of the New Albin Manufacturing Company, and has the following officers: William Thompson, president; R. G. May, secretary; L. H. Garder, treasurer; and G. F. Wild, manager. The board of directors is as follows: William Thompson, G. F. Wild, C. E. Kester, William Wild and H. H. Holmes. Since the foundation of this enterprise Mr. Wild has given a great deal of his time and attention to the conduct of its affairs, and the credit for its rapid growth and present prosperity is due in large measure to his ability, initiative and enterprise. He has worked along progressive and practical lines, studying modern business conditions and applying his knowledge to the different departments of this concern, making it today well managed in every particular and profitable because it is run on a businesslike and sound basis.

In 1904 Mr. Wild was united in marriage to Miss Emma Cox, a native of Allamakee county and a daughter of Joseph and Adaline (Ferris) Cox, both of whom have passed away, leaving three children: Emma, the wife of the subject of this review; Margaret, who married J. W. Ross, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Adaline, who lives in New Albin. Mr. and Mrs. Wild became the parents of five children: Neva L., who was born in 1905; Howard E., born April 17, 1908; George F., whose birth occurred in March, 1910; Marion, who passed away at the age of seven months; and Charles Joseph, born May 7, 1912. The family are devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They reside in one of the finest homes in New Albin, and this they have made the center of hospitality for their many friends.

Always a staunch and loyal republican, Mr. Wild has taken an active part in local public affairs, supporting always progressive public measures and contributing substantially to projects of reform, improvement and advancement. Upon many different occasions he has served as a member of the city council

and he has also been treasurer of his school district. Since 1908 he has been mayor of New Albin, giving to the city a practical, businesslike and constructive administration, characterized by a great deal of important work, accomplished in the public interest. His official record is one of which he has every reason to be proud, for it has been varied in service and beneficial and far-reaching in its results, distinguished at all times by able, practical and progressive work and a constant consideration for the welfare of the people he serves. In both business and political relations Mr. Wild has proved honorable, reliable and efficient, advancing his individual interests along practical lines but making at the same time substantial contributions to general progress.

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### THOMAS KNUDTSON.

Through well directed business activity and enterprise Thomas Knudtson has gained recognition as one of the progressive farmers of Allamakee county. He owns a highly improved tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres on section 15, Makee township, and has here resided since 1893, during which time his labors have not only contributed to his own prosperity but have proven effective forces in advancing the general welfare. He is a native of Allamakee county and a representative of one of the most honored and highly respected pioneer families in the state, his father having settled in Makee township in 1851. Thomas Knudtson was born upon the home farm September 8, 1862, his parents being Knudt and Rhenild (Ambrose) Knudtson, natives of Norway, the former born September 28, 1818. He grew to manhood in his native country and in 1847 crossed the Atlantic to America, locating in Wisconsin, where he spent four years. In 1851 he bought two yoke of oxen and, placing some household goods in a covered wagon, drove across the plains to Iowa. On the way he lost his frying-pan and this much needed article of daily use he was obliged to replace by a flat stone which he heated and upon which he prepared his meals for some time thereafter. Knudt Knudtson purchased a claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Makee township, this county, and settled upon it when pioneer conditions prevailed everywhere, when the wilderness stretched around him for miles in all directions, when there were no neighbors within walking distance and when the Indians were frequent visitors to his cabin. With characteristic energy he cleared the timber, broke the raw soil and began the work of development which gradually transformed his property into an attractive and productive farm. He built upon his holdings a little log cabin in which he resided until 1856, when he replaced it by a modern dwelling which still stands upon the property. The years brought him steadily increasing success and from time to time he added to his holdings, accumulating three hundred and thirty acres. By virtue of his energy, ability and perseverance he won a place among the substantial agriculturists of this community, commanding and holding the high respect and esteem of all who were associated with him. His death, which occurred on his farm in August, 1902, when he was eighty-three years of age, was therefore the occasion of deep and widespread regret and deprived Allamakee county of one of her valued and representative citizens and one of the earliest and finest of her pioneers. Knudt

Knudtson married in Lansing Miss Rhenild Ambrose, a native of Norway, and they became the parents of seven children, of whom four are living: Mrs. Cornelia Banks, a widow, residing in Tacoma, Washington; Mrs. Anna Johnson Engrav, of Waukon, Iowa, who has a son, Robert Johnson Engrav, a talented pianist; Thomas, of this review; and Charles, who owns the old home farm.

Thomas Knudtson was reared upon the home farm and acquired his education in the country schools and in Decorah College. In his childhood and youth he helped to improve and operate the farm and upon his twenty-first birthday his father gave him one hundred and sixty acres of the estate, upon which he has since resided. The land lies on sections 15 and 16, Makee township, and Mr. Knudtson has carried forward the work of development in an intelligent and able manner, erecting substantial barns and outbuildings and installing modern machinery. The farm is valuable and well improved in every particular, its owner being a practical and able agriculturist who never neglects anything that will add to the attractive appearance or value of his place. In addition to raising grain Mr. Knudtson does an extensive dairy business and has important stock-raising interests. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery of Waukon, of which he served as first vice president, and also in the Farmers Stock & Produce Company, and in business circles is regarded as a resourceful, far-sighted and able man.

In Makee township, on March 8, 1893, Mr. Knudtson was united in marriage to Miss Clara Hansen, who was born and reared in Winneshiek county, and they have become the parents of five children: Rosa M., of Waterloo, Iowa; and Lulu K., Anna C., Hazel J., and Thomas C., at home. Mr. Knudtson gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, having cast his first vote for Grover Cleveland and his last for Woodrow Wilson. He has never sought nor desired public office, preferring to devote his attention to his business affairs, which, being carefully and capably conducted, have brought him a gratifying measure of success.

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#### OLE LARSON.

Ole Larson, honored as one of the early pioneers and worthy citizens of Allamakee county, took up his abode in this section of the state in 1850, at which time he settled in Taylor township, Allamakee county. From that time until his death he was closely associated not only with the material but also with the moral development of the region and left the impress of his individuality for good upon the community. He was born in Hallingdal, Norway, in 1811, was there reared and in that province married Miss Anne Stenerson, who was also a native of the same locality. At length he determined to try his fortune in America, believing that he would have better opportunities in the United States, the voyage being made under hard and trying conditions. The vessel in which they crossed was known as the *Drapluna*, and Captain Ekersberg, who was in command, told Mr. Larson to take a goat on board the vessel in order that they might have milk to mix with the medicine for the sick. This was accordingly done and the precaution proved its value in the course of the voyage. At length the *Drapluna* dropped anchor in New York harbor, and from the eastern me-



MR. AND MRS. OLE LARSON



tropolis the Larsons proceeded by way of the Erie canal and the Great Lakes to Chicago. They found very poor accommodations were accorded emigrants there. The children slept on a corded bedstead and in the morning all were on the floor, having slipped through the cords during the night.

The Larsons spent the first winter on Rock prairie in Rock county, Wisconsin, and in the spring of 1850 came to Allamakee county, their home being established upon a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of wild land on sections 9 and 17, Taylor township. With characteristic energy the father began the improvement and development of this property and each year witnessed his increasing prosperity until he became one of the substantial farmers and extensive landholders in his vicinity. He made good use of his opportunities and not only achieved individual success but contributed to the upbuilding and uplifting of his section.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ole Larson were born eleven children. Birgitte, who was the eldest of four children brought by the parents to America in 1849, was born at the family home, Unde Bergo, which in peasant parlance means "below mountains," in Gol, Hallingdal, Norway, in 1839. In early girlhood she attended public schools and later continued her studies in Madison, Wisconsin. In common with all pioneer children she assisted in the early '50s in all kinds of farm work, in which men and women engaged, including the milking of the cows and hunting the herd in the primitive pastures which nature provided at that time. In common with girls and women of the period she made her dresses by hand, no experienced modiste being needed to fashion the cheap calico garments. The daughters of the household had no time to spend on music and the only musical instrument in the home was the father's monochord "salmodikon," which he played at their Sabbath morning devotions. Arriving at years of maturity, Birgitte Larson, whose name was anglicized to Betsey, taught school for some time and in 1860 she was joined in wedlock to Peter S. Olson (Noes), the wedding ceremony being performed by Judge White in Waukon. For some years they lived on section 35, Center township, and then removed to Rose Creek, Minnesota, afterward to Holt county, Nebraska, and later to Alliance, where Mrs. Olson passed away in 1898, leaving a large family of children and a husband, who followed her to the grave in 1913. Louis O. Larson, christened Lars, was the second in the family. Stener, called Stanley, another of the family, is deceased. Ingeborg, called Isabelle, born in Norway, February 22, 1845, was the fourth and the youngest of the children born in Norway and brought to America by their parents in 1849. She spent her girlhood in the Larson home in Taylor township and in early womanhood taught school for some years. She afterward followed others of the family to the county of Saline, Nebraska, where she became the wife of John V. Ainsworth, who conducted a mercantile business at Friend there for some years and afterward removed to Tobias, Nebraska, where he operates an elevator. He also owns a half section of land joining the town. Mr. and Mrs. Ainsworth have a son, Frank, who is married and lives near his parents, while a daughter, Anna May, is the wife of Dr. W. S. Wiggins, of Dewitt, Nebraska. The other children of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Larson, Sr., were as follows: Birgitte and Ragnild, known as Betsey and Rachel, twins, were born January 5, 1850, in Rock county, Wisconsin, and were the first addition to the family of Ole and Anne Larson in America. They spent their girlhood at home and after attain-

ing womanhood Betsey engaged in teaching for a number of years, after which she became the wife of Julius Englehörn and lived in Lansing township for several years. She afterwards accompanied her husband to the west, the family driving a team to Hoquiam, Washington. There Mrs. Englehörn and her two daughters, Mrs. Ada Crawford and Mrs. Eva Johnson, still reside. The husband and father has left home and is presumed to be dead. Rachel, twin sister of Mrs. Englehörn, also taught school in Allamakee county in her girlhood. She became the wife of George Campbell and they removed to Saline county, Nebraska. Mrs. Campbell owns a farm near Milford but lives in the city, where she also owns property. Her husband died about a year ago. One son, Washington, lives on a ranch, and another, Andrew, is a resident of Chicago. The only daughter, Lilian, is now matron in the Soldiers' Home at Milford, Nebraska. Ole, Jr., called Olen, the next member of the family of Ole and Anne Larson, died and was buried in New Mexico. Extended mention is made of him on another page of this volume. He was the first of the family born in Iowa. Ambjör, called Emily, was born April 21, 1853, at the family home in Taylor township and in early womanhood engaged in teaching school. She was married on the first of July, 1874, to John S. Englehörn and they lived on the Lansing ridge for a number of years, after which they removed to Alliance, Nebraska, where Mrs. Englehörn passed away, in April, 1903, leaving a son and two daughters, the latter being Minnie, now the wife of Odie Shofield, and Mrs. Hattie DeVenny, of Seattle, Washington. Anne Larson, the next of the family, was born June 17, 1854, and like the other sisters, engaged in teaching school. She became the wife of O. A. Dalberg, at Baldwin, and died at Dorchester, Wisconsin, in July, 1888, her remains being there interred. She is survived by her husband, a son, Arnold, and three daughters, Edith, Hattie, and Grace, the last named being Mrs. Louis Crane. All of these daughters are graduates of the Stout School at Marinette, Wisconsin, and are domestic science teachers. Sophie Larson was born September 9, 1856, and lived at the parental home until her marriage to Hans Moe in Paint Creek township. Her husband died ten years ago, leaving four young sons: Arnold, Herbert, Olvin, Clement, and two daughters, Hattie and Alice. The family reside on a quarter section of land in Paint Creek township, save Clement, who owns a farm in Amanda, North Dakota. Andreas, called Andrew, was the youngest in the family of Ole and Anne Larson, and after reaching mature age he turned his attention to mining in Colorado. After a few years, however he abandoned that pursuit, was married and took up his abode upon a ranch, but is now in business in Antonito, Colorado. They became the parents of four children, but one girl Nevada, died in early girlhood.

The father of this family died upon his farm in Taylor township at the age of eighty-seven years, and the mother passed away when eighty-two years of age. He was a man of more than ordinary ability and intellectual force, was well educated and widely read, and took a most active and helpful interest in religious work. He made it a custom to hold religious services for the benefit of the children in his neighborhood, and largely through his influence Christianity received its first impetus in this section. He was numbered among Allamakee county's earliest and most worthy pioneers, for at the time of his arrival here the house at Thompson's Corners was the only one between his homestead and



Lansing, a distance of ten miles. In his death the county lost one of its most honored pioneers, a man of high integrity, of unquestioned honor and exemplary moral character.

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LOUIS O. LARSON.

Louis O. Larson has been a resident of Allamakee county since 1850 and is therefore numbered among its early pioneers, while his business qualifications have won him a place among its substantial and valued citizens. He has witnessed almost the entire growth and development of this section of the state, for few settlements had been made within the borders of the county at the time of his arrival. He was reared amid the usual conditions and environments of frontier life and experienced the hardships and trials incident to pioneer existence. Since attaining manhood he has thoroughly identified his interests with those of this section and in the course of a long, active and honorable life has made substantial contribution to its agricultural development.

Mr. Larson was born in Rotnem, Gol, Hallingdal, Norway, March 25, 1841, his parents being Ole and Anne Larson, of whom extended mention is made above. He was christened Lars, but later Americanized the name into Louis. The parents brought their family to the new world in 1849, when the subject of this review was a lad of eight years, and at nine years of age he came with the family to Allamakee county. He attended the district school and afterward continued his studies in the Lansing high school. In his childhood he divided his time between the duties of the school room and the work of clearing the land and developing and improving the homestead. He was ambitious to advance intellectually and made such good use of his opportunities that he became a successful teacher, following that profession for ten terms following his graduation from the high school in Lansing, where he had studied under Professor Haven in 1861-2. In the fall of the former year he obtained a teachers' certificate from Professor Loughran, of Waukon, who was then superintendent of schools. He secured the position of teacher for six months in the Climax-Excelsior district and in succeeding years he taught in the Storla, Dahl, Waterville, Little Paint and Climax schools. While teaching in the winter seasons and farming in the summer he also hunted the Virginia deer in the open seasons and trapped the predatory animals for fur and bounty, deriving also much sport therefrom in the ascents and descents of the precipitous hills in the townships bordering on the Mississippi river. In fact there are few phases of pioneer life with which Mr. Larson is unacquainted. Thirty years ago Tom Dunlevey, associate publisher of the Allamakee Journal, dubbed him "the mighty hunter with sword and pen" and the sobriquet has clung to him in the same manner as "magniloquent vagueness" has been pinned to President Wilson's coat-tail by a Chicago Inter-Ocean cartoon. Mr. Larson has also been designated "the peacemaker" because of his settling lawsuits which had been taken to the district courts, and furthermore has been termed "the savant of Little Paint" because of his contributions to the newspapers. Eventually he concentrated his efforts upon agricultural pursuits, in which he has met with a gratifying meas-

ure of prosperity, success steadily rewarding his well directed efforts through the years. He now owns and controls four hundred acres of land on sections 17 and 9, Taylor township, operating a quarter section and renting the remainder. Upon the homestead he has made many substantial improvements. He employs the most modern methods in carrying forward his farm work, using the latest labor-saving machinery. He rejoices in his success because of what it enables him to do for his family, yet he has never regarded the acquirement of wealth as the real end and aim of life, the education of his children being his chief endeavor, and he has made heavy sacrifices to achieve this end. That he has realized his ambition is evident from the fact that at the Rema Grove Fourth of July celebration his was pronounced the "nicest family" and Judge L. E. Fellows, of Lansing, said to him: "What a fine family you have raised!" The Larson family have ever been noted for their interest in those things which have a broadening effect and are of educational value. Eleven of the family visited the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, three saw the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis and one the Portland Exposition. In 1905 Louis O. Larson rode over the trails in Idaho as an Argonaut in company with his brother Stanley, viewed the interior of the Mormon Tabernacle in Utah and swam in the great Salt Lake.

Mr. Larson married, on June 29, 1862, Miss Mary Ingebretson, a daughter of Thore Ingebretson, an early settler of Center township, Allamakee county. Mr. and Mrs. Larson became the parents of thirteen children. Edmond Victor, the eldest, born December 9, 1863, is a graduate of Slack's Business College of Decorah. He was married at the age of twenty-one years to Miss Caroline Ellefson (Turkop) and lives at Pierre, South Dakota. He has a family of one son and four daughters. Clarence Othello Theodore, the second son, was born in Taylor township, February 3, 1866, was there reared and after attaining his majority became a solicitor for the Ladies' Home Journal, traveling in the interests of that publication in every state in the Union and receiving a two thousand dollar prize for getting more subscribers than any other agent in the United States. He had first made his headquarters in Fremont, Nebraska, where he attended a Sunday school class taught by William Jennings Bryan, our secretary of state at Washington, D. C., and he always spoke in the highest terms of praise of Mr. Bryan. He was afterward in Portland, Oregon, and frequently visited his early home in Taylor township. After a visit to his parents he started for his Portland home January 2, 1899, and in the spring of that year started with some Young Men's Christian Association comrades for the Klondike. He was not in search of gold but in quest of knowledge concerning this country. His health succumbed before the rigidity of the Alaska climate, following his arrival in Dawson City, and he returned to Seattle, Washington, spending seven weeks in a hospital there. During his convalescent period he purchased a team of burros and started for Arizona, thinking that the climate of the southwest would benefit his health. He seemed to improve greatly there for a time, but he was extremely ambitious and energetic and indulged in long walks in the hot sun. During one of these he overtaxed his strength and passed away at Tucson. It is said that to gain strength he would daily walk down the valley for a mile and a half to see a friend, C. Brady, in the cool of the afternoon. Not arriving at the usual hour, on the 24th of May, 1900, Mr. Brady proceeded up the road and





MR. AND MRS. LOUIS O. LARSON

to his horror found his friend's lifeless body. In all the relations of life Clarence O. T. Larson was known as a man of integrity, manliness and kindliness, which qualities won for him the fullest confidence and the highest esteem. His life was well worthy of emulation and his words and deeds will live in the memory of all who knew him, more enduring than any chiseled monument or tablet of bronze. The Bible was his constant companion and guide and he lived a model Christian life. He belonged to the Young Men's Christian Association and to the Christian Endeavor Society. With the craving for knowledge, he possessed a very retentive memory and was as well versed in the history of the world as upon topics of current interest. His remains were returned to Allamakee county for interment and the large funeral cortege indicated how highly he was esteemed by those among whom he had been reared. Emma Victoria Larson, the third of the family, was born February 14, 1868, and after attending the home school she studied in the high schools at Waukon and Nora Springs. After teaching for several years she married a cousin, Peter Bieber, of Rock county, Minnesota, where she now resides. She owns four hundred acres of land there and also a house and lot in Jasper, Minnesota, where she and her three sons, Edgar, Clarence and Lloyd, live. Her husband died about five years ago. Lily Idelia, the next member of the family, was born January 12, 1870, attended the home schools and in early womanhood became the wife of David W. Martin. They lived in Waukon for a time, after which Mr. Martin went away. Mrs. Martin is now living in La Crosse, Wisconsin, where she is engaged in dressmaking, while her daughters, Ilvarine and Naomi, are attending the State Normal School. Another son of Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Larson was Louis Edward Larson, who passed away in St. Paul in 1907. He was born June 5, 1872, at the family home on section 17, Taylor township, Allamakee county. Thirteen years of his life were spent in St. Paul, five years as a street car conductor and eight years on the police force. He occupied a lofty plane in the police department, being known as one of the most reliable men on the force. Others were dropped from the payrolls when incapacitated by sickness from duty but when the condition of L. E. Larson was mentioned the chief would reply: "Don't worry about Larson, we will take care of him," and this proved true, as his pay was continued until his death. It was written of him: "He was loyal and true to all trusts committed to him, for honor was his guiding star and he trod the path where virtue walks." For four years he battled with the dread disease tuberculosis but at length succumbed to the arch enemy of man, and his remains were interred in the cemetery of the Old East Paint Creek church in Allamakee county. The profuse floral offerings sent at the time of his death indicated how highly was he esteemed among those who knew him. Following his demise the Policemen's Association of St. Paul acted in the capacity of pallbearers, the chief of police also escorting the remains to the St. Paul depot, where they were shipped home for interment. He made friends of all with whom he came in contact, for his salient traits of character were such as men everywhere admire and honor. The sixth member of the family was Orange A. Larson, who died in childhood. The seventh member, also named Orange, died in infancy. Helen Annelia, born April 26, 1877, attended the public schools and also the schools of Waukon and Decorah. She successfully engaged in teaching for a number of years and then became the wife of Henry Hanson, after which they conducted

a store in St. Paul, Minnesota. They are now residents of Lewiston, Montana, and have a family of three sons, Henry, Harold and Russel. Minnie Cornelia Larson was the first of the five daughters of Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Larson to be called from this life, her death occurring in the Swedish Lutheran hospital, Bethesda, St. Paul, December 2, 1911. She was born in Taylor township, November 12, 1878, and in her girlhood regularly attended the public schools and also studied at Waukon, Decorah and the Iowa State Normal. Following her graduation from the last named, she taught school for several years in Allamakee county and in Minnesota. She was ever the pride and joy of the family and a favorite among her schoolmates. At the Normal it is said that the faculty as well as the students clustered about her, being delighted to be near her owing to her sweet and loving disposition. It was on the 18th of October, 1905, at the home of her brother, Orange, near Jasper, Minnesota, that she became the wife of A. M. Fields, then of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and entered upon a most happy married life covering six years. She never knowingly offended or wronged anyone nor deviated from the path of rectitude throughout her entire life, so that she did not fear the coming of death. It was said that she was the most perfect embodiment of all those virtues which are the jewels of the soul and which reflect a pure and noble heart. She left beside her husband four children, Helen, Charles, Dorothy and Minnie, and the parents, brothers and sisters with whom she was once so closely associated in the old home in Allamakee county, where her remains were interred in the family burying ground. William Orange, born July 1, 1880, supplemented his study in the home school by a course in the Waukon high school and in the Iowa State Normal and for a time he conducted a store at Hardwick, Minnesota. He now owns a section of land near Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, which he has rented out while he makes his home with his parents. Clara Luella also studied at Waukon and in the State Normal School and is now the wife of J. J. Martin, of Chicago, and the mother of one son, Jack. Wilmer Lawrence, after attending the district school became a student in the Central high school of St. Paul, from which he was graduated. He also spent some time in the medical department of the Minnesota State University and is now teaching school near Lewiston, Montana, where he owns a quarter section. Lester Arlington, born May 28, 1887, was also a student in the St. Paul central high school and in the Iowa State Normal School at Cedar Falls. He is now at home with his parents. The father lived a strenuous life as a farmer in order to provide for and educate his children and has certainly done a good part by them.

Mr. Larson has been a lifelong member of the Lutheran church, loyal to its teachings and exemplifying in his life his Christian faith and belief. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He inherits his father's love of learning, is an extensive reader, a student and deep thinker, and is considered one of the best educated men in his section of the state. His well developed qualities and talents have made him one of the forceful, representative and honored men of his community. He delights in recalling the incidents of pioneer times, which are still fresh in his memory, and since 1850 he has lived in Allamakee county, his life forming a connecting link between the primitive past and progressive present. He is a most public-spirited citizen, taking an active interest in community affairs, although he does not seek public office as he is too in-

dependent and would never condescend to importune anyone to vote for him as a reward for party fealty. He has given hearty cooperation to many movements for the general good and Allamakee county owes her development to such men, who have dared to face and endure the hardships of pioneer life and who have reclaimed this region for the purpose of civilization.

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### ARNE HILMO.

Arne Hilmo has spent almost his entire life in Allamakee county, covering a period of more than half a century, so that he is familiar with its history from pioneer times to the present. He is today the owner of two hundred and seventeen acres of valuable farm land, located on section 16, Makee township. Mr. Hilmo is one of a family of four children born to Mr. and Mrs. John Hilmo, the former a native of Norway, born in 1829. He was reared and married in his native country and there two children were born ere the family emigrated to the new world in 1855. Mr. Hilmo first located in Lansing, this county, and at the time of his arrival in Makee township the Knudtson family was the only one residing in this section of the county. Mr. Hilmo worked for the latter for some years as a farm laborer, at seventy-five cents per day, or twelve dollars per month. After a number of years spent in this way he managed to save enough money to purchase a tract of raw land and he at once gave his attention to its clearing and development, eventually making it a desirable piece of land. After eight years, however, he disposed of that tract and purchased the farm on which the son now resides. This tract, containing two hundred and seventeen acres, was also raw land, but Mr. Hilmo cleared it of the brush, fenced and cultivated the fields, erected a good house, barn and outbuildings, and made his home thereon throughout his remaining years. His death occurred December 6, 1900, when he had reached the seventy-second year of his age. His wife survived for only about two years, passing away August 29, 1902, and thus the county lost two of its highly respected pioneer citizens.

Arne Hilmo was reared on the home farm, giving his father valuable assistance in clearing and developing a new place, and the knowledge he gained at that time has proven a valuable asset to him in his later life. After the death of his father, he purchased the interest of the other heirs in the homestead and is now the owner of two hundred and seventeen acres of splendid farming land, situated on section 16, Makee township. Of this he has one hundred and sixty acres under cultivation. He raises good grades of stock and also engages to some extent in dairy farming, having thus been identified for the past thirty years. He was one of the promoters of the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company at Waukon and is now one of the stockholders.

It was on the 25th of November, 1878, that Mr. Hilmo was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca Holden, who was born and reared in Norway. The three surviving children of this marriage are: Julia, at home; John, who assists his father on the farm; and Ludwic, who is assistant cashier and bookkeeper in a bank at Dazey, North Dakota. One daughter, Louisa, died May 30, 1900.

Mr. Hilmo adheres to the republican party on national issues, but locally he is independent. He belongs to the Lutheran church in Paint Creek township. He has always worked hard and well deserves the success which is today his. He is not only a prosperous farmer and dairyman of the county, but is one of its highly respected citizens, for he has always been honest and upright in his dealings with his fellowman and all who know ought of his career speak of him in the highest terms.

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#### WILLIAM H. NIEHAUS.

William H. Niehaus, one of the leading financiers of Waukon, where he is cashier and general manager of the Citizens State Bank, was born in Clayton county, Iowa, August 5, 1872. His father, D. H. Niehaus, was a native of Hanover, Germany, and was there reared to manhood, learning the ship carpenter's trade, which he followed for some time. When he crossed the Atlantic he came immediately to Iowa, locating in Guttenberg about the year 1855. He there married Miss Anna Margaret Mahlstaed, and after his marriage located on a farm in Clayton county. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of timber and brush land and with characteristic energy set himself to clear and improve it. After he had cut down the trees, he fenced his property and erected upon it the necessary buildings, steadily carrying forward the work of development until he was the owner of a valuable and productive property. Eventually he disposed of his holdings and retired from active life, moving to Guttenberg, where his wife died in 1898. He afterward made his home with his son upon the farm and there his death occurred February 26, 1912.

William H. Niehaus was reared in Clayton county on his father's farm. He acquired his primary education in the public schools, later completing the high-school course at Guttenberg. This he supplemented by a course in a commercial college at Dubuque and, after completing it, accepted a position in the Clayton County Bank at Guttenberg, thus gaining his first experience in the banking business. He advanced from the position of bookkeeper to be cashier of the institution and later resigned that position and came to Waukon, where he became connected with the Citizens State Bank as assistant cashier. He soon demonstrated his ability and efficiency and gained promotion, becoming cashier and general manager, a position which he still holds. He has aided materially in keeping the bank upon a sound financial basis and has been an active and prominent factor in its substantial growth. He is widely recognized as one of the leading financiers of this section of the country and has earned for himself an enviable reputation as a careful and conservative man of business. He is extensively interested in Iowa and North Dakota farming lands and has some valuable holdings in both states.

Mr. Niehaus married, in Waukon, in June, 1899, Miss Ruby Dayton, a daughter of Hon. Henry Dayton, one of the most prominent men in northern Iowa and a successful and able lawyer of Waukon. Mrs. Niehaus was born and reared in this city and acquired her education in Cornell College. Mr. and Mrs. Niehaus have four children, H. Dayton, Marion, Margaret and Ruth. The family resi-





WILLIAM H. STEILUS



dence is on Pleasant street in Waukon and is the center of an attractive social circle.

Mr. Niehaus has always been prominent and active in local public affairs and as a member of the city council for four years did able work in the interests of the city. He was also for two terms treasurer of his school district. His fraternal affiliations are extensive and important. He belongs to the Masonic order, holding membership in the lodge, chapter and commandery, and has held various important positions in the organization. He and his wife are members of the Eastern Star and are active in the work of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Niehaus is a man of exemplary habits and strict integrity and all who know him entertain for him the highest regard and esteem.

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#### ALFORD B. HAYES.

In the death of Alford B. Hayes, which occurred in 1899, the state of Iowa lost one of her most worthy and successful pioneer citizens, and agricultural interests of Allamakee county were deprived of a progressive and leading representative. For over forty years he had lived upon his farm two miles beyond New Albin, bringing it to a high state of cultivation and, by reason of his practical methods and the honorable and upright standards to which he steadily adhered, winning a place among the promoters and upbuilders of the section where he made his home.

Mr. Hayes was born in Ohio, in 1826, and is a son of William Hayes, who was for many years a well known blacksmith in Youngstown, that state, where he and his wife passed away. Their son acquired his education in the public schools of Ohio and there remained until 1854, in which year he came to Iowa, settling in Lansing in pioneer times. He secured a position as clerk in a store in that community, but after holding it for three years resigned and came to Iowa township, turning his attention to general farming, an occupation to which he devoted the remainder of his life. He purchased two hundred and forty acres of land two miles beyond New Albin and for forty years steadily carried forward the work of improving and developing it, adding to his holdings from time to time until he owned five hundred and seventeen acres, constituting one of the finest farms in this vicinity. In addition to the cultivation of the fields he engaged extensively in the raising, feeding and shipping of stock, and this department of his activities increased in volume and importance year by year, forming one of the principal sources of his income. At all times industrious, enterprising and progressive, Mr. Hayes prospered steadily in his business affairs, success coming as a result of his practical methods and his excellent management, and he long held a place of honor and prominence among the leading citizens of Iowa township.

In 1858 Mr. Hayes was united in marriage to Miss Isabelle Manderscheid, who was born in Germany and who came to the United States with her parents, Christian and Magdalene (Hurt) Manderscheid, when she was nine years of age. They settled in Dubuque county, Iowa, later moving to Allamakee county, where the father operated a farm until his death, which occurred at the age of

eighty-two. The mother, who died four years later, was also eighty-two years of age at the time of her demise. In their family were: Eva, the wife of Andrew Lepper, of Allamakee county; Conrad, deceased; John Adam, of Dubuque; Isabelle, the wife of the subject of this review; Magdalene, who has passed away; George, also deceased; and Jacob, who lives in California. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes became the parents of six children: William J., who was born in 1859, is now a resident of Elkton, South Dakota; John W. is a car inspector on the Pacific coast; George M. is operating his father's homestead; Alford B. met death by drowning in 1888; Jacob attended Nora Springs Seminary in Iowa and later was graduated in law from Kent College, Chicago. He is now practicing in Kansas; Verona is a graduate of Nora Springs Seminary and later studied stenography in a Wisconsin business college at La Crosse; she is the widow of Louis Tabatt, who died in 1909, leaving three children: Alford L., who was born in 1906; Marian L., born in 1908; and Louis E., born in 1909.

Mr. Hayes was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife and children also belong. Politically he was affiliated with the republican party and he took an active and intelligent interest in the affairs of the community, although he never sought public office. He died upon his farm in Iowa township in 1899, being at that time one of the substantial agriculturists and large landowners in the county. His memory is cherished by all who were fortunate enough to come within the close circle of his friendship, and his name is high on the list of the honored dead of this community, to the development and progress of which he made such substantial and lasting contributions.

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#### WILLIAM SCHWARZHOFF.

Among those men whose efforts are proving forces in the advancement of agriculture in Allamakee county is William Schwarzhoff, owner of a valuable farm of three hundred and fifty-seven acres. He was born in Waterloo township, this county, in 1863, a son of William and Mary Schwarzhoff, both natives of Germany. In early life they came to the United States, settling at Dubuque, Iowa, in 1856. A year later they arrived in Allamakee county, taking up their abode in Waterloo township, where the father preempted land about two miles southwest of Dorchester. There he carried on general agricultural pursuits until his death, and also for a number of years, in connection with his three brothers, operated a brewery near his homestead. He was accidentally killed in 1864, and his widow passed away in Wisconsin a few years later. Unto them had been born two sons, but the younger, Herman, passed away in infancy.

The elder son, William Schwarzhoff, of this review, was a little lad of but five years when left an orphan through the death of his mother, at which time he went to live with an uncle. He received a good education in the public schools of Allamakee county and for many years continued to reside with his uncle, under whose direction he received thorough training along agricultural lines. In 1889 he came into possession of his father's farm, upon which he took up his abode and upon which he has since continued to live. He is now the owner of three hundred and fifty-seven acres of valuable land, two hun-

dred and seventy-five acres of which are highly developed and in a good state of cultivation. He has been progressive and systematic in his methods, and his well directed efforts, proving productive in results, have brought to him a gratifying measure of success. As he has prospered he has taken up other interests, and is now a stockholder, director and vice president of the Dorchester Savings Bank.

Mr. Schwarzhoff laid the foundation for a happy homelife through his marriage, in 1889, to Miss Sophia Schulte, who is also a native of Allamakee county and a daughter of August and Caroline Schulte, the father born in Germany and the mother of German parentage. They settled in this county in 1856, and the father is now a resident of Caledonia, Minnesota, but the mother passed away in 1906. Their daughter Sophia is one of nine children born unto them and by her marriage to Mr. Schwarzhoff she has become the mother of five children, namely: Mary, born in 1895; Clara, born in 1898; Florence, in 1900; Verna, in 1902; and Estella, in 1907. All yet reside at home. The family are communicants of the Roman Catholic church, in the work of which Mr. Schwarzhoff is deeply interested. He is today numbered among the substantial farmers of his native township, and his prosperity is well merited, for, with a propensity for hard work, his success has found its root in unfaltering industry and a perseverance that never flags.

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#### EDWARD C. BELLOWS.

Prominent among the successful, active and able farmers and extensive landowners of Allamakee county is numbered Edward C. Bellows, now the proprietor of two fine farms, one in Union City township and one in Iowa township. He is a native of Illinois, born in 1846, a son of Porter and Angeline Bellows, both of whom were born in the New England states, where their marriage also occurred. In 1850 they came west to Iowa and settled in French Creek township, Allamakee county, in pioneer times. The father took up a government claim of a quarter section of land and also preempted a large tract, adding to his original holdings from time to time until at his death, which occurred in 1875, he owned eight hundred acres, highly improved and developed. His wife survived him many years, dying about 1895. To their union were born eight children, three of whom have passed away. The others are: George, who makes his home in Waukon; Charles, who resides in New Albin; Emily, the widow of Nicholas Betsinger, of La Crosse, Wisconsin; Edward C., of this review; and Elmer, who lives in Allamakee county.

Edward C. Bellows was only four years of age when his parents removed to French Creek township, and in Allamakee county he was reared and educated, pursuing his studies in the district schools. He began his independent career at the age of twenty-one and for some time thereafter engaged in various occupations, including work in a Wisconsin pine lumber camp, where he remained for two years. After he returned to Iowa he conducted a livery business in Lansing for four years, and then turned his attention to farming, following this occupation for ten years thereafter as a hired laborer. Eventually, however, he

purchased land of his own, buying three hundred and forty acres in Union City township, a tract which forms a part of his present farm. From time to time he has increased his holdings and now owns seven hundred and forty-five acres seven miles from New Albin, divided into two fine farms, both substantially improved. He engages in general farming and stock-raising, and the two branches of his activities have proven a gratifying source of revenue to him, his good business ability and close application having gained him rank among the progressive and prominent agriculturists of the county. He is in addition a stockholder in the Farmers Savings Bank of New Albin and connected with other important business interests.

Mr. Bellows married, in 1882, Miss Ida Conkey, who was born in Allamakee county, a daughter of O. H. Conkey, district judge for many years. He passed away at an advanced age and his widow still survives him, being now more than ninety years of age. In their family were five children: Heck, who resides in Michigan; Effie, who makes her home with her mother in Sanborn, Iowa; Ida, the wife of the subject of this review; Mary, the wife of Herman Canburg, of Sanborn; and Nettie, who has passed away. Mrs. Bellows died in 1884, leaving one son, Arthur C. He was born in 1884, and acquired his education in the public schools of Allamakee county. He married Miss Emma Meyers, a native of Germany, and they have three children: Ida, Allie and Harold. The family make their home on a portion of the Bellows homestead.

Mr. Bellows gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, but has never sought nor desired public office. He has lived to witness remarkable changes in Allamakee county during the years of his residence here, and that many of his staunchest friends are numbered among those who have known him from boyhood is an indication that his has been an honorable and upright life and one which well entitles him to the respect and esteem in which he is uniformly held.

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#### J. H. LARKIN.

J. H. Larkin, the efficient cashier of the Dorchester Savings Bank, is numbered among the promising young business men of this town. He is a native son of Allamakee county, his birth having occurred in Taylor township in 1885, his parents being Michael and Mary A. Larkin. The father came to Allamakee county in 1860, locating on a farm in Taylor township, which he operated for a number of years and which he still owns. During his active life he was most successful and accumulated a fine property of four hundred and forty acres, all improved, and one hundred and twenty-five acres of which is under cultivation. He is now living retired at the age of seventy-five years, enjoying in well-earned rest the fruits of his former toil. His wife passed away March 4, 1913. They became the parents of eight children, all of whom are yet living, namely: J. H., of this review; and Michael, John C., Joseph, Mary C., Anna T., Roger W. and Aloysius T., all yet at home.

In the common schools of Allamakee county J. H. Larkin received his preliminary education, and at the Valder Business and Normal School of Deco-

rah acquired thorough training for the responsible duties of business life. After his graduation therefrom he worked at farming for five years, and then, on the 2d of September, 1912, accepted the position of cashier of the Dorchester Savings Bank, which office he still occupies. This bank was organized in 1912 with a capital of ten thousand dollars and the following officials at its head: William Kumpf, president; William Schwarzhoff, vice president; and Matt Flynn, cashier. Mr. Larkin is capable and efficient, promptly and faithfully performing his duties, and is popular with the patrons of the bank. He owns an interest in the old homestead, but his attention is given fully to his work at the bank.

Although liberal in his political views, Mr. Larkin usually supports the republican party, but has never been an office seeker. He is a communicant of the Catholic church and fraternally is connected with the Knights of Columbus and the Modern Woodmen of America.

A young man, prompted by laudable ambition and possessing the spirit of progress, he has already attained a position in the business world which augurs well for a successful future.

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#### JOSEPH HAMMEL.

The history of Allamakee county's agricultural growth and development would be incomplete without mention of the career of Joseph Hammel, who since 1879 has been engaged in general farming in Iowa township, to the progress and advancement of which he has made many substantial and lasting contributions. He was born in New York in 1851, and is a son of Raymond and Mary (Long) Hammel, the former a native of Switzerland and the latter of Alsace, Germany. Their marriage occurred in Switzerland, and in 1851 they crossed the Atlantic to America, settling first in New York and removing shortly afterward to Ohio, where they settled at Buffalo, the father following the railroad business for a short period. In 1854 they came to Iowa, settling on May's Prairie in early times, and there Raymond Hammel engaged in general farming for three years, removing at the end of that time to Iowa township, where he purchased land. He bought at that time one hundred and thirty acres, which he increased from time to time, owning at the time of his death in 1902 four hundred acres of well improved and valuable property. He had survived his wife several years, her death having occurred in 1894. To their union were born four children: Joseph, of this review; Josephine, who resides in Iowa township; Annie, who became the wife of Charley Obitz, of La Crosse, Wisconsin; and Elizabeth, who married John Blank, of Oregon.

Joseph Hammel was still an infant when his parents removed to Iowa, and in this state he grew to manhood, dividing his time in his childhood between the work upon the homestead and attendance at district school. He continued to assist his father upon the farm until he was twenty-eight years of age, beginning his independent career in 1879. Naturally he turned his attention to the occupation to which he had been reared and, buying one hundred and thirty acres of land in Iowa township, six miles south of New Albin, engaged in

general farming. This tract forms a portion of his present farm, but he has added to it as his prosperity increased, owning today five hundred acres of highly cultivated land. He has, besides, another tract of three hundred and sixty acres in Lansing township, and is one of the extensive landowners in this part of the county. Being thoroughly familiar with the best agricultural methods, he has directed his efforts intelligently through the years, success steadily attending his labors until today his farms are productive and valuable properties, and he himself is numbered among Allamakee county's substantial and progressive agriculturists.

In 1880 Mr. Hammel was united in marriage to Miss Paulina Troentle, who was born in Baden, Germany, and who was brought to America by her parents when she was two years of age. They settled in Lansing township, Allamakee county, where the father purchased land, engaging in general farming there until his death, which occurred in 1895. He had survived his wife since 1887. They became the parents of eleven children, all still living: Lebold, who resides in Canada; Verona, the wife of Frank Billymire, of Canada; Mary, who married John Grow, a resident of the same country; Paulina, the wife of the subject of this review; Adaline, who married John Intlehofer, of New Albin; Annie, the deceased wife of Frank Tablet, who has also passed away; Katie, who died at the age of eighteen; Minnie, who married John Gruber, of Lansing; Fred and Joseph, both of whom reside in Canada; and Josephine, who married Robert Glenn, of Lansing. Mr. and Mrs. Hammel have six children: Joseph, who was born in 1881, and who is married and lives near Lansing; Minnie, the wife of Frank Donovan, of Freeburg, Minnesota; Flora, who became the wife of George Mauss, of Allamakee county; Fred, who was born in 1887, and who still resides in Allamakee county; and George, born in 1892, and Cornelius, born in 1894, both of whom are still at home. The family are members of the Roman Catholic church.

Mr. Hammel gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, but has never sought nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his business affairs, which are bringing to him a substantial measure of success. Having resided in Allamakee county since his childhood, he is well and favorably known here, his many excellent qualities of mind and character gaining for him the respect and confidence of all who are associated with him.

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#### CARL RUDNICK.

Carl Rudnick, a progressive and enterprising farmer of Iowa township, where he owns a fine tract of land upon which he has resided since 1887, is a native of Germany, where he was born in 1857, one of a family of seven children, of whom he and one sister, who makes her home at La Crosse, Wisconsin, are the only surviving members. He spent his earlier life in his native country, there acquiring a public-school education, and in 1884 crossed the Atlantic to America, settling at New Albin, where he remained for three years. At the end of that time he bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres six miles southwest of the city, and upon this property he has since resided, winning in



the course of years a substantial measure of success and a prominent place among the representative agriculturists of the locality. He has added forty acres to his original holdings, and upon this property engages in general farming and stock-raising, both branches of his activities being profitable and important.

In 1886 Mr. Rudnick married Miss Anna Krunkalfeld, who was born in Germany in 1869, and who came to America in 1884. They have become the parents of five children: Adolph, who was born in 1886 and who lives at home; Mary, who was born in 1889 and who is the wife of William Gady, of Winona, Minnesota; Charley, who was born in 1893; Martha, born in 1898; and one who died in infancy.

Mr. Rudnick is a democrat in his political beliefs, voting in general with his party, but preserving the right of independent action should occasion warrant. He has served as township trustee of Iowa township, but is not active as an office seeker, preferring to devote all of his attention to his personal affairs, which are ably conducted, making him today one of the prominent farmers and substantial citizens of the community where he has so long made his home.

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#### CLAUS E. EIDE.

Claus E. Eide has given his energies and activities all during his life to agriculture, cultivating at the present time a valuable farm of two hundred acres in Waterloo township, Allamakee county. He was born in this county in 1859, a son of Elling and Inga Eide, both natives of Norway, who came, however, to the United States in 1857. They established their home in Allamakee county, the father purchasing speculator's land on section 31, Waterloo township, and later becoming the owner of land on section 30, upon which he resided until his death in 1892. His wife survived for many years, her death occurring in 1911. In their family were five children, of whom the subject of this review was the second in order of birth. The others are: Martha, who married John P. Morstad, and resides on the old homestead; Ole, a resident of South Dakota; Annie, the wife of Iver Johnson, of Spring Grove; and Jacob, of North Dakota.

No event of special importance came to vary the routine of life for Claus E. Eide during the period of his boyhood and youth. He was reared on the old homestead, amid the wholesome environment of farm life, and under the direction of his father early learned the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He was twenty-seven years of age when he first became a land owner, his initial purchase giving him possession of an eighty acre tract which forms the nucleus of his present fine farm. Later he bought an adjoining forty acres and subsequently eighty acres more, so that now he has two hundred acres located on section 30, Waterloo township. This is a well improved property, equipped with modern machinery and substantial farm buildings, and its neat appearance bespeaks a life of industry and thrift on the part of its owner. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and his systematic methods and well directed efforts are proving potent forces in the acquirement of a creditable success.

Mr. Eide was married in 1889 to Miss Thea Stensgard, who was born in Norway, and when seventeen years of age came to the United States with her parents, the family home being established in Allamakee county. Here her parents have since resided and here the father for a number of years engaged in farming, but is now living retired. In his family are six children, all of whom are yet living, Mrs. Eide being the fourth in order of birth. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Eide have been born six children, as follows: Elmer, who was born in 1889 and lives in North Dakota; Amanda, born in 1891, who makes her home with her parents; Arthur and Alfred, twins, born in 1893, also at home; and Theoline and Clarence, born in 1898 and 1906, respectively, who are attending school. The family attend the Lutheran church and are highly thought of in the community in which they have so long resided.

Mr. Eide is a republican, but has never sought nor desired office as a reward for party fealty. For more than a half century he has resided in Allamakee county, and has a wide acquaintance throughout the district in which he lives, being highly esteemed and respected. His business methods are upright and straightforward and they have combined with his long experience and his detailed knowledge of agricultural methods in the promotion of a distinct and substantial success.

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#### ALBERT D. BENDER.

Albert D. Bender needs no introduction to the readers of this volume, having been practically a lifelong resident of Allamakee county and closely associated with its agricultural and commercial interests for many years. He relates many an interesting tale concerning the early days and the changes which have occurred as time has passed on. He was born in Clayton county, Iowa, near Monona, December 14, 1858, a son of Charles Wesley and Anna (Calkins) Bender. The father was born April 18, 1832, and in early life became a carpenter, following the trade for a number of years. In fact, he was connected with that pursuit much of his life, although at different times he engaged in farming. The family was established in this section of Iowa by his father, David Bender, who secured a tract of government land. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon the place. In June the prairie was starred with a million wild flowers and in December was one dazzling and unbroken sheet of snow. Charles W. Bender related many an interesting tale concerning the early days and the experiences of the pioneers. The family had come from Wisconsin to Iowa and after nearly a week spent at the new home the boy, who was acting as the party cook, began to feel very homesick. One Saturday his father called him: "Charlie, bake up something today and we will start home tomorrow." The thought flashed across his mind, "I'll make some fried-cakes just like mother used to." He knew she put eggs in them, but where to get eggs was the problem as there were no hens within several miles. Just above the Pagin spring was a slough and wading in he found blackbirds eggs on the grass. He used the eggs but years afterward described the fried-cakes as "just about as blue as the line on the paper which my pen follows and



MR. AND MRS. ALBERT D. BENDER



as heavy as lead . . . By main strength I fired them on the prairie." Mr. Bender in later years also described the first Fourth of July celebration held on Washington prairie, saying that as the national birthday of 1852 approached patriotic feelings thrilled in the breasts of the pioneers and a few made arrangements to celebrate the day. Mr. Bender, with a yoke of oxen, went to a grove of pine trees, cut two, peeled them and made a flag pole between sixty and seventy feet high. At Moneek red and white cloth was purchased and a yard of blue cloth and the mothers of the neighborhood cut out white stars and made a fine flag, the first that ever floated over Washington prairie. This was hauled to a high ridge and everything made ready to raise the pole and unfurl the flag on the Fourth. The programme was carried out as planned and someone proposed: "Now let us name our beautiful prairie Washington prairie." After some years spent in Allamakee county, C. W. Bender again became a resident of Clayton county. He also lived in Nebraska for a short time—and after about a year spent in Clayton county he again came to Allamakee county, settling in Franklin township. He soon afterward became a landowner and remained upon his farm for a number of years. Subsequently he removed to Dickinson county, Iowa, near Milford, where he continued for about five years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Allamakee county, making his home in Franklin township until his death, which occurred March 26, 1913. He was one of the best known pioneer settlers of this part of the state, honored and respected by all with whom he came in contact. He had long survived his first wife, who was born November 21, 1837, and passed away November 21, 1865. For his second wife he chose Miss Mary Jane Young, who lived near Monona, Clayton county, and who died May 9, 1903. In early life the father engaged in merchandising for a short period at Frankville, but during the greater part of his life had been connected with the building business and had also been numbered among the enterprising farmers of his district. By his first marriage there were four children: Arthur, who died in 1908; Albert D.; Honora, the wife of Louis Monty, of McGregor, Iowa; and Flora, who died September 14, 1903. There were seven children of the second marriage: Henry Ward, who was born July 28, 1867, and is a farmer, residing in Luana; Welthy May, who was born April 1, 1869, and died May 16, 1869; Orlen Bert, who was born in November, 1872, and passed away December 6, 1875; Owen L., born April 9, 1874, residing at Forest Mills, where he follows carpentering; William Cressy, who was born May 8, 1876, and is a master mechanic of Waukon, Iowa; Elmer C., who was born June 25, 1878, and is a farmer and landowner, living at Forest Mills; and Percy Lee, who was born September 16, 1881, and makes his home at Forest Mills.

Albert D. Bender began earning his own living in the spring following the ninth anniversary of his birth. He was employed at trapping for two years. Pocket gophers were plentiful in those days and he received a bounty of ten cents a head from the farmers in the vicinity in addition to his board. In the winter time he worked for his board and the privilege of attending school. Subsequently he was employed as a farm hand and later engaged in clerking in a general store. When sixteen years of age he began contracting in a general way, employing men even at that early age. He possessed natural mechanical ingenuity and in carrying on that business was following in the business foot-

steps of his father. He was thus engaged up to the time of his marriage, which occurred when he was in his twenty-fourth year. He rented a farm for one year and then purchased a small farm near Forest Mills, making his home thereon for two years. At the end of that time he sold out and removed to Dickinson county where he cultivated a rented tract for two years. He afterward spent a similar period in the herding business and later leased a ranch of ten thousand acres, on which he had fourteen hundred and fifty head of cattle under his care, employing three men to assist him. Because of failing health he was obliged to sell his lease and then returned to Franklin township, purchasing a small farm which he operated. He also engaged in contract work and in 1898 he established a general store, of which his daughters took charge. He continued his operations there until the fall of 1910, when he disposed of his property and business interests at Forest Mills and purchased his present farm of one hundred and twenty-three and forty-two hundredths acres. He carries on general farming, but gives the greater part of his attention to the live-stock business. He also still continues in the contracting business, with which he has been identified from the age of sixteen years. He now handles contracts in road building and devotes the greater part of his attention to contract work, his son looking after the farming interests. His has been a very active, busy and useful life. He has accomplished what he has undertaken and his life work shows what may be done when energy and determination lead the way.

On the 12th of January, 1882, Mr. Bender was united in marriage to Miss Lydia Smith, who was born in Franklin township, December 18, 1863, and is a daughter of Robert and Clara (Clark) Smith, who were also natives of Allamakee county and of Scotch-Irish descent. The father, who was a farmer and landowner, is now living in Emmet county, Iowa, but the mother has passed away. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bender were born four children: Edith M., the wife of Frank Russell, who is engaged in merchandising in Forest Mills; Clara A., the wife of Ernest Decker, a farmer of Franklin township; Arthur F., who married Dottie Gibson and is residing on his father's farm in Franklin township; and one who died in infancy. Mr. Bender holds membership with the Modern Woodmen. He is a very prominent and influential citizen, having spent his entire life in this section of the state. The years have brought him success as a reward of his industry, determination and unabating energy. He well deserves mention among the leading citizens and worthy pioneer settlers, and few men are able to speak with more authority or accuracy concerning the early events which shaped the history of this part of the state.

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#### LEONARD ALDEN HOWE.

The educational advantages which qualified Leonard Alden Howe for the duties of life were only such as the public schools afford. Although not educated for any special line of work he has never feared to venture where opportunity has led the way, and the simple weight of his character and ability has carried him into important relations. As president of the Waukon State Bank he ranks with the leading business men of the city, in which he has made his home

for nearly a half century, for although born at Lansing, Iowa, he was only about a year old when brought to Waukon, where he has since lived. His birth occurred March 11, 1863, and he is descended from a long line of New England ancestry. His father, Leonard Henry Howe, traced his lineage back to John Howe, who settled in Sudbury, Massachusetts, in 1639, while the mother, Charlotte E. (Spooner) Howe, is a descendant of William Spooner, who settled at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1637. Leonard Henry Howe, son of Eli Howe, was born April 30, 1831, at Springfield, Vermont, and in the spring of 1857 became a resident of Lansing, Iowa, where he entered upon the study of law in the office and under the direction of Samuel Kinne. In January, 1858, he was admitted to the bar and engaged in practice in Lansing with good success until 1861, when he was elected treasurer and recorder of Allamakee county, the duties of both positions being at that time entrusted to one incumbent. He proved most capable and faithful in office, making a creditable record in that connection to the time of his death, which occurred July 27, 1863. It was on the 31st of January, 1861, that he had wedded Charlotte E. Spooner, a daughter of Colonel Jeduthan and Betsey (Webb) Spooner. Her father was born at Hardwick, Massachusetts, July 6, 1799, and for many years was the publisher of *The Repository*, a weekly paper which he removed from Burlington to St. Albans, Vermont. He continued a resident of New England until 1837, when he sought the opportunities of the growing west and took up his abode upon a farm in Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1853, when he went to Waterville, Iowa. At that place, in company with his son Alden, he engaged in merchandising and also conducted a tannery and gristmill, the latter being still seen in the town, although long since abandoned for milling purposes. On the death of his son Alden on the 17th of April, 1857, Colonel Spooner removed to Lansing, Iowa, and afterward came to Waukon, where he died March 9, 1867. His wife survived him for six years, passing away at Waukon, September 29, 1873. Colonel Spooner was a brother of Wyman Spooner, who served as lieutenant governor of Wisconsin from 1864 until 1870. Mrs. Charlotte (Spooner) Howe was born in St. Albans, Vermont, September 6, 1836, and accompanied her parents on their removal to Wisconsin and later to Iowa. After the death of her first husband, Leonard Henry Howe, she became the wife of his brother, Lewis Eli Howe, on the 10th of May, 1865. Her long life has been spent in active and useful work, her influence being one of positive uplift in the home and the church and an influence for good among all with whom she has come in contact. She is still living near her children in Waukon. Her second husband, Lewis Eli Howe, was born in Norridgewock, Maine, September 13, 1822, and with his brother Leonard went to Lansing, Iowa, in 1857, removing to Waukon in 1865. He served as deputy county treasurer under his brother Leonard and afterward engaged in the real-estate business in Waukon for many years. He was an influential participant in many of the changes that took place during the early settlement of Allamakee county and was everywhere recognized as a man of sterling integrity and character. He died May 1, 1885, leaving three children: Lewis L., who was born April 17, 1866, and died August 27, 1889; Bessie S., who was born June 25, 1868, and was married September 27, 1892, to Arthur E. Pratt, their home being in Waukon; and Horace A., who

was born December 14, 1875. He married Evy Gibbs, November 2, 1898, and for a number of years has been engaged in the life insurance business.

Leonard Alden Howe, who was the only child of his mother's first marriage, was brought to Waukon by his mother and maternal grandfather soon after the death of Leonard Henry Howe. At the usual age he entered the public schools of this city and advanced through consecutive grades. In the school of experience he has learned many valuable lessons, and has made his life one of usefulness and activity. While he has advanced his personal success, he has also contributed to the general welfare in his advocacy and support of many measures for the public good. His initial step in the business world was made on the 1st of January, 1883, when he entered the Waukon Bank as clerk and bookkeeper, since which time he has been continuously connected with financial interests. The bank was then a private institution owned by L. W. Hersey, G. W. Stoddard and C. T. Granger. In April, 1892, the business was incorporated under the state law as the Waukon State Bank, at which time Mr. Howe became a stockholder and the assistant cashier. Two years later he was promoted to the position of cashier and so continued until the death of Mr. Hersey in 1903, when he was elected to the presidency of the bank and is still at the head of the institution. He recognizes the fact that that bank is most worthy of public confidence which most carefully safeguards the interests of its depositors and his progressive methods are tempered by a conservatism that maintains an even balance. Mr. Howe has been interested in other business enterprises in Waukon, and is recognized as a man of sound judgment, keen discrimination and unfaltering energy. From 1885 until 1888 he was associated with E. J. Spaulding in the lumber business, and from 1892 until 1900 he was in partnership with R. J. Alexander in the clothing business. However, his attention was largely given to the banking business, while his association with other concerns was that of an investor. In 1887 he became the local agent of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company of Milwaukee and won success along that line, but in 1901 turned this agency over to his brother Horace.

Mr. Howe has been twice married. On the 14th of June, 1892, he wedded Miss Vesta Greer, who was born in Waukon on the 23d of September, 1872, her parents being Isaac and Ann (Hatch) Greer. She was a graduate of the Waukon high school in the class of 1891. By her marriage she became the mother of a daughter, Vesta, whose birth occurred April 14, 1894, and who passed away on the 4th of May following. The wife and mother died April 22, 1894, only a few days after the birth of her child. Ten years later, on the 15th of September, 1904, Mr. Howe was again married, his second union being with Miss Blanche Hinkley, who was born in Cherokee county, Iowa, on the 31st of August, 1876, her parents being Myron and Anna (Briggs) Hinkley, of Mount Vernon, Iowa. She is a graduate of the Le Mars Normal School of Le Mars, Iowa, and also graduated in the three years' course in the college at Cedar Falls. In 1902, on the completion of the regular classical course, she won the degree of B. A. from Cornell College of Mount Vernon, Iowa. For two years prior to her marriage she acted as assistant principal of the high school at Waukon. Mr. and Mrs. Howe have one child, Alden, born May 3, 1909.

Mr. Howe belongs to Waukon lodge, A. F. & A. M., of which he was master in 1903 and 1904, and he has also been high priest of Markwell Chapter,



R. A. M., for eight years. He joined the Iowa National Guard in 1882 as a member of Company I of the Fourth Regiment, organized at Waukon. He remained a member of the company for about five years and afterward served as a non-commissioned officer on the staff of Colonel Thrift and of Colonel Stewart for about five years longer. Mr. and Mrs. Howe hold membership in the Presbyterian church, of which he is a trustee, while for thirty years he has been a church treasurer. His influence is always on the side of progress, reform and improvement. He has faithfully and capably performed the duties that each day has brought, and in every relation of life has measured up to the highest standards of manhood and citizenship.

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### R. G. MAY.

Various important business interests have at different times claimed the attention of R. G. May, and all have profited greatly by his energy, enterprise and ability. Today he is not only one of the progressive farmers, successful stock-raisers and extensive landowners of Iowa township, where he has resided since 1879, but he is likewise prominent in local politics and is classed with those citizens whose sterling worth, earnest purpose and fidelity to duty make them valued members of the community.

Allamakee county numbers Mr. May among her native sons, his birth having occurred on May's Prairie in 1858, his parents being John and Juliana May, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Delaware. Their marriage occurred in Ohio, and in 1852 they came to Iowa, settling in Lansing township, Allamakee county, where the father engaged in farming, buying a large tract of land, which he improved and developed until his death, which occurred when he was sixty-five years of age. His wife has also passed away, having survived her husband for a number of years. Of their family of thirteen children five still survive: Henry and Roan C., of New Albin; Margaret, who married Charles Feuerhelm, of May's Prairie; and Lois E., the wife of E. W. White, of Nebraska.

R. G. May was reared upon his father's farm on May's Prairie and acquired his early education in district school No. 2, supplementing this by a course in business college at New Albin. After laying aside his books he turned his attention to farming, having already gained a practical knowledge of the best agricultural methods by aiding his father with the work of the homestead. He had also learned the carpenter's trade and this he followed in conjunction with agricultural pursuits until 1885, abandoning both lines of activity in that year in order to establish a drug store in New Albin, an enterprise which he successfully conducted for two years. At the end of that time he engaged in carpentering and contracting in that city and secured a large and profitable patronage as his ability and skill became widely known. In 1891 he disposed of all his business interests in New Albin and purchased, in partnership with C. N. Steel, a portion of the farm which he now owns. Their association still continues, and together they are the proprietors of over twelve hundred acres of well improved land, upon which they make a specialty of raising stock, their animals being of high grade and commanding a ready sale on the market. Mr. May

owns also a great deal of improved property in New Albin and is connected with many of the most important business concerns in that city, being secretary of the New Albin Cooperative Creamery, secretary and a stockholder in the New Albin Manufacturing Company and a director in the New Albin & Irish Hollow Telephone Company. His business interests are at all times carefully and capably conducted and have been a source of great individual prosperity besides constituting valuable elements in community advancement.

Mr. May is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and fraternally is connected with the Yeoman and the Masonic lodge. Although he is a successful, reliable and discriminating business man, he has not by any means confined his attention to this one field, but has extended the scope of his activities to include participation in public affairs, his influence being at all times on the side of right, reform and progress. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has held various important positions of trust and responsibility, being at the present time secretary of the school board and city clerk of New Albin. His interests are largely identified with those of this section of the state, where he has resided since his birth, and at all times he is ready to lend his aid and cooperation to any movement calculated to benefit the section or advance its development.

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#### C. P. NIERLING.

A native of Allamakee county, C. P. Nierling was born on December 16, 1867, upon the farm of two hundred and ten acres on sections 27, 28 and 33, French Creek township, which he now owns. He is one of the substantial agriculturists of his locality, and what he has achieved is largely due to his progressive methods and the industry and energy which he has expended in the development of the property. His father was Anton Nierling, a native of Germany, who with his parents emigrated to America as a young man, after having served three years in the Germany army. He was born on the river Rhine in 1826, and after his arrival in America, in about the year 1849, located in Lansing, where he lived for three years, after which he settled on Lansing Ridge, going two years later to French Creek ownship. He was a miller by trade and followed that occupation in the fatherland for several years, but upon coming to Iowa took up agricultural labors. Acquiring title to a tract of wild land of two hundred and sixty acres, he settled thereon, devoting his energies to clearing the land, breaking the soil and placing his acres under cultivation. He erected substantial buildings upon his land and continued in his pursuits with ever increasing success until his death, which occurred upon his farm in 1888, at the age of sixty-two years. He married in Lansing, Iowa, Miss Mary Anna Buck, a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, who survived him for a number of years, passing away in Waukon in 1902, at the age of sixty-eight years. In their family were ten children: J. J., of Jamestown, North Dakota; Mrs. M. Tillmony, of Ledyard, Iowa; Mrs. L. T. Tillmony, of Wells, Minnesota; Carrie M., of Ledyard, Iowa; Mrs. W. H. Kerndt, of Allamakee county; Herman, who died at the age of seven years; C. P., our subject; H. G., of Jamestown, North

Dakota; A. T., a prominent banker and business man of Waukon, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work; and W. F., of Algona, Iowa.

C. P. Nierling was reared under the parental roof, and in the acquirement of his education attended the schools of the neighborhood. He early began to assist his father in the work of the home farm, acquiring thorough methods of operation, and ten years after the father's death acquired the interests of the other heirs and now owns two hundred and ten acres of well improved land. The buildings are modern and up-to-date and perfectly suited for their purpose, while he has installed the most modern machinery in order to facilitate labor and improve the yield of his crops. As the years have passed Mr. Nierling has become recognized as one of the most substantial agriculturists of his district, and his success is well merited, as it is the outcome of close application, augmented by progressive methods.

Mr. Nierling was united in marriage to Miss Barbara Keffler, a native of Allamakee county, by whom he had two children, Irene and Meta. After the death of his first wife he married Miss Melinda Smith, and of this union were born seven children: Anton, Myrtle, Viola, Carlton, George, Leona and Arthur. Mr. and Mrs. Nierling are members of the Catholic church, to which they give their helpful support, and in his political faith he is a democrat. He has served for four years as township assessor and for one year as trustee, discharging his duties in a most satisfactory manner. Highly respected and esteemed, Mr. Nierling enjoys the good-will and confidence of his friends and neighbors for what he has accomplished and also on account of those qualities of mind and character which have made possible his success.

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#### WILHELM WIEMERSLAGE.

During his entire active career Wilhelm Wiemerslage has been engaged in farming in Allamakee county, and each year has brought him increased success in his chosen field of labor, so that he is today one of the leading representatives of agricultural interests in Iowa township, where he makes his home. He is one of the many sturdy, industrious and enterprising citizens whom Germany has given to America, his birth having occurred in the fatherland in 1868. When he was a young man he came with his parents to America, settling in Union City township, Allamakee county, Iowa, where the father purchased land and engaged in farming until his death, in 1886, the mother passing away some years later. To their union were born eight children, six of whom survive: Henry, who resides in Germany; Gerhardt, of Union City township; Wilhelm, of this review; and August, Frederick and George, all of whom reside in Union City township.

After his arrival in America Wilhelm Wiemerslage spent four years assisting in the work of the homestead, and in 1893 purchased land of his own in Union City township, where he developed a profitable and well improved farm upon which he resided until 1906, when he moved into Iowa township, where he has since made his home. Here he purchased two hundred and seventy-four acres of land two and one-half miles west of New Albin, and he has one

hundred and thirty-five acres under cultivation, substantial harvests annually rewarding the practical care and labor which he bestows upon the fields. He has made excellent improvements upon the property which is today a profitable and productive one, and by many years of practical work and straightforward business dealings has made secure for himself a place among Allamakee county's representative and prosperous agriculturists.

Mr. Wiemerslage married in 1893 Miss Emma Stehr, who was born in Wisconsin, a daughter of John and Katherina (Scheitel) Stehr, natives of Germany. The parents came to America in 1868 and subsequently settled in Union City township, where the father passed away in 1910, the mother still making her home upon the farm. In this family were six children, five of whom survive: William and Dora, who reside in Union City township; Emma, the wife of our subject; and Herman and Lena, also residing in Union City township. The deceased member of the family is August. Mr. and Mrs. Wiemerslage are the parents of five children: George, who is now residing in Nebraska; and John, Albert, Ella and Leo, all of whom reside at home. The family are members of the Lutheran Evangelical church.

Fraternally Mr. Wiemerslage is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and he is a democrat in his political beliefs, taking an active interest in public affairs, although never seeking public office. In the county where he has resided for a quarter of a century he is well and favorably known, his upright and honorable life and his high standards of business and personal integrity having gained for him the high respect, esteem and confidence of all who are associated with him.

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#### JAMES GREGG.

Since 1893 James Gregg has conducted a profitable business in building material in Postville and by his energy, close application and unremitting industry has gained for himself a high place in business circles of the city. He was born at Monona, Clayton county, Iowa, August 23, 1859, and is a son of John and Janet (Ferguson) Gregg, both of whom were born near Strathroy, Canada, the father's birth occurring December 28, 1817. The parents were married in Canada and in 1846 came to Iowa, locating on a farm at Monona, among the very earliest settlers in that section. The father continued to improve and develop his homestead until his death, which occurred in 1882, he having survived his wife since 1864. They were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this review was the youngest.

In the acquirement of an education James Gregg attended public school at Walnut Grove and at Monona and after laying aside his books remained upon the farm until he was twenty years of age. At that time he went to work on a railroad but after a few months hired out as a farm laborer, working on neighboring properties for about eight years. When he was twenty-eight he formed a partnership with his brother and for four years thereafter engaged in the lumber business at Monona, at the end of that time selling out his interests to his brother. He continued, however, to reside in the city until 1893, when he



JAMES GREGG



came to Postville, buying out the business belonging to J. H. Sanders, which he has since continued to conduct. He deals in all kinds of building material, cement, plaster and lime, and as a result of twenty years of honorable business dealing and unquestioned integrity now controls an important and profitable trade. He is a stockholder in the Citizens State Bank and in the Postville brick yard and his business interests, always carefully and capably managed, have brought him a gratifying measure of success.

On October 3, 1883, Mr. Gregg married Miss Lydia Siglin, who was born near Scranton, Pennsylvania, June 11, 1862, a daughter of Daniel and Elmira (Englert) Siglin, both natives of the Keystone state. They came to Monona in 1867 and there the father engaged in farming, continuing to reside upon his property until his death, which occurred August 21, 1902. He was survived by his wife until March, 1904. In their family were six children: Frederick, deceased; John, who is a farmer near Alta, Iowa; Nelson, a mechanic and contractor at Aurelia; Lydia, wife of the subject of this review; Phineas Page, a druggist in Rexburg, Idaho; and Allan, a farmer near that city. Mr. and Mrs. Gregg are the parents of two children. John Loren, who was born August 17, 1884, is now in the dray and transfer business in Postville. He married Miss Bertha Miller, a native of Post township, and they have one son, Keith Miller, born October 18, 1912. Guy Page, who was born January 13, 1888, is pitcher in the Three I Baseball League and when not thus engaged assists his father.

Mr. Gregg gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has been a member of the school board and is now serving ably and conscientiously on the city council. He is connected with the Masonic lodge in Postville and has taken the thirty-second degree in Masonry at Cedar Rapids. He is connected also with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He takes a great interest in the welfare and growth of the community and is recognized as a loyal, public-spirited and progressive citizen. In business life he is well known for his alert and enterprising spirit, and his salient characteristics are such as always win a gratifying success.

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#### THEODORE ROERKOHLE

Although more than a decade has passed since Theodore Roerkohl has departed this life there are many who remember him as one of the prosperous, progressive and representative agriculturists of Waterloo township. He was a native of Germany, where he was born in 1829, and in 1866 came to America, locating first in Ohio, where he resided for two years. At the end of that time he came to Iowa and five years later established his home in Allamakee county, where he bought land and subsequently married. Throughout his entire life he followed agricultural pursuits, but for a period of six years he also operated a brewery in connection with his farming. He was energetic, industrious and thrifty, possessing in large measure those sturdy characteristics of the German race, and as the years passed his incessant labor and well directed efforts were fruitful of good results, returning to him a most gratifying measure of success. At the time of his death he was the owner of two hundred and forty acres of

highly improved land in Waterloo township, three miles west of Dorchester upon which his widow still resides at the age of fifty-eight years.

In 1877, in Allamakee county, Mr. Roerkohl was united in marriage to Miss Anna Wensing, who was born in Germany and came to America when a little maiden of one year, with her parents, who established their home in Racine county, Wisconsin. Shortly afterward, however, they removed to Iowa, where the father died. The mother and her children then went to Dakota and there the mother's death occurred. In their family were eight children, of whom four survive, Mrs. Roerkohl being the youngest of the living children. She received her education in the schools of Wisconsin and Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Roerkohl became the parents of eight children, all yet living, namely: Joseph, of Caledonia, Minnesota, who married Tillie Schulte and has two children, Herold and Mary; Theodore, also of Caledonia, who married Thérèse Hill and has two children, Lionel and Howard; Bernard, who operates a portion of the homestead farm and who married, in 1907, Miss Anna Schulte, who by her marriage became the mother of one daughter, Bernadine; Henry, residing in Caledonia, Minnesota; Elizabeth, who married John Schiltz, of Houston county, Minnesota, and they have two daughters, Marcella and Helen; Mary, the wife of Ben Schulte, of Dorchester, Iowa, by whom she has two daughters, Veronica and Mary; Margaret, at home; and William, operating the homestead farm. All of these children received their education in the schools of Allamakee county. The family are communicants of the Catholic church, in the faith of which Mr. Roerkohl passed away in 1902, his remains being interred in St. Mary's cemetery in Waterloo township.

In politics Mr. Roerkohl gave stalwart support to the democratic party, although the emoluments and honors of office held no attraction for him. All projects, having for their object the welfare of the community, however, found in him a ready champion and he was public-spirited in large degree. He had passed the Psalmist's allotted span of threescore years and ten ere departing this life, and with his demise Waterloo township lost one of its honored, representative and highly respected citizens.

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#### THEODORE ROUSTER.

Prominent among the industrious, enterprising and successful farmers of Iowa township is numbered Theodore Rouster, the owner of two hundred and forty acres of rich and arable land upon which he has resided since 1903. His birth occurred in Luxemburg, Germany, in 1860, and his parents both died there. In their family were four children: Theodore, of this review; Michael, whose death occurred in Germany; John, who is engaged in farming in Iowa township; and Nicholas, a farmer in Jefferson township.

In 1888 Theodore Rouster left Germany and crossed the Atlantic to America, coming immediately to Iowa township, Allamakee county, and turning his attention to farming. He rented a tract of land located five miles west of New Albin and upon this he continued to reside for fifteen years, becoming during that time thoroughly familiar with the best agricultural methods and taking his place



among the progressive and able farmers of this vicinity. In 1908 he purchased land of his own, buying two hundred and forty acres in the same township, and he has resided thereon continuously since that time. Upon the property he has made substantial improvements, erecting fine barns and outbuildings, and he makes a specialty of dairying and stock-raising, giving also a great deal of attention to raising chickens. Being a practical agriculturist, his labors are at all times intelligently directed and therefore productive of excellent results, all branches of his activities being important and profitable. He is a stockholder in the New Albin Creamery and in the Farmers Store of New Albin, and in business affairs is always progressive, able and discriminating, qualities which form the basis of all his success.

In 1888 Mr. Rouster married Miss Catherine Boltz, a native of Germany, who came to America in 1885, and after a short period of residence in Wisconsin, where she made her home with her brother, went to Minnesota, removing from that state to Iowa. Her marriage occurred in Minnesota. She is a daughter of Michael and Mary Boltz, both of whom died in Germany. In their family were twelve children, four of whom came to America. Mr. and Mrs. Rouster became the parents of ten children: John, who was born in 1889, and who is at home; Celia, who has passed away; Nicholas, who was born in 1892, and who is yet at home; Peter, who was born in 1896, and who also resides with his parents; a child who died in infancy; Jacob, who was born in 1898; Charley, who died in infancy; Mary, born in 1902; Joseph, born in 1904; and Elizabeth, born in 1911. The family are devout members of the Roman Catholic church.

Mr. Rouster gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and is active and progressive in matters of citizenship, although he neither seeks nor desires public office. He has resided in Allamakee county for twenty-five years and is well known as a progressive and able agriculturist and a reliable and straightforward business man, fully meriting the confidence and good-will which are extended to him by his fellow-citizens.

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#### THOMAS E. BYRNES.

Thomas E. Byrnes owns a fine farm of three hundred and seventy acres on sections 11 and 14, Hanover township, and in its cultivation is meeting with that success which rewards earnest, intelligent and persistent labor. He is one of Allamakee county's most progressive and successful native sons, and the farm which he now owns constitutes the homestead upon which he was born in 1875. He is a son of Thomas and Catherine Byrnes, natives of Ireland, who previous to their marriage came to Iowa. They settled first in Winneshiek county, where the father purchased land, and they afterward moved to Allamakee county, where they continued to reside until their deaths. The father purchased a farm in Hanover township and was successful in its operation, dying upon his holdings in 1895. His wife survived him for many years, passing away in 1909. To their union were born nine children: Eugene, who resides in North Dakota; Annie, the wife of Thomas Collins, of Allamakee county; Catherine, the wife of Michael Bresingham, of Allamakee county; Lawrence, who is

operating part of the old homestead; Thomas E., of this review; Mary, the deceased wife of William Gavel, of Allamakee county; Stacia, who married Pat Delaney; Ellen, who became the wife of Michael Burke, also of Allamakee county; and Margaret, who resides in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Thomas E. Byrnes was reared under the parental roof and acquired his education in the district schools, learning farming by practical experience upon his father's property. He has never left the homestead, in the operation of which he continued to assist until his father's death, when he succeeded to the property, which he has since improved and developed. The farm is located on sections 11 and 14, Hanover township, and two hundred and twenty-five acres are in a high state of cultivation, the entire property reflecting the owner's personal supervision and careful management. Mr. Byrnes engages in general farming and stock-raising and in addition operates a threshing outfit, all branches of his activity being profitable and important.

In 1906 Mr. Byrnes was united in marriage to Miss Bridget McKenna, a native of Allamakee county and a daughter of Patrick and Margaret McKenna, the former born in Ireland and the latter in Iowa. For many years they resided in Allamakee county on a farm, and upon this property the father's death occurred in 1892. His wife survives him and makes her home in Minnesota. To Mr. and Mrs. McKenna were born six children: Mary, the wife of John Blake, of Allamakee county; Margaret, who married Dennis O'Malley, also of Allamakee county; Bridget, the wife of the subject of this review; Elizabeth, who is now Mrs. James Delaney, of Allamakee county; Martin, deceased; and Patrick, a farmer in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Byrnes have three children: Cyril P., born in 1907; Margaret, born in 1909; and Catherine M., born in 1912.

Mr. Byrnes belongs to the Roman Catholic church and politically affiliates with the democratic party. He is, however, not active in public affairs, as he prefers to devote his entire attention to his farming interests, which are capably managed, bringing him a creditable position among Allamakee county's representative and substantial agriculturists.

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#### GEORGE W. HARRIS.

The agricultural development of Allamakee county has been greatly stimulated by the activities of George W. Harris, who owns a valuable farm of two hundred and thirty acres in Postville township, on which he still lives, although he has now retired from active labor, leaving the most arduous duties of operating his land to his son-in-law. As evidence of his success, it may be cited that he is also president of the Farmers Cooperative Company of Postville and of the Cooperative Creamery Company of this city. Moreover, he has other interests and is a stockholder in numerous prosperous enterprises.

George W. Harris was born in McConnelsville, Morgan county, Ohio, December 22, 1851, and is a son of Elisha and Margaret (Patterson) Harris, both natives of the same county. The father, who always followed agricultural pursuits, came in 1854 to Iowa, locating at Lybrand, Post township, where he continued successful in the operation of his farm until his demise in 1898. The

mother had passed away about five years previous to that time. In their family were fourteen children.

George W. Harris was brought by his parents to Iowa when but a child and received his educational advantages in the district schools of Post township, the first school which he attended being conducted in an old-fashioned log schoolhouse located near what is now known as the Minert cemetery, so named for Mrs. Minert, who was the first to be buried there. Mr. Harris early began to assist his father with the work of the farm and acquired detailed information regarding agricultural operations. After laying aside his text-books he remained at home until twenty-one years of age, when he was married, continuing, however, after that event, to operate his father's land for one year, at the end of which time he purchased part of the farm he now owns. When he acquired title to this property it was but a wilderness improved with a little log house and a small thatched stable. Courageous and persevering, however, he set to work breaking acre by acre until his land brought him gratifying returns. He began with eighty acres and, as his financial resources increased gradually, added thereto until he now owns a farm of two hundred and thirty acres highly improved and well under cultivation. His barns, outbuildings and sheds are modern and suitably equipped, his residence is comfortable and all modern conveniences can be found therein, while he has installed the latest type of farm machinery in order to facilitate the labor and improve the productivity of the soil. Although Mr. Harris has retired from the more strenuous duties of the farm, leaving that part of the work to his son-in-law, he still supervises in a general way his farming interests. The land is largely devoted to mixed farming, raising the grain suitable to soil and climate, but his live-stock interests are also important, he having given a number of years to the improvement of his strain of high bred Poland China hogs. As is but natural for a man of the business ability, enterprise and alertness such as Mr. Harris possesses, he has become connected with allied and other interests and at present serves as president of the Farmers Cooperative Company of Postville and in the same position in the Postville Creamery Company, being not only a large stockholder in these institutions, but also having done valuable work as an executive officer in promoting their growth and effective operation. Mr. Harris is also a stockholder in the Clay Products Company, the canning factory of Postville, and is interested in the Plano International Machinery Company of Plano, Illinois. It is a cooperative concern formed by farmers in order to furnish them with machinery of the best grade at the lowest cost. Moreover, Mr. Harris is a factor in financial circles of Postville, being a stockholder in the Citizens Bank.

The marriage of Mr. Harris to Miss Ella Laughlin occurred May 4, 1872. Mrs. Harris was born in Post township in 1855, on the farm which adjoins her present home. She is a daughter of John and Jane Laughlin, natives of Scotland, who became early settlers in this county, where the father attained prosperity as the result of a long, useful and active life as a farmer. Both he and his wife passed away on the farm located next to Mr. Harris' and which is now occupied by their son, J. R. Laughlin. Mr. and Mrs. Harris became the parents of six children: Warner, who married Miss Rachel Folsom and is now engaged in farming in Post township; Nina, the wife of Arthur W. Swenson, an agriculturist of Franklin township; Hazel, who married Alonzo Folsom,

who now has charge of the actual operation of Mr. Harris' farm; Mabel, the wife of Richard Folsom, a farmer of Franklin township; Gerald, at home; and Roger, deceased. He was the youngest of the family and a promising young boy of ten years, who lost his life by being accidentally shot.

Although Mr. Harris has withdrawn from the most arduous labors in connection with farm work, he remains an important factor in the agricultural advancement of Allamakee county, to the development of which he has contributed in a considerable degree, while at the same time promoting his private interests. He is honored and respected in his vicinity as one who, by his own efforts, attained to a substantial place and one who always was as considerate of the interests of others as of his own.

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### SAMSON A. HARRIS.

Among the prosperous agriculturists of Allamakee county is Samson A. Harris, who has extensive holdings near Postville, owning a farm of three hundred and thirty acres. He is also interested in a number of important enterprises. He was born at Caldwell, Ohio, March 24, 1862, and is a son of David McGary and Rosanna (Floyd) Harris. Both parents were also natives of Ohio, the father being born in Noble county. He always followed agricultural pursuits in his native state and there passed away in 1892. The mother still makes her home in Ohio. David Harris made a distinguished military record in the war of the Rebellion, serving with valor and devotion for nine months and his death resulting from the effects of an affliction which he had contracted during the service. In his family were nine children, of whom our subject is the third in order of birth.

Samson A. Harris, in the acquirement of his education, attended public school in Noble county, Ohio, which state he left in 1881 in order to come to Iowa, where he accepted employment with his uncle, Elisha Harris, there remaining for four years. By thrift and energy he acquired the means which enabled him to purchase the farm upon which he now lives, the nucleus of his holdings consisting of sixty-seven acres, to which he has since added at various times until his property now comprises three hundred and thirty acres. He devotes his attention to general farming and also gives a good deal of his time to stock-raising. His buildings are modern and up-to-date and his equipment and machinery of the latest type. The appearance of his place speaks well for the methods he employs and stands as evidence of his prosperity. Mr. Harris has become interested in other enterprises and is a stockholder in the Postville Canning Factory and in the Clay Products Company. He also holds stock in the Farmers Implement Company of Plano, Illinois, and the Citizens Bank of Postville.

On September 22, 1885, occurred the marriage of Mr. Harris and Miss Ida Smith. She was born in Post township in 1864 and is a daughter of John N. and Susan (Lec) Smith, both natives of New York. They came to Iowa before their marriage and the father resided a short time in Decorah before removing to Post township. Here he acquired land, to the cultivation of which he devoted

the remainder of his life, passing away in 1895. His wife still survives, residing in Post township. In their family were eight children, of whom but two are now living, including Mrs. Harris. Mr. and Mrs. Harris have two daughters: Lila, who is teaching school at Waukon and resides at home; and Leone, who pursues her education in Toledo, Iowa.

Mrs. Harris and daughters are members of the United Brethren church, to which Mr. Harris gives his helpful support. His political faith is that of the republican party and, although he keeps intelligently informed upon all issues involved, he has never aspired to public office. Fraternaly he is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen of America. Starting out in life with no particular advantages, Mr. Harris has again proven the fact that success is but ambition's answer and that industry and honesty will win the day. While he has become one of the most prosperous agriculturists of his section, he has been a factor in the general advancement, and is recognized as a forceful element in the community, where he is highly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

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#### THOMAS FOLSOM.

Thomas Folsom, one of the most progressive and well known farmers of Post township, owns and operates a fine property of one hundred and twenty acres, upon which he has resided since 1887. He was born in Ripley county, Indiana, on the 16th of April, 1849, and is a son of Benjamin and Sarah (Webster) Folsom, both natives of that state, the former born May 15, 1816, and the latter on the 29th of May, 1818. In early life the father engaged in milling in Indiana. He came to Iowa in 1865, turning his attention first to farming and afterward to his former occupation, becoming connected with the Myron mill, wherein he remained employed for ten years thereafter. At the end of that time he secured a position in another mill a short distance down the river but after five years there was taken sick and retired from active life, dying on the 29th of October, 1883. In addition to his activity as a miller he was also a well known Baptist minister, preaching the doctrines in which he believed, at intervals, for many years although he never had charge of any church. His wife survived him a number of years, dying on the 5th of January, 1912. They had a large family of children, of whom the subject of this review was the fifth in order of birth. His oldest brother was killed during the Civil war on the Chickamauga battlefield.

Thomas Folsom acquired his education in the district schools of Indiana and came with his parents to Iowa in 1865. When he was fifteen years of age he began working as a farm hand by the day and month and so continued until he was twenty-eight years, when he married and rented a farm in Post township which he developed and improved for some time, buying in 1887 the land in Post township upon which he still resides. The years have brought him steadily increasing success in his farming operations, for his methods have been at all times practical and progressive and his industry unflagging. He is a successful grain grower and an extensive stock-raiser and his farm is one of

the finest in this part of Allamakee county, its excellent condition reflecting his many years of care and labor. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Co-operative Store at Postville and in the Cooperative Creamery and is known as a far-sighted, reliable and discriminating business man.

On September 30, 1877, Mr. Folsom married Miss Eliza N. Ewing, who was born in Post township, this county, October 24, 1857. She is a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Clark) Ewing, natives of Hamilton county, Indiana, the father a plasterer and mason by trade. They came to Iowa in the spring of 1858 as pioneers and located on Yellow river, in Post township, where Thomas Ewing purchased land. He later sold his holdings and thereafter worked at his trade until his death, which occurred on the 22d of September, 1887, when he was sixty-one years of age. He and his wife became the parents of twelve children, of whom Mrs. Folsom is the fifth in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Folsom have ten children. Lonnie, who was born August 10, 1878, married Hazel, a daughter of George Harris and they now reside on the Harris farm. Rachel, born September 4, 1879, married Warner Harris, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. William, born September 25, 1881, is a painter by trade. He married Miss Josephine Getkins and they reside in Postville. Lee, who was born September 20, 1883, married Miss Bertha Hammel and they make their home on a farm two miles southeast of Postville. Richard, whose birth occurred on the 3d of February, 1886, married Mabel Harris, a daughter of George Harris, and they reside on a farm near Hardin, in Franklin township. Melbert, who was born February 9, 1888, resides at home. Austin, born May 3, 1890, is also at home. Angie, born September 5, 1892, is the wife of Earl Hammel, a farmer in Ludlow township. Gilbert, born November 16, 1894, is residing on the home farm. Milo, the youngest member of the family, was born August 19, 1897.

Mr. Folsom affiliates with the Modern Brotherhood of America. He devotes practically his entire time to his farm and his labors during the twenty-six years of his residence upon it have been rewarded by success, so that he stands today in the front ranks of successful and progressive agriculturists.

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#### JAMES T. BULMAN.

James T. Bulman needs no introduction to the readers of a history of Allamakee county, for his name has long been an honored one in this section of Iowa, to which his father came as a pioneer and where he himself has through his industry, honesty and success won a high place among the promoters of its agricultural development. He is at present operating a fine farm in Union City township and gives a great deal of his time and attention to its further cultivation. He was born in Allamakee county, October 6, 1857, and is a son of Thomas Bulman, whose birth occurred in Thetford, Cambridgeshire, England, on the 6th of April, 1828. The father spent his boyhood and youth in that country and there worked as a farm hand and at railroading. On the 6th of October, 1848, he married Miss Phoebe Stocks, also a native of Cambridgeshire, and on the 31st of the same month they sailed for America on the



MRS. J. T. BULMAN, AND DAUGHTER



J. T. BULMAN, FATHER, SON, AND  
GRANDSON





W. V. Kent, a sailing vessel, which arrived at New Orleans on the 9th of December, it requiring five weeks and four days to make the voyage. After remaining in that city for a short time they went to Evansville, Indiana, in the spring of 1849 and there Mr. Bulman served an apprenticeship as a bricklayer and plasterer, at which occupations he worked until October 6, 1854, when he started for Iowa, driving overland by team and arriving in Union City township, Allamakee county, on the last day of October. There Mr. Bulman entered land and at once began the construction of a log cabin. He continued to live upon that farm until his retirement from active business life in 1888. He had in the meantime accumulated eight hundred acres and this property he sold in that year to his two sons, James and Thomas, and took up his home in Waukon, where he now resides, having reached the age of eighty-five. His wife passed away in 1892. He and his wife became the parents of the following children: Mary, the deceased wife of William Cummings; Mrs. Alice Green, the widow of L. M. Green, of Montana; Emma, who married Alfred Beardmore; James T., of this review; Thomas S., who resides in Pawnee county, Oklahoma; Carrie, the wife of Benjamin Hartley, of Allamakee county; Jason C., who resides in Waterloo township; Walter W., an attorney of Chariton, Iowa; Anna P., who married William Rayburn, of Portland, Oregon; John, who has passed away; Samuel, who died in infancy, and Phoebe, who is also deceased.

James T. Bulman spent his childhood upon his father's farm, attending district school, and when not engaged with his books, assisting with the cultivation of the homestead and becoming in this way before he had attained his majority a practical and able agriculturist. He began his independent career by renting a portion of the home farm and this he continued to develop until after his father's retirement, when he purchased three hundred and sixty acres, which he still owns. Upon it he has made substantial improvements, erecting the necessary barns and outbuildings and installing modern machinery, and he has by his well directed and practical labors made the farm a productive and profitable property, evidencing everywhere the care and skill of an able agriculturist. Mr. Bulman has six hundred and forty acres of Canada land. He is a stockholder in the First National Bank of Waukon and is well known as a resourceful, far-sighted and progressive business man.

In 1880 Mr. Bulman was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Hartley, a native of Allamakee county and a daughter of Francis and Hephzibah Hartley, who were born and married in England and who came to America in a sailing ship, being seven weeks at sea. They landed in New York and, making their way inland, settled in Wisconsin and came to Iowa in the early '50s, living in Allamakee county until their deaths. Of the large family of children born to their union five survive besides the wife of the subject of this review: John W., who lives in Allamakee county; Susan, who married Henry Allpress, of Nebraska; Alice E., the wife of Thomas Henderson, of California; James W., of Lansing, Iowa; and Francis, who lives in Los Angeles. Mr. and Mrs. Bulman became the parents of seven children: Frank T., now serving as county treasurer of Allamakee county; Ethel and Mabel, who died in infancy; Nellie, who married Robert Weymiller, of Allamakee county; and Leonard J., Alfred C. and A. J., who live at home. The family are members of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Bulman is connected fraternally with the Masonic lodge, the Modern Brotherhood of America and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a republican in his political views and has served in various important official positions, including those of township trustee and sheriff of Allamakee county. He is interested in all that pertains to the general progress and growth of his native community, being at all times a progressive and public-spirited citizen, and in his business life he has illustrated the value of integrity and industry, having won his prosperity through intense and well directed energy.

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#### JAMES W. HARRIS.

James W. Harris, who has devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits throughout his entire business career, is the owner of a well improved and valuable farm of two hundred and eighty acres on section 10, Post township. His birth occurred in Noble county, Ohio, on the 24th of March, 1860, his parents being David M. and Rosanna (Floyd) Harris, likewise natives of the Buckeye state. The father spent his entire life in Ohio and followed farming during his active business career. At the time of the Civil war he valiantly defended the Union as a member of an Ohio regiment. His widow still resides in that state.

James W. Harris, who was the second in order of birth in a family of nine children, obtained his education in the schools of his native state and remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority. Subsequently he worked as a farm hand for about five years and then purchased a tract of land in Post township, Allamakee county, Iowa, continuing its cultivation for about ten years. On the expiration of that period he disposed of the property and bought the farm on which he has resided continuously since and which comprises two hundred and eighty acres of rich and productive land on section 10 in Post township. He operates the place as a general stock farm and has won a gratifying measure of success in his undertakings. It is a model and modern farming property, and all of the improvements thereon stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. Mr. Harris is a stockholder in the farmers' store and the Postville creamery and is widely recognized as a substantial and representative citizen of the community.

On the 17th of February, 1887, Mr. Harris was united in marriage to Miss Carrie L. Segrist, a daughter of Louis and Mary Ann (Joyce) Segrist. The father's birth occurred in Ohio in 1832, while the mother was born in Indiana on the 20th of September, 1842. Louis Segrist, whose father died before he was born, came to Iowa in boyhood. He followed agricultural pursuits during his entire business career, being first employed as a farm hand and later becoming a landowner in Post township, where his demise occurred on the 22d of January, 1902. His widow now makes her home with her children. Mr. and Mrs. Harris are the parents of nine children, as follows: Martin E., who was born on the 14th of May, 1888, and resides at home; Mae Rose, born February 6, 1890, who is the wife of Joseph Evans, of Postville; Ethel M., whose birth occurred on the 6th of June, 1891, and who gave her hand in marriage to William

Fast, of Zanesville, Ohio; Obert, born January 13, 1893, who wedded Miss Clara Klein and follows farming in Post township; Ella Caroline, who was born on the 3d of April, 1894, and is the wife of Fred Lawson, a farmer of Post township; Dora Irene, who was born March 19, 1899, and is attending school; John Frederick, whose birth occurred on the 22d of January, 1901, and who is likewise attending school; Florence, whose natal day was December 21, 1903; and Marie Lucile, whose birth occurred June 13, 1911.

In politics Mr. Harris is a republican, but the honors and emoluments of office have never had any attraction for him. His fraternal relations are with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He has many friends in the community which has been his home for more than a quarter of a century, and well merits the regard and esteem which are uniformly accorded him.

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### JAMES H. BEARDMORE.

James H. Beardmore, who has for seventeen years been prominently connected with farming interests of Allamakee county and who is today considered one of the most able and progressive agriculturists of Union City township, is a native of this section of Iowa, born in 1869. His parents, William and Sarah Beardmore, were natives of England and were married in that country, where their three eldest children were born. They came to America in 1853 and after about ten years spent in the eastern states came to Iowa, settling in Union City township in 1865. Here the father operated a ferry boat across the Upper Iowa river and at the same time conducted a blacksmith shop, dividing his attention between the two occupations until he turned his attention to farming, at which time he abandoned the operation of the ferry but continued to manage his blacksmith and horseshoeing establishment. He made additional purchases of land from time to time, finally accumulating two hundred and sixty acres, which he developed and improved along modern and practical lines until his retirement in 1897. In that year he laid aside the cares of active business life and moved to New Albin, where he now resides. His wife passed away in April, 1896. They became the parents of ten children: twins, who died in infancy; and three, Ambrose, Agnes and Laura, who have also passed away. The others are: William, Alfred and Lynn T., of Union City township; John, who is a butcher in Charles City, Iowa; and James H., of this review.

After acquiring a good education in the public schools of Union City township James H. Beardmore turned his attention to farming and in 1896 bought the family homestead of two hundred and twenty acres, upon which he has since resided, giving most of his time to its improvement and development. The farm is situated ten miles and a half above New Albin and Mr. Beardmore has one hundred and forty acres under high cultivation. Upon it he has made substantial improvements, erecting the necessary buildings and installing the needed equipment, and his farm is today one of the finest in this section of Allamakee county, reflecting in its neat and attractive appearance the careful supervision and practical methods of its owner, who is a progressive and able agriculturist.

In addition to general farming he is also a stock buyer and seller on an extensive scale and is connected as a director with the Farmers Store of New Albin.

Mr. Beardmore is affiliated with the republican party but, although he served for twelve years as a member of the school board, doing able and conscientious work, he never seeks public office. In the community where he was born and where his entire life has been spent he is well and favorably known and his industry and enterprise have not only enabled him to attain prosperity but have won him a high place in the respect and esteem of his neighbors.

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### J. S. QUANDAHL.

J. S. Quandahl, owner of the Quandahl Mercantile Store, the largest enterprise of its kind in Allamakee county outside of Waukon, is one of the best known business men in Waterloo township and his record in the control of his extensive interests is a credit to a name that has here been honored and respected since pioneer times. He is one of Allamakee county's native sons, his birth having occurred in Waterloo township in 1876, his parents being Nels and Julia Quandahl. The parents came to America in 1854 and after settling in Winneshiek county came from there to Waterloo township, Allamakee county, in the early '70s. In the community which is now known as Quandahl the father bought a mercantile store which since that time has been one of the strong and reliable commercial institutions in this vicinity. The father remained active in its conduct until his death in 1910, having survived his wife one year. To their union were born nine children: Lena, the wife of Henry Opheim, of Waterloo township; J. S., of this review; Clara, deceased; Ella, the wife of Charles Johnson, of Canada; Martha, who married Val Lopshire, of Minnesota; Nettie, who lives at home; Arthur, who has passed away; Edward, a resident of Canada; and Arthur, who lives at home.

J. S. Quandahl was reared in his parent's home and acquired his education in the public schools of Allamakee county, supplementing this by a business course at Decorah, Iowa. After laying aside his books he entered into partnership with his father in the conduct of the Quandahl Mercantile Store and their association continued until 1906, during which time Mr. Quandahl of this review became known as a resourceful, far-sighted and progressive business man, thoroughly familiar with every detail connected with general merchandising. Upon the death of his father he purchased the entire stock and the store, and he is now carrying on the business alone, a large and constantly increasing patronage being accorded to him in recognition of his upright and honorable business methods, his known reliability and his earnest desire to please his patrons. Mr. Quandahl owns also the old homestead of sixty acres in Waterloo township and a fine modern residence. He is treasurer and a large stockholder in the Arctic Springs Creamery Association and his ability is widely known and respected.

In 1904 Mr. Quandahl was united in marriage to Miss Petra Selnes, a native of Winneshiek county and a daughter of Edward and Anna Selnes. The parents were born in Norway and came to America in 1860, just before the outbreak

of the Civil war. The father served for four years in that conflict and after receiving his honorable discharge returned to Iowa, settling in Highland township, Winneshiek county, where he purchased land. He became a prominent and successful agriculturist, operating his extensive holdings until his death, which occurred in 1913. His wife survives him and resides upon the homestead. To their union were born nine children, seven of whom survive, the wife of the subject of this review being the third in order of birth. She acquired her education in the public schools of Iowa, and was also for a time a student at an agricultural school in Minnesota. She and her husband have two daughters: Alma J., who was born in 1905; and Norma E., born February 1, 1913. The family are members of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Quandahl is a republican and always a staunch upholder of the principles and policies of that party. The cause of education finds in him an intelligent champion and he has done much toward its promotion through his able service as president of the Bear Creek school district. He has made an excellent record as a merchant and farmer and conducts his interests in such a way that each year adds to his prosperity. Energetic and efficient, always mindful of his duty to others and known as a progressive and useful citizen, he is a native son of whom Allamakee county has every reason to be proud.

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#### D. J. KELLEY.

Farming and stock-raising interests of Allamakee county find a progressive and worthy representative in D. J. Kelley, who owns a fine property of one hundred and sixty-five acres in Iowa township. He is one of Allamakee county's native sons, his birth having occurred in 1869. His parents were Patrick and Bridget Kelley, natives of Ireland, who came at different times to the United States, both settling in New York city, where their marriage occurred. Immediately afterward they came west to Iowa and in Iowa township, Allamakee county, rented land, upon which they resided for a time, later purchasing a farm six miles southwest of New Albin, which the father continued to develop and improve until his death, which occurred in 1910, becoming during that time one of the leading and representative agriculturists of this section of the state. His wife survives him and resides upon the homestead, being now eighty years of age. To their union were born five children, four of whom still survive: D. J., of this review; John F., of New Albin; Annie, who makes her home with her mother; and Edward, who also lives upon the homestead.

D. J. Kelley grew to manhood upon his father's farm in Iowa township, acquiring his early education in the district schools and later attending a business college at Waukon. At the age of twenty-five he began his independent career, turning his attention to the occupation to which he had been reared, renting land near the old homestead and continuing to develop and improve it for a number of years. In 1908 he bought eighty acres in the same vicinity and to this he has since added, being now the owner of one hundred and sixty-five acres, which he has brought to a well improved and excellent condition. In connection with the tilling of the soil he engages extensively in raising and

breeding high-grade stock and this forms one of the most important sources of his income. He is also a stockholder in the New Albin Creamery, a director and stockholder in the Farmers Telephone Company and secretary of the New Albin & Irish Hollow Telephone Company and is well known in business circles of the city as a resourceful, able and progressive business man, who always carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

In 1899 Mr. Kelley was united in marriage to Miss Ella Morgan, a daughter of Lawrence Morgan, who passed away, leaving a widow, who resides in New Albin, and six children, as follows: Mary, the wife of Mathew Flynn, of Dorchester, Iowa; Ella, the wife of the subject of this review; Maggie, who married Michael Donovan, of New Albin; Theresa, now Mrs. William Beckwell, of the same city; Alice, a sister in St. Francis Convent; and Francis, who makes his home near New Albin. Mr. and Mrs. Kelley are devout members of the Roman Catholic church and Mr. Kelley is affiliated with the Catholic Order of Foresters. Always a staunch supporter of democratic policies and principles, he has done a great deal to promote his party's cause in Allamakee county and in 1912 was elected township assessor, a capacity in which he is still serving. He is a believer in pure and clean politics and never withholds his support from any enterprise which he believes will advance the moral or material welfare of his city or county.

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#### WILLIAM SADLER.

The death of William Sadler in 1891 deprived agricultural interests of Allamakee county, and indeed of the state of Iowa, of a most progressive and worthy representative, for he settled on his farm in Union City township in pioneer times and for thirty-six years continued to carry forward the work of improvement, making substantial and tangible contributions to the general expansion and progress of this section of the state.

Mr. Sadler was born in Cambridgeshire, England, on the 27th of May, 1827, and in his native country acquired his education, there remaining until he was twenty-four years of age. In 1851 he crossed the Atlantic to America, settling first in Indiana, where he remained for four years, removing at the end of that time to Iowa. He settled in Allamakee county in 1855 and purchased land in Union City township, a property upon which he continued to reside until his death. Throughout the years he steadily carried forward the work of cultivation, facing at first the obstacles and difficulties incident to pioneer existence with confidence and courage and gradually developing a fine farm, well improved and highly productive, and worthy of comparison with the best in this state or elsewhere. From time to time he added to his holdings and at the time of his death was the owner of three fine farms in this township, whereon in addition to cultivating the fields he engaged extensively in stock-raising, feeding and fattening cattle as well as sheep and hogs. He became known as one of the section's most representative, progressive and substantial agriculturists, leading in all projects or measures for the general advancement and lending the weight of his influence to movements of reform and progress, and thus it was that at his death,

in 1891, Allamakee county lost not only a practical and successful farmer but also a public-spirited and loyal citizen.

Mr. Sadler married, in 1855, in Indiana, Miss Mary Bulman, also a native of Cambridgeshire, England, a daughter of James and Elizabeth Bulman. The father died in England and afterward in 1874 the mother came to America, settling in Union City township, where her death occurred in 1885 when she was eighty-one years of age. In this family were twelve children, four of whom survive: Thomas, of Waukon; Mary, the widow of the subject of this review; George, of Allamakee county; and Ann, the widow of James Goose, of England. Mr. and Mrs. Sadler became the parents of seven children: Eliza, who died when she was twenty-one years of age; Joseph G., who is farming part of the old homestead; Mary E., the wife of William Beardmore, of Union City township; William M., who also lives upon the homestead; John B., who passed away when he was thirty-one years of age; J. Edward, who cultivates a portion of his father's farm; and Ada J., the wife of John Martin, who is engaged in farming near the Sadler homestead.

J. Edward Sadler is today considered one of the most progressive and deservedly successful farmers in this part of Allamakee county and in the cultivation of his portion of the homestead is ably carrying forward the work which his father began in pioneer times. He now owns more than five hundred acres of fine land in Union City township which he has improved and developed along modern lines, winning in its cultivation that success which rewards earnest, well directed and persistent labor. He married in 1895 Miss Rose Wilde and to their union were born five children: Clyde E., who was born in 1898 and who is a graduate of the public schools; Myrtle F., who was born in 1900 and who is attending school; Alton B., who died in infancy; Helga M., born in 1905; and Arthur William, born in 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Sadler have also reared an orphan, Elmer W. Bailey, now twenty-three years of age and a resident of Elgin, Iowa.

William Sadler was always a staunch adherent of the republican party and as a progressive and public-spirited citizen supported loyally all movements for the promotion of general progress, advancement and reform. His name stood for reliability in business, fidelity in citizenship and honor and loyalty in all relations of life and his memory will long be cherished by those who knew his genuine personal worth and were fortunate enough to have come within the close circle of his friendship.

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#### FRED N. MEYER.

Fred N. Meyer, who since 1890 has lived upon his present farm in Allamakee county, where he is numbered among the prominent and representative agriculturists, was born in Germany in 1853. He is a son of Fred and Hanna Meyer, both natives of Germany, where the mother died in 1886. In the following year the father came to America and settled in Allamakee county, Iowa, where the remainder of his life was spent, his death occurring in 1908.

At the age of thirty Fred N. Meyer left Germany and crossed the Atlantic to America, settling in Allamakee county in 1883, and for two years thereafter he worked as a farm laborer, following this by three years' connection with rail-

roading. In 1888 he again turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, working in the employ of others for two years, after which he bought land of his own, the tract which he purchased constituting a portion of his present farm. It was raw and unimproved and he had to clear it of timber before beginning the work of cultivation. This, however, he has steadily carried forward through the years, and adding to his holdings as circumstances justified he owns today two hundred and twenty-two acres of the finest and best improved land in Iowa township. There are excellent buildings upon the property where Mr. Meyer carries on diversified farming, his stock-raising interests being an important source of income to him. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Bank of New Albin, the Farmers Produce Cooperative Company and the Farmers Telephone Company, and his business investments have always been made with discrimination and have therefore resulted profitably.

Mr. Meyer married in 1886 Miss Kate Krukenberg, who was born in Germany and who came to America in 1883. They have become the parents of seven children, Dora, George, Herman, Emma, Minnie, William and Laura, all at home. The family are members of the Lutheran church.

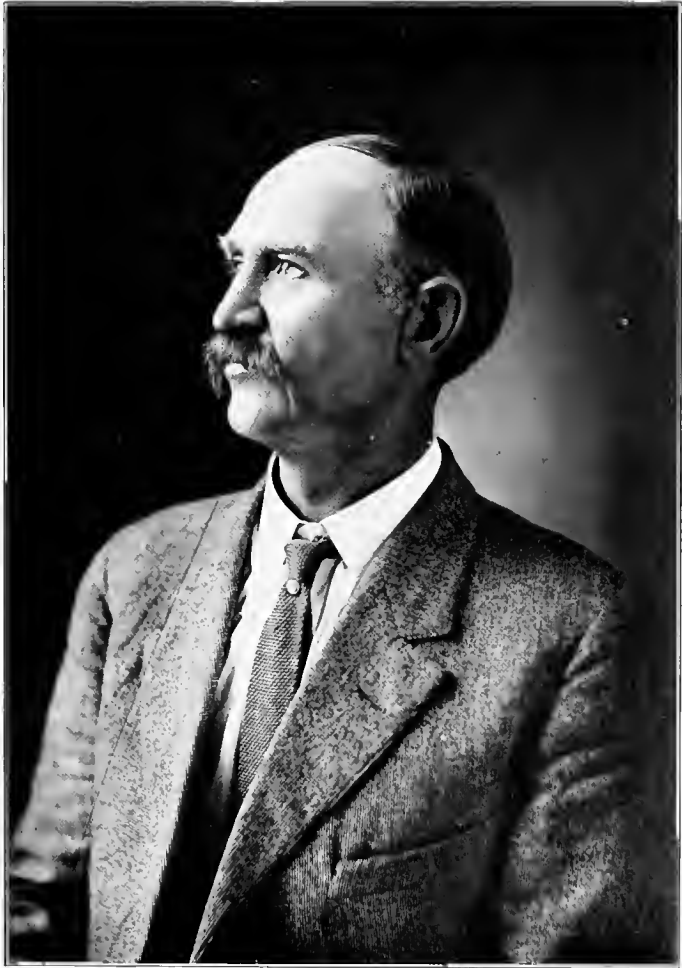
Mr. Meyer is a republican in his political beliefs and has always taken an active interest in public affairs, serving in various responsible official positions. He was elected township trustee in 1908 and is now in his third term and he is in addition secretary of the township school board. He is a progressive, reliable and enterprising citizen and is well known and favorably regarded in the community, to the agricultural development of which he has made substantial contributions in the past twenty-five years.

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#### CHARLES G. HELMING.

Charles G. Helming is one of the most prosperous and successful farmers and stock-raisers of Allamakee county and the Pleasant Grove Stock Farm comprises one hundred and eighty acres of fine land on section 1, Ludlow township, a visible evidence of his life of industry and thrift. He is a native son of this county and was born on a farm adjoining the one he now owns on the 27th of January, 1864. His father, Frederick W. Helming, was born in Germany in 1823 and grew to manhood in his native country, marrying there Miss Charlotte Kruckenberg. After the birth of their two oldest children they crossed the Atlantic to America, settling in Allamakee county, Iowa, in 1854. In Ludlow township Mr. Helming bought an eighty-acre tract of land and continued its development for a number of years, later purchasing property adjoining this place and becoming eventually the owner of one hundred and sixty acres. Upon this he built a fine residence, a good barn and convenient outbuildings and here he spent the remaining years of his life, dying on the property January 24, 1875. His wife survived him many years, passing away in 1900. They were the parents of five children: William, who grew to maturity and passed away in Allamakee county at the age of thirty-six; Emma, who died at the age of eleven; Minnie, the wife of Rev. H. Sill, a minister of the Reformed church and now located in South Dakota; Charles G., of this review; and Otto A.





CHARLES G. HELMING



Charles G. Helming was reared upon the home farm and there remained until some years after the death of his father, he and his brothers operating the property and becoming well known as breeders of Aberdeen Angus cattle, Percheron horses and Chester White hogs. Their partnership continued until 1903, when it was dissolved, Mr. Helming moving upon a property which he had purchased in the previous year and upon which he still resides. With characteristic energy he turned his attention to its improvement, remodeling the house, erecting a fine barn and installing the necessary equipment. He now has two well equipped barns upon the premises and in 1912 erected a silo with a one hundred ton capacity. The Pleasant Grove Stock Farm reflects everywhere in its neat and attractive appearance his careful supervision and competent management and is altogether one of the finest and most profitable agricultural properties in the section. Mr. Helming engages in general farming but is also extensively interested in stock-raising, keeping fine herds of Aberdeen Angus cattle and breeding also Percheron horses and Chester White hogs.

In 1891, at Newton, Jasper county, Iowa, Mr. Helming was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte Silwold, who was born and reared in this state. She passed away in 1905, leaving three children: Harry Fred, a student in the Iowa State University at Iowa City; Marguerite; and Carl. In 1907 Mr. Helming was again married, his second wife being Mrs. L. Walter, who was born in Illinois, a daughter of Henry Winter, now a resident of Independence, Iowa. She was reared in her native state and at Independence married her first husband, by whom she has two children, Lawrence and Lois.

Politically Mr. Helming is identified with the republican party and has served for nineteen consecutive years as township clerk. He has also held various other positions of trust and honor and is recognized as a progressive and public-spirited citizen. He is known in business circles as the secretary and treasurer of the German Farmers Insurance Company and was one of the promoters and is now a stockholder and director of the Peoples National Bank of Waukon. He aided in the organization of the Cooperative Creamery Association of Ludlow and is at present a director in that institution. He and his wife are members of the Ludlow Presbyterian church. Mr. Helming served as chairman and treasurer of the building committee during the construction of the present church edifice and has always been an active religious worker. In the township where he has always resided he is widely and favorably known, his upright and honorable life having won for him the respect and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact.

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### JAMES GORDON.

Twenty-seven years have been added to the cycle of the centuries since James Gordon passed away and yet there are many who remember with pleasure his sterling integrity, his many fine qualities of mind and character as well as the industry and enterprise which made him one of the valued and respected farmers of Allamakee county, where for twenty-one years he made his home. He was born in Ireland in 1840 and was brought to America by his parents when he was

still a child. They settled in New York state, where they resided for a number of years, later returning to the Emerald isle, where both passed away. To their union were born three children, all of whom are now deceased.

James Gordon spent his childhood in the Empire state and after his marriage came west to Iowa, settling in 1865 in Allamakee county, where he purchased land in Iowa township, which he developed and improved for twenty-one years. By constantly following the most progressive methods and directing his labors along practical lines he made his farm productive and profitable and important as an element in the community resources. His long residence in this part of the state, dating from 1865 until the time of his death, made him very widely known and his sterling qualities gained him the good will and confidence of all with whom he was associated in business or social relations. He left to his family the priceless heritage of an untarnished name and to posterity an example that is well worthy of emulation. He passed away in 1886. He was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church and fraternally was connected with the V. A. S. He gave his political allegiance to the democratic party and took an active and intelligent interest in community affairs, supporting with his vote and influence any project which he believed would promote general progress and advancement.

Mr. Gordon married, in New York state, in 1863, Miss Mary A. Ferris, a daughter of Alvah and Phoebe Ferris, natives of that community. They emigrated to Iowa in the early '60s and settled in Allamakee county, where the father engaged in farming until his death in 1889. He had survived his wife for a number of years, her death having occurred in 1867. Of the eight children born to their union three still survive; Mary A., the widow of the subject of this review; Anna, the wife of Daniel McDonald, of New Albin; and Sylvester S., of Spencer, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon became the parents of four children: William J., who was born in 1867 and who now follows farming in Lansing township; Ida, who has passed away; Edward, whose birth occurred in 1871 and who now lives upon the homestead; and Jennie, the widow of John Jarvis. Mrs. Gordon survives her husband and is the proprietor of the homestead, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres of highly improved land, located two miles beyond New Albin. She has proved very capable in the management of her important affairs and is well known throughout this section of the state, where her circle of friends is almost coextensive with the circle of her acquaintances.

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#### SAM EISENLA.

Sam Eisenla, whose farm of one hundred and thirty acres in Waterloo township is one of the finest and best improved agricultural properties in Allamakee county, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, in 1855, a son of Balthazar and Catherine Eisenla, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Pennsylvania. In that state they lived for several years after their marriage and then spent two years in New York, after which they were for one summer in Ohio. From there they came in 1866 to Allamakee county, settling in Dorchester, remaining there for two years. At the end of that time the father bought a por-

tion of the farm now owned and operated by the subject of this review, purchasing first eighty acres and adding to his holdings from time to time until at the time of his death, in 1896, he owned one hundred and twenty acres. His wife has also passed away, her death having occurred in 1893. To their union were born two children: Louisa, the widow of John Peeper, of Dorchester, Iowa; and Sam, of this review.

Sam Eisenla acquired his education in the public schools of Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio, and studied for a time also in Iowa. He became familiar with all the details of farm operation through practical experience in assisting his father and when he was twenty-six years of age rented the homestead, upon which he has resided during practically all his life. In 1897 he bought the property, which then consisted of one hundred and twenty acres lying on section 12, Waterloo township. To this he has since added and owns today one hundred and thirty acres, ninety of which are in a high state of cultivation. Upon the property Mr. Eisenla has made substantial improvements, erecting modern buildings and installing the necessary equipment, making it a very desirable property. He raises and feeds stock and has made this an important branch of his business, his animals commanding high prices and a ready sale upon the market.

In 1881 Mr. Eisenla was united in marriage to Miss Hilda Martin, who was born in Norway in 1864 and who came to America with her parents when she was nine years of age. They settled first in Winneshiek county and came from there to Allamakee county, whence in 1882 the parents moved to South Dakota, where the father died in 1902, having survived his wife for some time. To their union were born four children: Mrs. W. D. Gillett, of Pennsylvania; Hilda, the wife of the subject of this review; Martin A., of Spring Grove, Minnesota; and Carl, who resides in Portland, Oregon. Mr. and Mrs. Eisenla have become the parents of six children: Bessie, whose birth occurred in 1882; Mabel, born in 1884; Belle, 1890; Frankie, 1894; Kathleen, 1898; and Minnie, who was born in 1902.

Mr. Eisenla is a stanch democrat and is interested in community affairs, especially in the cause of education, which he did much to promote during his term of service on the school board. Throughout his life he has been guided by high and worthy aims and he receives his reward in the esteem in which he is held by the entire community, of which he has so long been an honored resident.

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### JOHN P. MORSTAD.

John P. Morstad, who since 1886 has resided upon the farm which he now occupies in Waterloo township, is one of the most successful and able farmers in this vicinity, each year of his residence here having witnessed his increasing prosperity and prominence. He was born in Norway in 1857 and his parents lived and died in that country. He there acquired his education and in 1878 crossed the Atlantic and came to America, settling immediately in Allamakee county, Iowa, where for a time he worked at various occupations. Eventually, however, he turned his attention to farming, buying in 1886 the property whereon he has since resided. He owns ninety-three and a half acres in Waterloo town-

ship and has here a well improved farm, with forty acres in a high state of cultivation, yielding him a gratifying annual income.

In 1887 Mr. Morstad married Miss Martha Eide, a native of Allamakee county and a daughter of Elling Eide, who was born in Norway, and who came among the early settlers to this section of the state. He and his wife died upon the farm which the subject of this review now owns. He was one of the most extensive landowners and prosperous farmers of this vicinity, owning two hundred and eighty acres, upon which he carried on general farming and stock-raising. Mr. and Mrs. Morstad became the parents of five children. Ella, born in 1888 who was a trained nurse, married Alfred Rognlien, of Aneta, North Dakota. Edgar, whose birth occurred in 1889, is residing in Waukon, where he is district clerk. Leonard, who was born in 1891, is a resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Nellie, the next member of the family, was born in 1893. James was born in 1896 and is attending school. The family are all members of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Morstad gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is public-spirited and progressive in matters of citizenship, taking an active interest in movements for community growth and advancement. He has served as township trustee and as a member of the school board for many years, his duties in both connections being discharged in a capable and far-sighted way. Throughout his entire life he has been actuated by worthy aims and high standards and he receives his reward in the esteem in which he is held by the entire community, of which he has been long an honored resident.

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#### WILLIAM ROBINSON.

Although forty-one years have elapsed since the death of William Robinson upon his farm in Waterloo township his personality was too strongly impressed upon the community, where he had resided for many years, to be readily forgotten. A man of rare ability and force of personality, he left the impress of his work upon the history of the agricultural development of this section of the state and was perhaps as well known as a citizen who was always ready to contribute to the promotion of any movement for the general good of the community. Mr. Robinson was of Scotch descent but was born in Ireland in 1827. As a child he came to America with his parents and with them settled in New York, where his father passed away. The mother afterward removed with her children to Wisconsin and in 1851 came to Allamakee county, Iowa, where she continued to reside until her death, in 1893. In this family were six children, of whom Mr. Robinson, of this review, was the eldest, and of whom three yet survive.

William Robinson was still a child when he was brought by his parents to America. He acquired his education in the public schools of Wisconsin and from there came in 1851 to Allamakee county, Iowa, where from that time until his death he remained an honored and deservedly respected citizen. For a time he clerked in stores but eventually purchased a tract of school land located on section 12, Waterloo township, and comprising one hundred and seventy acres. He turned his attention to the development and improvement of this property, the

years bringing him success, honor and a substantial fortune. His farm became one of the best improved and most productive properties in this section of the state and upon it in addition to general farming and stock-raising he operated a sawmill for a number of years. By following the most progressive and practical methods in the conduct of his interests he became successful and his success brought him prominence and a high standing among his fellow citizens, so that his death, which occurred in 1872, when he was forty-five years of age, cut off in its prime a busy life and useful career.

In 1858 Mr. Robinson was united in marriage to Miss Armenia Smith, who was born in New York state in 1836, a daughter of Isaac and Sophronia Smith, also natives of that state. The parents went to Indiana shortly after their marriage and remained in that state for seven years, after which they moved to Wisconsin, where the father followed the cooperage trade in various sections. In the early '60s he moved to Allamakee county, Iowa, making his home first in Lansing and later in New Albin, where he lived retired until his death, which occurred in 1878. His wife has also passed away, dying in 1893. Fifteen children were born to their union, only two of whom survive, namely: Mrs. Armenia Robinson, and Sophronia, who married Louis Hayes, of Jefferson, Minnesota. Mrs. Robinson has one daughter, Minnie, the wife of George Lapham, a farmer of Waterloo township. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Robinson operated the homestead successfully until 1903, when she rented the property and retired. She is a woman of many excellent qualities of mind and character and is highly esteemed and respected wherever she is known.

Mr. Robinson gave his political allegiance to the republican party and was an earnest champion of the cause of education. He took an active and commendable interest in every phase of public affairs, doing all in his power to promote the permanent interests of the community in which he had so long made his home and thus it was that in his passing Allamakee county lost one of its most representative and valued citizens.

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#### ANTON A. FOSSUM.

Anton A. Fossum is numbered among the prosperous farmers and stock-raisers of Allamakee county, making his home on section 36, Makee township. He was born in Lands Prestegjeld, Norway, May 17, 1854, a son of Arne and Mary (Odde) Fossum, who were likewise natives of that country. In 1857 the parents came to America, and the father purchased a tract of one hundred and thirty acres in Makee and Center townships. He cleared this land and erected a log cabin, beginning life in the new world in true pioneer fashion. As time passed he prospered in his business and in due time the pioneer home was replaced by a brick dwelling, which, however, was not completed at the time of his demise in 1902. The wife and mother survived for only a few years, passing away in 1907.

Anton A. Fossum is the only survivor of a family of three children, and was but three years of age at the time the family emigrated to the new world, so that he has practically spent his entire life in Allamakee county. He was reared on

the home farm, assisting in the work of the fields from an early age. He received his primary education in the country schools near his home, and later spent three years in the Lutheran College at Decorah, and three months at high school in Waukon. He subsequently engaged in teaching for a few terms, but eventually returned to the farm, caring for his parents until they departed from this life. Mr. Fossum then came into possession of the home farm, since which time he has remodeled and completed the house, built a good barn and other out-buildings, and now has a good tract of land comprising one hundred acres. Here in addition to raising grain, he is engaged in raising shorthorn cattle and shire horses, and is meeting with well deserved success in both branches of his business. Mr. Fossum took an active part in the promotion of the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company of Waterville and is one of its stockholders. He also engages to some extent in dairy farming.

It was on the 9th of June, 1880, that Mr. Fossum was married in Makee township to Miss Anna Olswold, who was born in Lötten, Hedemarken, Norway, and there made her home until she had reached the age of eighteen, when she came to America. Ten children have been born of this marriage, but four are deceased. Those who survive are: Albert, who is engaged in farming in Pierce county, near York, North Dakota; Elmer B., who assists his father on the home farm; Caspar, who is in North Dakota with his brother Albert; Clara, who has received a good education and is now engaged in teaching at Lamberton, Minnesota; Annetta, who is a nurse in a Chicago hospital; and Nina, who, since completing her education in the college at Madison, Wisconsin, is engaged in teaching in Dresser Junction, Wisconsin. The deceased members of the family are: Oscar, who died in 1902, at the age of seventeen; Mary, who died in 1900, when nineteen years of age; Bertha, who died at the age of two years, in 1886, and Ethel, who died in 1904, at the age of four years.

Politically Mr. Fossum is a republican, while in religious faith he is a Lutheran. He has been school officer in the church and has held other official positions therewith. Knowing the value of a good education, he has always been deeply interested in the schools and for many years served as president of the school board. He is a public-spirited man, possessing many noble traits of character, and is held in the highest esteem by his neighbors and friends.

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#### WILLIAM BEARDMORE.

William Beardmore, who for the past forty-seven years has owned and operated a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 20, Union City township, is known as one of the most progressive and substantial agriculturists of this part of Allamakee county, his labors through the years having been valuable as factors in the general development and advancement of the state. He was born in England in 1849 and is a son of William and Sarah Beardmore, also natives of that country. The parents came to America with their family in 1853 and settled first at Wheeling, West Virginia, where for a time the father worked as a forger in a rolling mill. In 1865 they came to Iowa and William Beardmore, Sr., purchased a farm in Union City township, operating this property and also



conducting a profitable blacksmith's shop until his retirement in 1903. Afterward he lived in Lansing for a short time and then moved to New Albin where he now resides, having reached the advanced age of ninety-one years. His wife passed away in 1896 at the age of seventy-three. To their union were born ten children: William, of this review; Alfred, of Union City township; Agnes, the deceased wife of John J. Gilchrist, who has also passed away; Lynn, who resides in Union City township; twins, who died in infancy; John, a butcher in Charles City, Iowa; Laura, the deceased wife of Joseph Sadler of Union City township; Ambrose, who has passed away; and James Harvey, of Union City township.

William Beardmore was brought to America by his parents in 1853 and accompanied them in 1865 to Iowa where he has since remained a prosperous and highly esteemed resident. In 1866 he purchased land of his own in Union City township, buying one hundred and sixty acres, thirteen miles up the river from New Albin, and upon this property he has since remained, having developed it during the forty-seven years into one of the finest and most productive farms in this part of the state. One hundred and sixty acres are under high cultivation, abundant harvests annually rewarding Mr. Beardmore's careful supervision and practical methods. In addition to tilling his fields, he is also extensively interested in stock-raising, breeding and fattening cattle and hogs and raising horses.

Mr. Beardmore has been twice married. In 1876 he wedded Miss Eliza A. Sadler, who was born in Allamakee county and who passed away in 1879, leaving one son, William Edward, a stone mason in Union City township. In 1883 Mr. Beardmore married Miss Mary Elizabeth Sadler, a sister of his first wife, both being daughters of William and Mary Sadler of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Beardmore have ten children: Harold E., who is connected with the First National Bank of Butte, Montana; Eben A. and Arthur A., who live at home; M. Hazel, engaged in teaching; and Stanley C., Charles G., Floyd A., Leonard J., Joseph J. and Frances D., all of whom live at home.

Mr. Beardmore gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is staunch in his support of its principles and policies although he never seeks public office. He is, however, now filling the office of justice of the peace and is proving conscientious, able and efficient in the discharge of his duties. He is numbered among the early settlers in this part of Iowa and has witnessed the greater part of its expansion and development, assisting in it in a substantial and important way through the work along lines of agricultural progress which he has accomplished during the forty-seven years of his active identification with farming interests.

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#### JUDGE L. E. FELLOWS.

Judge L. E. Fellows, whose demise occurred on the 17th of July, 1912, was a pioneer in Allamakee county and for many years one of the most prominent and worthy men in public life in this section of the state. His birth occurred in Corinth, Orange county, Vermont, on the 22d of August, 1834, his parents being Hubbard and Mary Ann Fellows. He spent his childhood on his father's

farm, acquiring an excellent education in the public schools, which he supplemented by a course in an academy. As a young man he came west in 1857 and in that year made a permanent location in Allamakee county, securing a position as clerk in the county offices. He devoted his spare time to reading law and mastering the profession, won his admission to the bar of Iowa, May 29, 1862. He took up active practice, becoming rapidly successful and rising steadily to a position of prominence and importance. He became well known in public life and, when he turned his attention to politics, did able work in this field, winning election to the lower house of the state legislature. Upon the close of his second term in this office, his ability, his progressiveness and his firm stand on the side of legislation looking toward advancement and reform, were rewarded by his election to the senate, where he served with honor and distinction for four years, accomplishing a great deal of efficient and constructive work. He was honored by his fellow citizens by other official positions of trust and distinction, serving as a member of the board of trustees of the hospital for the insane at Mount Pleasant and as trustee of the Upper Iowa University at Fayette. In 1899 he was appointed judge of the thirteenth judicial district to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge C. T. Granger, and he was later elected to this position, serving by reelection for five consecutive terms and winning widespread recognition for his broad-minded, discriminating and judicious work.

In 1861 Judge Fellows was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary S. Reed, of Waukon, who survives. In their family were eight children: Wilson R.; A. M., a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work; Laura F.; Mary F.; Ella S.; Roger L.; Jennie; and Liberty E.

In addition to his accomplishments along political and judicial lines, Judge Fellows was also keenly interested in the work of the Masonic order and was an active and useful member of the local organization. He held a number of high official positions and in 1893 was elected grand master of the grand lodge, winning reelection in the following year. His life was at all times honorable and upright as well as useful and beneficial, and his death, which occurred July 17, 1912, at the age of nearly seventy-eight years, was a great loss to Iowa in the ranks of her pioneer settlers and of her honored public officials.

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#### MRS SABINA McCRYSTAL.

That the true pioneer spirit is as manifest in women as in men is evident from the life record of Mrs. Sabina McCrystal, who was born in Linton township, Allamakee county, about three and a half miles from what is now Rossville, in the days when the most primitive conditions yet prevailed in this part of the state. Mrs. McCrystal has proven herself as capable as any man in the management of her one hundred and twenty acre farm, which she personally superintends and in its cultivation has found a gratifying measure of success. She is a daughter of Moses and Fannie (Snook) Marble, both of whom were born in New York state, the former in 1814 and the latter in 1820. In 1835 they moved westward to Trumbull county, Ohio. In his early manhood the father followed the wagonmaker's trade but later gave his attention to farming. Seeking the opportunities of the





MRS. SABINA McCRYSTAL



ELLERY E. ROGERS



middle west, he next removed to Illinois and thence to Iowa, making settlement in Clayton county in 1845. The year 1860 marked his arrival in Linton township, Allamakee county. There he became an extensive landholder, his farm lying near what is now Big Foot School, and there he continued in agricultural pursuits until 1883, when he moved to a place on sections 16 and 17, Linton township, in the cultivation of which he continued until his death in 1887. His wife had preceded him to the Great Beyond about one month. At the outbreak of the Civil war Moses Marble enlisted in a volunteer company in Ohio but was never called upon for active service. In matters of citizenship he was loyal and conscientious and ever ready to serve his country. For a number of years he held the position of township trustee and was also elected to the office of justice of the peace, although he did not qualify for the office. He and his wife had seven children, among them, beside Mrs. McCrystal, being Charles H. Marble, who now operates the home farm in Linton township.

The memory of Mrs. McCrystal reaches back to the times when the rich farms of the present day were still broad prairies and wild animals and game were plentiful. She recalls to mind that often bear meat and venison were served on the family table, and a picture transfixed in her memory is that of her mother bending over the old fireplace, broiling bear meat and venison. When about six years of age she and her brother, Charles H., of whom more extended mention is made in another part of this work, experienced an adventure which has remained vivid with her on account of the danger of the situation. The two children were sent to a near-by spring, in what was called the McGew hollow, for water, when happening to look up they saw a large lynx crouching on the limb of a tree, ready to spring at the children. They hurriedly left the pail, making their way to safety and their father, who immediately fired a signal which brought the neighbors. Soon seven or eight of them had gathered, and going back to the place where the children had seen the lynx found the beast and succeeded in killing it. It certainly was one of the largest of its tribe, for measuring it with a fence rail they found that it was two feet longer than the rail. In the latter '50s, when the hunters used to come to that vicinity they made Moses Marble's place their headquarters. The first to come would build a log hut as long as one length of logs; the next would build his cabin onto the first one; the next would do likewise, and at one time this log building measured a length of twenty-seven logs and comprised twenty-seven compartments for the hunters. Mrs. McCrystal still well remembers all these details of the early pioneer times, the vast unbroken prairies and the wild nature of the surrounding hills. In fact there is probably no other resident in this vicinity who has as clear a remembrance of the early times, as she is among the few who spent her childhood among these conditions.

Mrs. McCrystal resided with her parents until her first marriage, which took place on December 3, 1875. Her husband, Ellery E. Rogers, was born in Massachusetts on the 10th of June, 1848, a son of William Pitt Rogers. His mother died when he was a young man but he had before this event come to Iowa with his parents at the age of about sixteen. After he had passed his seventeenth birthday he began work for himself, finding employment in the pineries during the winter and doing grubbing during the summer months. He was so occupied until his marriage, carefully husbanding his savings, and at that period was able to buy a farm of fifty acres in Dry Hollow, Linton township, where Mr. and Mrs.

Rogers made their home until about 1886, their agricultural labors resulting in gratifying financial returns. In that year they sold the farm and removed to Waukon, where Mr. Rogers engaged to some extent in the real-estate business, buying lots upon which he built and then selling them. He was so engaged for about two years, when he proceeded to northern Wisconsin, where he spent a season in the pineries and the remainder of the year at Oshkosh. Perceiving an opportunity to profit by building transactions in La Crosse, Wisconsin, he removed to that place, buying lots upon which he built and which he improved and later sold. After engaging about a year along that line he formed a partnership with a Mr. Hannerberg, and they bought a sawmill, which they brought to Scott Hollow, Linton township. They operated the mill for a season, at the end of which time they sold out, and then Mr. Rogers purchased the farm upon which Mrs. McCrystal now resides. The first purchase comprised eighty acres, but Mrs. McCrystal has since added thereto. It was valuable land and Mr. Rogers continued for the remainder of his life in its operation, improving the property and bringing his acres to a high state of cultivation. He erected substantial buildings and repaired those which were found on the farm, making it one of the most valuable in the vicinity. After a life rich in labor, but also rich in achievement, Mr. Rogers passed away on April 4, 1895. Although he was public-spirited and progressive and ever interested in movements undertaken for the general welfare, he never aspired to office. He was well known throughout the county and had established a reputation on account of his literary talents, being particularly gifted in the writing of poetry. His memory is still fresh with many of the older residents of the locality, who esteemed him as a purposeful man, ambitious to succeed but also considerate of the interests of others, never promoting his prosperity at the expense of someone else.

Mrs. Rogers continued to make her home on the farm, taking up its management and devoting herself to its improvement and development. In November, 1897, she married Daniel McCrystal, separating from him after twelve years, by mutual agreement. She is still actively engaged in the work of the farm and is ably assisted by an adopted son. As she had no children of her own, Mrs. McCrystal adopted, in 1902, an orphan girl, Daisy Belle Read, taking her from the Des Moines Orphan Home and bestowing upon her the love of a mother, rearing and educating her as her own child. Mary D. McCrystal, which name she gave her, was born September 20, 1894, and in April, 1912, married William Scott, of McGregor, and they now reside on a farm in Linton township. In April, 1903, Mrs. McCrystal adopted a boy from the same institution, named Clifford Burns, who was born August 16, 1894. He is now ably assisting his mother in the operation of the farm, thereby returning the kindness and love which she bestows upon him. Mrs. McCrystal now holds title to one hundred and twenty acres of valuable land which she still personally superintends. She also owns a fine building lot in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery Company. She hopes to spend the remainder of her life on the farm which has so long been her home and upon which she has expended so much of her labor and care. She enjoys in a high degree the esteem and confidence of all who know her and well merits the high regard which her friends entertain for her. Charitably inclined, she does everything in her power to ameliorate the conditions of those in need and ever opens her heart and hand to those who make appeal to her. One of the



native-born pioneer women of this part of the state, she has watched primitive conditions give way to the onward march of civilization and has done her full share in bringing about the prosperous conditions enjoyed by the present generation. Her history and that of Linton township are closely interwoven and there are few who can so interestingly recount the olden days and relate reminiscences of times which seem to the present generation more like fairy tales than realities.

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#### ALFRED BEARDMORE.

No farmer in Allamakee county has attained greater or more deserved success in agricultural pursuits than has Alfred Beardmore, who since he became connected with this line of work in 1882 has gradually increased his holdings until he owns today three fine farms, all reflecting in their neat and attractive appearance his careful supervision and practical methods. He was born in Birmingham, England, in June, 1853, and is a son of William and Sarah Beardmore, also natives of England. They came with their family to America in that year and settled in Wheeling, West Virginia, where the father worked as a forger in a rolling mill until 1865, when they moved to Iowa, purchasing land in Union City township, Allamakee county. In conjunction with his farming operations William Beardmore conducted a blacksmith shop for many years, dividing his time between its conduct and the development of his land until his retirement in 1903. He moved to Lansing in that year but later took up his residence in New Albin, where he now resides, having reached the age of ninety-one. He has survived his wife since 1896, her death having occurred when she was seventy-three years of age. To their union were born ten children: William, Jr.; Alfred, of this review; Agnes, deceased, who married John J. Gilchrist, who has also passed away; Lynn, of Union City township; twins who died in infancy; John, a butcher in Charles City, Iowa; Laura, the deceased wife of Joseph Sadler, of Union City township; Ambrose, deceased; and James Harvey, of Union City township.

Alfred Beardmore was not yet one year old when his parents came to America and he accompanied them in their various removals, acquiring his education principally in the district schools of Union City township. From his early childhood he aided in the operation of his father's farm and when he began his independent career naturally turned his attention to the occupation in which he had been reared. In 1882, when he was twenty-eight years of age, he rented land, but after four years purchased two hundred and twenty acres, a property which he still owns, although he has added to it extensively from time to time, having today three well improved and highly cultivated farms. One lies in Union City township, another, comprising one hundred and fifty-seven acres, is in Lansing township and the third, an excellent property of eighty-four acres, lies on the line between Lansing and Union City townships. All of his business interests are carefully and capably conducted, his holdings bringing him a gratifying annual income and his industry and enterprise placing him in the front ranks of progressive and successful agriculturists.

In 1882 Alfred Beardmore was united in marriage to Miss Emma Jane Bulman, a native of Union City township and a daughter of Thomas and Phoebe Bul-

man, who were born in England. The parents came to America in the latter '40s and settled first in New Orleans, Louisiana, whence they went to Evansville, Indiana. There the father worked at his trade as a plasterer and stone mason but in the later '50s bought land in Union City township, Allamakee county, where he operated a farm until his retirement in 1888, having at that time accumulated extensive landed holdings. His wife passed away on the 18th of May, 1892. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom eight are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Beardmore became the parents of five children: Arthur, who died in infancy; Thomas A., who was born in 1884 and who is now a lawyer in Charles City, Iowa; Daisy E., who acquired her education in Waukon and who taught for six terms in the public schools; John H., who spent two years in the public schools of Iowa City and who also attended business college at Waukon; and Earl F., who attended the Omaha public schools. The family are devout members of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Beardmore gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is actively interested in the growth and development of the community where he has so long resided, although this interest never takes the form of office seeking. He is a man whose genuine personal worth and sterling integrity have won him the confidence and respect of his fellowmen and whose industry and ability have not only contributed to his own success but have also enabled him to do much to advance the agricultural development of the community.

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#### LOUIS P. WEYMILLER.

Not only is Louis P. Weymiller one of the most extensive landowners and prosperous farmers of Iowa township but he is also a worthy representative of one of Allamakee county's most honored pioneers, the parents having located in this section of the state in 1854. He was born here two years later, a son of Frederick and Caroline W. Weymiller, natives of Germany, who came to the United States separately in 1846, both settling in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where their marriage occurred and where they afterward resided for six years. The father afterward spent two years in the California gold fields and then in 1854 came to Iowa, settling in Allamakee county, where he purchased land, continuing to engage in agricultural pursuits for many years and becoming the owner of three large farms. Eventually he retired from active business life and moved to New Albin, where seventeen years later his death occurred on the 12th of May, 1906. His wife survived him and made her home in this city until her death which occurred on the 28th of June, 1913, when she was ninety years, five months and seven days. In their family were six children: Eleanora, who died in 1885; Carrie, the wife of Robert Thompson, of New Albin; Louis P., of this review; August F., of Iowa township; Emma, the wife of Peter Yust, of St. Charles, Minnesota; and Frank, who resides near New Albin.

Louis P. Weymiller acquired his education in the little log schoolhouse, in which school was held in pioneer times, and when he laid aside his books turned his attention to farming, an occupation to which he had been reared. In 1879 he purchased land six miles beyond New Albin, in Iowa township, and upon

this property he has since resided, having made substantial additions to it in the intervening years. The homestead now comprises six hundred and fifty-six acres and is well managed and well improved in every particular, its neat and attractive appearance evidencing the many years of care and labor which the owner has bestowed upon it. He owns in addition three hundred and twenty acres in North Dakota and two hundred and fifteen acres of island land in Iowa township and he is a director and stockholder in the New Albin Creamery.

In 1881 Mr. Weymiller was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Arndt, a native of Germany, who came to America with her parents when she was nine years of age. They settled in Minnesota, where the father continued to reside until his death, which occurred in 1905. His wife survives him. In their family were six children, of whom five are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Weymiller are the parents of eight children. The three sons are: Robert, who is married and lives on the home farm; and Fred and Louis, also residing at home. The daughters are: Lily, at home with her parents; Martha, the wife of Lester Hoover; Carrie, who married Elmer Bailey; and Bertha and Laura, at home. The family are members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Weymiller gives his allegiance to the republican party and has recently been elected township trustee, a capacity in which he is now serving with credit and ability. A lifelong resident of Allamakee county, he has become well known here and his is an excellent life record.

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#### NICHOLAS COLSCH.

Nicholas Colsch, who since 1894 has been prominently connected with agricultural interests of Allamakee county, Iowa, owning today three hundred and fifty-seven acres in Iowa township, is one of the many sturdy, industrious and able men whom Germany has given to America, his birth having occurred in that country in 1861. The father died in Germany, where the mother still makes her home.

Nicholas Colsch acquired his education in the public schools of his native country and there remained until 1883, when he crossed the Atlantic to America, settling at once in Allamakee county, Iowa, where he has since made his home and where he is now numbered among the most substantial and progressive citizens. He spent the first four years after his arrival working as a farm laborer, and then rented land, which he developed and improved for six years, after which he bought a portion of his present farm in Iowa township. He purchased first one hundred and seventy-five acres to which he has since added from time to time, his holdings now comprising three hundred and fifty-seven acres. The land is located five miles southwest of New Albin and one hundred and eighty acres are in a high state of cultivation, excellent harvests annually rewarding Mr. Colsch's careful supervision and practical labors. In addition to cultivating his fields, he is also extensively interested in stock-raising, breeding and fattening fine animals which he sells in the local markets. Besides his fine farm in Iowa township he owns also one hundred and sixty acres in South Dakota, and he is connected with business interests of New Albin as a stockholder in the

Farmers Cooperative Store, the Cooperative Creamery Company and the Farmers Produce Company.

Mr. Colsch married in 1887 Miss Louisa Teff, a native of Allamakee county, born in 1863. She is a daughter of Hillis and Catrina Teff, both of whom reside in Dorchester, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Colsch became the parents of ten children: Leo, who was born in 1889, and who is married and lives in Allamakee county; George, who was born in 1891; Julia, whose birth occurred in 1895; Nicholas, Jr., born in 1896; Martha, born in 1898; Josephine, whose birth occurred in 1901; Charley, born in 1903; Maggie, born in 1906; and Rosa M. and Mary P., who have passed away.

Fraternally Mr. Colsch is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and politically he gives his allegiance to the republican party. Although not active in politics he is always eager to advance the general interests of the community and is especially interested in educational affairs, having done able work in this cause as a member of the school board. He has made substantial contributions to the agricultural development of the section where he makes his home and, moreover, he has by his upright life and honorable business standards won the esteem, confidence and regard of all who are in any way associated with him.

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#### JAMES F. REGAN.

James F. Regan needs no introduction to the readers of a history of Allamakee county, for his name has been an honored and respected one in this part of Iowa since pioneer times, his parents having been among the early settlers. He is today a prosperous farmer and stock-raiser, his holdings comprising one hundred and forty acres of the farm in Union City township, upon which he was born in 1870. He is a son of Maurice and Mary Regan, natives of Ireland, who as children came to America with their parents and settled in Connecticut. At an early date the father came to Iowa, settling first in Dubuque and going from there to Allamakee county, where he took up his residence in 1855. Here he purchased land and was quite an extensive owner at the time of his marriage in 1866. From that time on he added to his property as his financial resources permitted, accumulating finally six hundred acres of excellent land. This farm he operated and developed along practical and modern lines, erecting upon it substantial improvements and installing all the necessary equipment, and making it one of the finest and most valuable agricultural properties in this section of the state. He died in 1910 at the age of seventy-one, and in his passing Allamakee county lost one of its most honored and successful pioneers—a man who for more than half a century had been a leading factor in the promotion of agricultural development and general progress. He was survived by his wife who died upon the homestead, May 24, 1913, having reached the age of sixty-five. In their family were four children: Ella, the wife of Thomas O'Brien, a harness maker in Waukon, Iowa; James F., of this review; Nora, who died in infancy; and Maurice, who owns and operates two hundred and eighty-five acres of the old homestead.

James F. Regan was reared upon his father's farm and from his early boyhood assisted in its cultivation, acquiring in this way a thorough knowledge of the best and most effective agricultural methods. When the homestead was divided he received as his share the one hundred and forty acres which he now owns, and he has since steadily carried forward the work of its improvement and development. It is a well managed and profitable property, substantially improved and equipped with the most modern machinery and reflecting everywhere the careful supervision and practical methods of the owner, who is a most able and successful agriculturist.

Mr. Regan married on the 19th of October, 1909, Miss Mary Lyons, a native of Iowa and a daughter of Thomas and Helena M. Lyons, the former born in Iowa and the latter in Wisconsin. They now reside in Hanover township, Allamakee county. In their family were five children: Nellie, the wife of Wallace McMullen of Chicago, Illinois; Joseph, who died when he was three years of age; Catherine, the wife of John Schulte of Waterloo; Mary, the wife of the subject of this review; and Thomas, who lives at home. Mr. and Mrs. Regan have two sons: Maurice, who was born in 1910; and James, born in 1912. The family are members of the Roman Catholic church.

During the years of his active career—years in which success has steadily attended well directed labor, unremitting industry and perseverance—Mr. Regan has proved himself a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family, his work being a valuable supplement to that begun by his father a half century ago. He has, moreover, been accorded a high place among progressive and able agriculturists of this vicinity and has commanded and held the regard, esteem and confidence of all who have been in any way associated with him.

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#### STANLEY LARSON.

Members of the Larson family have indeed reason to feel proud of the family history, for representatives of the name have been most loyal to all the principles of honorable manhood and citizenship. Ole Larson, the founder of the family in Allamakee county, had eleven sons and daughters, who spent their childhood in Taylor township. Those who grew to maturity proved in later years their worth in various localities in different walks of life. Of this number was Stener, called Stanley Larson, the third child in his father's family. He was born at Rotnem, Gol, Hallingdal, Norway, December 4, 1842, and was the third child of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Larson, whose emigration to America in 1849 was followed by removal from Wisconsin to Iowa in the spring of 1850.

Upon the old homestead farm on section 17, Taylor township, Stanley Larson grew to manhood with the usual experiences that fall to the farm lad, his time being divided between the acquirement of an education in the district schools and the work of the fields. He continued to assist his father until he was about twenty-one years of age, when he turned his attention to the insurance business and in connection therewith removed to the west. In 1879 he became a resident of Saline county, Nebraska, locating at Friend, where he conducted a general merchandise store for several years. At length, however, he tired of the

business and, having in the meantime saved considerable money, he removed to Tobias, Nebraska, in 1884, and there established the People's Bank. For twenty years he was at the head of that banking institution and in that time became acquainted with and was known to nearly every person in his section of the state. About two years prior to his demise he disposed of his interests in Nebraska and because of his health removed to Boise, Idaho, hoping to be benefited thereby. He held extensive interests in several mining properties in that state and was also financially connected with numerous industries. Still seeking health, he went to Pendleton, Oregon, but the change did not bring the benefit that he desired and on the 7th of June, 1906, he departed this life, his remains being returned to Saline county, Nebraska, for interment in the J. V. Ainsworth lot in the Tobias cemetery.

He was spoken of in terms of highest praise and warm regard by all who knew him, and it is said that he never turned a deaf ear to the appeal of the needy and that no one ever left his door hungry. He was a member of the Presbyterian church but displayed no narrow denominational spirit. No good work done in the name of charity or religion sought his aid in vain. He was always among the foremost in the support of any good cause and he gave most liberally of his means to any worthy project tending to the moral development of the community. He was for several years prominently connected with Sunday school work and did much to further that branch of Christian activity. Thus he left behind him a good name which is rather to be chosen than great riches. He was also a most earnest advocate of the temperance cause and at one time was prohibition candidate for secretary of state in Nebraska. It seemed that no one need ever question his position, it was a foregone conclusion that he was to be found on the side of right, truth and justice.

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#### GEORGE A. LEAS.

A well tilled tract of four hundred and twenty acres on section 4, Linton township, has yielded most gratifying returns for the labor expended on it by its owner, George A. Leas, who during the entire period of his active career has engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was born on the farm which he now occupies, November 17, 1859, and is a son of Jeremiah and Susanna (Henderson) Leas, the former of whom was born near Cleveland, Ohio, January 20, 1830, and the latter, November 8, 1831. In early life the father learned the tailor's trade but not liking it, turned his attention to farming, an occupation in which he engaged during the remainder of his active life. In the early '50s he came as a pioneer to Iowa, where he had bought land previously, and, taking up his residence upon his holdings, broke the raw soil and developed there a productive farm. At the time of his arrival pioneer conditions prevailed everywhere, the county was practically a wilderness and Indians were frequent visitors to the sparse settlements. With characteristic energy Jeremiah Leas carried forward the work of clearing and improving his property and continued to reside thereon until November, 1902, when he moved to another farm in Linton township. After one year he retired from active life and moved to Rossville, where he has



Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Leas

Standing:

Mr. and Mrs. William Thias

Mrs. John Meleher and daughter Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Leas Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Meleher Mr. John Meleher and son





since resided. For two terms he served as supervisor of his township and has been at all times a public-spirited and progressive citizen, interested in everything that pertains to community development. He and his wife became the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this review is the third in order of birth.

In the district schools of Linton township George A. Leas acquired his education and at the age of sixteen he laid aside his books, continuing, however, to reside at home until he was twenty-five years of age. He had learned the best and most practical agricultural methods by personal experience upon his father's farm and this training stood him in good stead when he began his independent career. He purchased forty acres of land in Linton township and turned his attention to its cultivation. For a number of years thereafter he operated this property and for twenty-eight seasons ran a threshing machine in connection with it, becoming well known as a progressive farmer and an able business man. He added to his original forty acres and at one time controlled extensive holdings which, however, he later disposed of and returned to the old homestead. To this also he has made extensive additions, his holdings now comprising four hundred and twenty acres of valuable land. He operates this as a general stock farm, keeping high-grade cattle, horses and hogs, and his business interests, being all carefully and capably conducted, have brought him a gratifying measure of success. He is a stockholder and director in the Waterville Creamery Company and in the Farmers Shipping Association of Monona, and in business circles is regarded as a far-sighted, able and discriminating man.

On the 22d of January, 1884, Mr. Leas was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Thias, who was born near Sixteen, in this township, March 12, 1864. She is a daughter of William F. and Barbara Ann (Gast) Thias, the former of whom was born in Germany, September 9, 1839, and the latter in Quebec, Canada, on the 17th of November, 1847. When he was two years of age the father was brought to America and he grew to manhood in Indiana, later removing to Iowa. After attaining his majority he took up land near the village of Sixteen, in Linton township, and kept "bachelor's hall" with his brother until his marriage. He cleared and improved a tract of land which he had entered from the government and made this a valuable property. Disposing of it in 1870, he moved to Nora Springs, this state, and there remained for four years, after which he exchanged his farm for that belonging to his brother-in-law and returned to Linton township, where he was active in agricultural pursuits until three years before his death. He then divided his property among his children and retired from active life, dying in January, 1910. His wife survives him and makes her home in Linton township. Mr. and Mrs. Leas have become the parents of eight children: William Wesley, who was born December 12, 1884, and who married Miss Hazel Kringle, their home being at Cottonwood, Minnesota; Effie, who was born July 27, 1886, and who is the wife of John Melcher; E. J., born November 4, 1888; Harry O., April 13, 1891; Ray Addison, February 13, 1893; Arthur Floyd, July 22, 1895; Iva Estella, August 18, 1899; and Hazel Marie, December 22, 1904.

Mr. Leas gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and served for two terms as township trustee. Although he is not active as an office seeker he never neglects the duties of citizenship and gives hearty and helpful cooperation to all measures which he deems for the best interests of the community. He is

connected fraternally with the Modern Woodmen of America and is a member of the Presbyterian church, Mrs. Leas belonging to the Ladies' Aid Society of that organization. A man of good business ability which has won him substantial success and actuated in all of his dealings by the most honorable and upright principles, he possesses, moreover, those personal characteristics which command the confidence and good-will of his fellowmen and place him among the highly respected and valued residents of Linton township.

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#### HON. A. M. FELLOWS.

A spirit of enterprise, aggressiveness and initiative, guided and directed by sound judgment and discrimination, has actuated A. M. Fellows in all the activities of his career, bringing him through successive stages of progress and advancement to a place of prominence in business circles of Lansing, his native city, and to a position of power in the political life of the state of Iowa. As president of the People's State Bank of Lansing, and as proprietor of one of the largest lumber concerns in the county, he is connected in an important way with business interests, while as a member of the state senate his work is proving able, constructive and public-spirited—well worthy of a place in local political history.

Mr. Fellows was born in the city where he now resides, March 1, 1864, and is a son of Judge L. E. Fellows, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work. Our subject was reared in Lansing, acquiring his education in the public schools of the city and in the Upper Iowa University at Fayette. After completing his studies he entered the offices of a large lumber company in Lansing and, commencing at the bottom, learned the business in principle and detail, winning promotion as his knowledge increased and his ability developed and rising finally to be proprietor of the business, which he now conducts, controlling an important trade in lumber and building materials. He aided in the organization of the People's State Bank, which was opened for business in October, 1911, with Mr. Fellows as president and R. G. Miller, cashier. The bank has a capital stock of forty thousand dollars and has some ninety stockholders, all prominent business men or prosperous farmers of this community. A general banking business is carried on and this has since the beginning steadily increased in volume and is of extensive proportions at the present time.

Mr. Fellows married in Cresco, Howard county, Iowa, on the 4th of September, 1899, Miss Elsie Smith, who was born and reared in that city. She is a daughter of L. E. Smith, editor of the Howard County Times, and one of the prominent and able men in that section of the state. Mr. and Mrs. Fellows have six children: Minerva, now in the junior class at Grinnell College, where she is president of the Glee Club; L. E., a student in the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor; A. M., Jr.; Donald S., a student at the University of Wisconsin at Madison; and John and Kenneth, at home.

Although Mr. Fellows is so closely connected with the financial and general business life of Lansing, and although his activities along these lines have been so fruitful of good to the community, they by no means mark the limit of his interests, for following in his father's footsteps, he has always borne his full

share in the political advancement of his city and state. He has held various important positions of trust and honor, serving on the school board for twenty years and as a member of the city council for eight years, in addition to being for four years mayor of Lansing. In November, 1912, he was elected to the state senate and is a member of the present assembly, serving on a number of important committees and acting as chairman of the committee on commerce and trade. He is a practical, progressive and able politician, giving his vote and influence only to projects of reform and advancement and adhering closely to high standards of political and public morality. He has served the state ably and well in important ways, and his name is honored by his constituents and political opponents alike as that of a man whose sagacity is far-reaching and whose integrity is beyond all question.

Mr. Fellows is a member of the Masonic order, belonging to the lodge at Lansing, in which he has served through all the chairs and is now past master. He and his wife are affiliated with the Order of the Eastern Star and Mrs. Fellows has served through all the chairs of this organization. She is past worthy matron and has represented the Lansing lodge in the grand lodge of the state of Iowa. Mr. Fellows belongs also to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Yeomen. Few, if any, men of Lansing are better known throughout the state than he, for his activities have influenced a great many important phases of state development, his success and the standards which influenced it being counted today among valuable political and business assets.

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#### OLEN O. LARSON.

A pioneer family in Allamakee county, the Larsons have long been widely and prominently known and members of the family well deserve mention in its history, being respected, worthy citizens of Allamakee county during the period of their residence there and also of other sections in which they have lived. Many friends cherish the memory of representatives of the family who have passed away, which number includes Ole, called Olen O. Larson, a son of Ole and Anne Larson and a brother of Louis O. Larson. He was born February 27, 1852, at the family home on section 17, Taylor township, Allamakee county, where his parents had taken up their abode in 1850. His youthful days were spent in farm work and in attendance at the district schools, while for a long time he also studied under the tutorship of Professor Thomas J. Healy, of Lansing. On attaining his majority he started to the west and after reaching Colorado began operating in the mines. He was well known in Antonito, Ouray, Silverton, Salida and Animas Forks, owning some valuable claims in those mining districts. He also engaged in merchandizing in partnership with his brother Stanley and with J. V. Ainsworth in Friend, Nebraska, and for a time he edited the Rio Grande Sentinel in Del Norte, Colorado. His position in business circles is indicated by the following excerpt from a Salida (Colo.) paper, written some time prior to his death:

"Twenty-six years' successful experience as mining engineer in the mining camps of Colorado, supplemented by years of scientific study, has eminently

fitted Professor Larson to take his place in the front rank of mining experts. To his superior judgment and sound advice are due in a large measure the present prosperous conditions in Turret and many other leading Colorado mining camps. As a mineralogist he occupies a front rank in the mining domain and his opinions are eagerly sought and acted upon by the capitalists and mine operators of the state. Being conservative in his methods, he is thoroughly competent to discriminate in the matter of mining investments on a safe and prudent basis. His wide experience with the peculiar mineralogical formations of the various Colorado mining districts, renders his judgment profound, his reports unquestioned and his reputation without blemish."

Mr. Larson passed away on the 26th of August, 1909, at Pojuaque, near Espanola, New Mexico, after an illness of but three days. He was then fifty-seven years of age. He left a son, Claude, twenty-three years of age, who was at the time looking after his father's mining interests in Colorado, for Olen Larson had gone to New Mexico to purchase a fruit ranch. It was while in the southwest that he was taken suddenly ill and passed away. He possessed many sterling qualities of character, was thoroughly reliable at all times and his many qualities endeared him to all who knew him.

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#### CHARLES J. RISER.

Charles J. Riser, a worthy native son of Allamakee county and a prosperous and esteemed resident of the village of Church, is now serving for the second year as secretary of the Calhoun Creamery. He was born on the home farm in Lansing township, this county, his parents being John and Eva (Kaam) Riser. The former, whose birth occurred in Berne, Switzerland, on the 21st of February, 1829, accompanied his parents on their emigration to the United States in 1843, the family home being established in Madison county, Illinois, where he learned the carpenter's trade. In 1852 he came to Allamakee county, Iowa, and helped erect the first home on the Riser place in Lansing township. Going back to Madison county, Illinois, he purchased eighty acres of land and there resided for two years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Allamakee county and purchased a tract of one hundred and twenty-four acres in Lansing township, continuing to reside thereon and being busily engaged in its cultivation throughout the remainder of his active business career. His last years were spent in the home of his son, Charles J., his demise occurring at Church in January, 1907. He passed away in the faith of the German Congregational church and his death was the occasion of deep and widespread regret, for he had been a resident of this county for more than a half century and had become well known and highly esteemed within its borders. He was first married in Illinois to a Miss Anderson, who died in that state, leaving one son, John, a resident of Illinois. For his second wife Mr. Riser chose Miss Eva Kaam, a native of Berne, Switzerland, who passed away on the old home farm in Lansing township in 1893. By this union there are eleven children, as follows: Mrs. John Schupbach, who is a resident of Madison county, Illinois; Caroline, of Allamakee county; Fred, living in Woodbury county, Iowa; Henry, of Idaho; George, who makes his home in

Colorado; Amelia, who is the wife of L. W. Wendel, of Belmond, Iowa; Rosa; Charles J., of this review; Theodore; Pauline, and Elizabeth.

Charles J. Riser attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education and when not busy with his text-books assisted his father in the work of the home farm. In 1900 he purchased the property from his father and continued its operation until 1905, when he sold the place. During the following six years he was engaged in business as a member of the firm of Decker & Riser, general merchants at Church. For the past two years, however, he has devoted his attention to his duties as secretary of the Calhoun Creamery and in this connection has won a creditable and gratifying measure of success.

As a companion and helpmate on the journey of life Mr. Riser chose Miss Clara Martinson, by whom he has five children, Hazel, Edgar, Carl, Leigh and Harold. The family home is the most attractive and pleasing in Church. In the community where his entire life has been spent he has gained a large circle of friends who esteem him as a man of genuine personal worth and many sterling traits of character.

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#### GEORGE WUENNECKE.

Among the residents of Allamakee county who have attained an honorable place in the community through their acknowledged ability and personal worth is George Wuennecke, who since 1892 has owned and cultivated a fine farm of two hundred acres in Union City township. Germany numbers him among her native sons, his birth having there occurred in 1855, his parents being Peter and Dora Wuennecke. They came to America in 1866 and settled in Minnesota, where the father engaged in general farming, an occupation which he followed until his death in 1883. The mother survived him many years, passing away in 1908. To their union were born six children, two of whom survive: George, the subject of this review; and Dora, the widow of Christ Bunge.

George Wuennecke began his independent career at the age of fourteen years, and, being thus early thrown upon his own resources, developed qualities of industry, self-reliance and independence which form the basis of his success today. For ten years after laying aside his books he worked as a farm laborer, saving his money and eventually accumulating enough to enable him to purchase land of his own. He farmed for thirteen years thereafter upon his own property in Minnesota, at the end of that time disposing of his interests and coming to Iowa, in which state he bought two hundred acres of land in Union City township, Allamakee county, upon which he still resides. He has not confined his attention entirely to the work of the fields, however, but has paid considerable attention to the raising of live stock and in this as in all departments of the farm he has shown a judgment and skill that have steadily increased the annual income from the place and added to its value. He is a director and stockholder of the Merchants Savings Bank of New Albin and a stockholder in the Crystal Creamery of Eitzen, Minnesota.

In 1879 Mr. Wuennecke married Miss Margaret Gade, who was born in Germany in 1860. She came to America with her parents in 1872 and they

settled in Iowa, later moving to Minnesota, where the father and mother passed away. Of the children born to their union three are still living, as follows: Mrs. Katherine Hyndman, of Union City township; George, a resident of Dakota; and Margaret, the wife of our subject. Mr. and Mrs. Wuennecke became the parents of fourteen children, ten of whom survive: Bertha, who married Charles Deters, a farmer in Minnesota; Emma, the wife of Richard Pottratz, also of Minnesota; August and Gustave, twins, the former of whom resides in Minnesota and the latter in Iowa; George, who is engaged in farming in South Dakota; and Annie, Margaret, Dora, John and Hulda, all of whom are at home. The family are devout members of the Evangelical church.

Mr. Wuennecke gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is intelligently interested in the growth of the community, although he never seeks public office. He is one of the well informed and progressive men of Union City township, active and enterprising in business, and his intelligently directed efforts are making the property of which he is the owner a valuable and productive one.

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#### JAMES E. RUSH.

James E. Rush, the owner of a valuable and productive farm of one hundred and thirty-seven acres on section 2, Franklin township, has remained thereon from his birth to the present time, his natal day being December 31, 1862. His parents, William L. and Sarah (Parker) Rush, were both natives of Somerset county, Pennsylvania, the former born on the 6th of October, 1829, and the latter on the 5th of October, 1828. In early life William L. Rush learned the trade of a cabinet-maker and house carpenter and followed that occupation exclusively for a number of years. In 1854 he made his way from Pennsylvania to Rossville, Allamakee county, Iowa, here working at his trade until the fall of 1860, when he purchased the farm in Franklin township which is now in possession of his son James. He devoted his attention to its operation throughout the remainder of his life and also worked at the carpenter's trade at different times. His demise occurred in February, 1888, while his wife was called to her final rest in September, 1891. Mr. Rush held several township offices and enjoyed an enviable reputation as a substantial and representative citizen of his community.

James E. Rush, the seventh in order of birth in a family of ten children, attended district school No. 9 in Franklin township. After attaining his majority he worked for his father for two years and then rented the homestead property. When his parents had passed away he bought out the other heirs to the estate and became the owner of the home farm, embracing one hundred and thirty-seven acres on section 2, Franklin township. The buildings thereon are modern and substantial and the place is now lacking in none of the accessories and equipments of a model farm of the twentieth century. Mr. Rush devotes his attention to general agricultural pursuits with excellent results and has long been numbered among the successful farmers and respected citizens of his native county.

On the 27th of June, 1888, Mr. Rush was united in marriage to Miss Amanda Denning, whose birth occurred in Jefferson township, Allamakee county, September 14, 1868, her parents being Samuel and Elizabeth (Francis) Denning, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Samuel Denning, who followed agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career, came to Iowa at an early day, locating first in Fairview township, Allamakee county. He became one of the earliest landowners here, going to Dubuque to enter his tract. Subsequently he took up his abode in Jefferson township, purchased land and maintained his residence there until his death, which occurred in the spring of 1909. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Rush conducted the old mission in Fairview township and was one of the esteemed and influential citizens of the early days. Mrs. Elizabeth (Francis) Denning passed away in 1903. She was the mother of thirteen children, Mrs. Rush being the eighth in order of birth. Our subject and his wife have nine children, as follows: Ray L.; Leslie W.; Jesse E., a traveling salesman; Bessie E.; Carroll; Dewey; Ethel; Vernie and Blanche.

Mr. Rush gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has done able service in the interests of education as a school director. Fraternally he is identified with the Foodmen. Both he and his wife have always lived within the borders of Allamakee county and the circle of their friends is a wide one.

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#### S. J. SVENDSON.

S. J. Svendson is cultivating eighty acres of productive soil in Waterloo township and has been so engaged since he was twenty-six years of age. He is practical in his methods and consequently successful and he has gained a comfortable degree of prosperity and a growing prominence among his fellow citizens in both private and public life. He was born in this township in 1860, a son of Jonas and Mette Svendson, both natives of Norway. They emigrated to America in 1856 and settled in Waterloo township, Allamakee county, Iowa, the father purchasing government land upon which he has since resided and to the cultivation of which he has continued to give his attention. He now owns a fine tract of one hundred and two acres, all under cultivation, and in its operation is still active although he has reached the age of seventy-five years. His wife also survives at the age of seventy-eight years. In their family were twelve children but only five are living, namely: Mary, the wife of Nick Johnson, of North Dakota; S. J., of this review; Petra, the wife of O. Evenmoe, of Waterloo township; Martin, residing in Canada; and Rena, who married Charles Rossow, of La Crosse, Wisconsin. The deceased are Isabelle, Rena, John, Isabelle, Gertrude, Gilbert and one, who died in infancy.

In Waterloo township S. J. Svendson received his education and in the home fields, under the direction of his father, acquired thorough training along agricultural lines. He remained with his parents, giving them the benefit of his assistance, until twenty-six years of age, when, wishing to engage independently in farming, he purchased forty acres of land in Waterloo township which forms the nucleus of his present farm. To this he added from time to time and now

has a tract of eighty acres, all finely improved and under cultivation. He divides his attention between farming and stock-raising and has been successful from the beginning of his independent career, his present prosperity being based on continuous endeavor along developing lines. His home is situated four miles west of Dorchester.

It was in 1899 that Mr. Svendson was united in marriage to Miss Gena Von-graven, who was born in Norway and as a little maiden of three years came with her parents to the United States in 1879, the family home being established in Waterloo township, where the parents have since continued to reside. She is the fifth in order of birth in a family of seven children, the others being as follows: Claus, of Minnesota; John, of Alaska; Johanna, who married John McMullen, of Winneshiek county; Lewis, of Allamakee county; Lucy, the widow of Arthur Nimmoeks, of La Crosse, Wisconsin; and one who died in infancy. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Svendson were born four children: Jonas, born in 1899, whose death occurred in 1912; Ole, born April 4, 1901; Gilbert, born April 20, 1902; and Morris Arthur, January 24, 1909. The family hold membership in the Lutheran church and are held in high esteem by all who know them. Mr. Svendson is a republican in politics and is not unknown in public life, having served as township clerk and is now acting as township assessor, which office he has held for five years. He is a public-spirited citizen and a faithful and efficient public servant and his life has been spent honorably and usefully in a worthy occupation.

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#### JOHN B. SUTTER.

Probably no man is more familiar with pioneer customs and conditions in Allamakee county than John B. Sutter, to whom they are matters of personal experience rather than of history. As a boy of eleven years he came to this section of Iowa and he has since that time witnessed practically the entire development of the state, taking an active and honorable part in the work of upbuilding. Although he is now about to retire from active life, he has been for years numbered among the greatest individual forces in agricultural development in this section and has by his ability, untiring energy and steadfastness of purpose won success, prominence and substantial fortune.

Mr. Sutter was born in Ripley county, Indiana, October 30, 1840, and is a son of John B. and Elizabeth (Kiser) Sutter, natives of Switzerland, where the father spent his early childhood. He afterward took passage with his parents on board a vessel bound for America, all of the family dying at sea with the exception of the father of the subject of this review and his brother Joseph. In order to pay for their passage across the Atlantic the brothers after their arrival were bound out as farm laborers in one of the eastern states, but Joseph Sutter ran away before the expiration of the required term. However, John served out the entire period and at the age of twenty-one received his release, going immediately to Missouri, where for five years he worked as a pilot on a flat boat. In 1850 he came to Iowa and landed at Dubuque, where he remained for one winter. In the fall of 1851 he moved to Allamakee county and entered government land and resided in this part of Iowa until his death.





JOHN B. SUTTER



In Indiana he had purchased a number of soldier's land warrants and he applied these on Iowa land, accumulating over two thousand acres in Allamakee county. He later sold this vast tract and purchased a farm in Clayton county, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits until he retired from active life, returning at that time and making his home with his son until his death, which occurred March 29, 1898, when he was within twenty days of being ninety-two years of age. He was a public-spirited and progressive citizen and active in public affairs, having served for five years as county assessor and for some time as county supervisor, school treasurer and justice of the peace. He served on the school board for a number of years and was a director in various banks and other business enterprises, leaving the impress of his ability and personality upon many fields of endeavor. He survived his wife, who died in 1882, some sixteen years.

John B. Sutter was eleven years of age when his parents moved to Allamakee county and he entered the class which was being held at the home of Mr. Winslow just across the line in Clayton county. Mrs. Winslow taught this school, which offered the only educational facilities in this vicinity, there being no public schools in those early days. Mr. Sutter grew up amid pioneer conditions and as a boy assisted his father with the work of the homestead. When he grew older he began driving a team from the old mission to Dubuque, being employed by Mr. Linton, and he would often be three days or more upon the road. It was no uncommon experience for him to get stuck in a slough and remain over night in the open, the Indians often assisting him out of his predicament. He and his brother afterward operated a breaking outfit drawn by seven yoke of cattle and with this they broke land all over Allamakee and Clayton counties. At one time they went into Minnesota, where they broke three hundred and sixty acres of land and in the following year a tract of one hundred and sixty acres. They received two dollars and a half per acre for breaking prairie land and five dollars for timber tracts. During this time Mr. Sutter purchased a farm and at the age of twenty-two moved upon this property, upon which he has since carried forward the work of improvement and development. When he took up his residence upon it it was all raw land upon which the timber had not yet been cut. Mr. Sutter felled the trees and with characteristic energy began cultivating the property, which became more and more productive and valuable with the passing years. Upon it he made substantial improvements, erecting a fine residence, barns and outbuildings and installing modern machinery to facilitate the work of the fields. His farm became one of the finest and best managed agricultural properties in this vicinity and he himself took rank among the most representative and substantial men in the township. He has recently sold all but forty acres of his homestead and has purchased a residence in Monona, where he intends to live retired, having earned comfort and leisure through well directed and untiring labor in the past.

On the 22d of October, 1863, Mr. Sutter was united in marriage to Miss Mary Plank, who was born in Missouri in November, 1841, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Ebinger) Plank, natives of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, where the father was ordained to the Methodist Episcopal ministry. The father crossed the Atlantic at a very early date and located in Chicago, where he for some years conducted a hotel, and he was afterward a resident of various states to which

he had been sent by the Methodist Episcopal conference, and he later became a landowner in Allamakee county. Selling out his interests here he moved to Dakota and entered government land, dying there February 14, 1890. He had survived his wife some years, her death having occurred in 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Sutter have become the parents of five children: Viola, who was born May 26, 1870, and who married Frank Jones, a farmer of Fairview township; Edna, whose birth occurred on January 4, 1872, and who married J. W. Bennett, who was a druggist but now has turned his attention to farming in the vicinity of Janesville, this state; Frank, who was born January 18, 1874, and who died March 10, 1879; Clara M., whose birth occurred December 26, 1875, and who graduated from the Iowa State Teachers College, being now engaged in teaching in Aberdeen, South Dakota; and Nettie, who was born October 19, 1880, and who married Theodore Schlitter, a farmer, in Clayton county.

Mr. Sutter gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and has served for nine years as township trustee, for a number of years as constable, and for a long period as president of the school board, the cause of education finding in him a loyal and able supporter. At all times he has been interested in the welfare of the county and has given active cooperation to many movements for the public good, while his efforts in behalf of public improvement have been effective and far reaching. Living in Iowa for sixty-two years and having been active in agricultural circles in Allamakee county for over forty, he is one of the best known citizens of this locality, being recognized as a man of tried integrity and worth, of business enterprise and unflinching diligence. Now that he is seventy-three years of age he enjoys a well earned rest, for it is fitting that his former business career should give him this period of leisure to enjoy the fruits of his former toil. His fellow citizens honor and respect him and wherever he is known he has an extensive circle of friends.

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#### JOHN J. BRODERICK.

Since 1883 John J. Broderick has lived upon his fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Fairview township and has carried forward its improvement and cultivation along modern and progressive lines, the results of his labors being evident today in the value, productiveness and attractive appearance of his homestead. He is a representative of one of the best known pioneer families in this section of the state, his grandfather having entered government land as early as 1845, having remained a continuous resident of Fairview township until his death. Mr. Broderick of this review was born at Dubuque, December 1, 1861, his parents being Hugh and Ellen (Rabbit) Broderick, the former born in County Galway, Ireland, in 1837, and the latter in County Roscommon on the 22d of December, 1829. Hugh Broderick's mother died when he was still in his infancy and his father afterward married again. Crossing the Atlantic in 1845 the grandfather of our subject settled in Iowa, taking up government land on the site where the city of Des Moines now stands. He endured all of the hardships incident to life in the wilderness in those early times and was often in danger of his life from the hostile Indians. Hugh Broderick and his brother-in-law, Thomas Cav-

anough, had one especially narrow escape, for they were captured, tied to the stake and about to be scalped before help arrived. In fact the knife had already been inserted at the base of Mr. Cavanaugh's head when an Indian to whom he had given a drink of whiskey a few days before came up and declared him to be a "good paleface" and untied the cord which bound the captives. They were released, given their clothing and sent back to their homes but Mr. Cavanaugh carried a deep scar at the back of his neck during the remainder of his life. He and Mr. Broderick afterward proved up on land to which they had entered a claim and the father of the subject of this review went to Dubuque, where he entered the employ of John T. Hancock as clerk in a general store. He remained in this capacity for eleven years, dying in 1864. His wife survived him until 1908.

John J. Broderick acquired his education in the public schools of Elkport, Iowa, but his advantages along this line were extremely limited as he attended for only six months during his entire life. He grew up amid pioneer conditions, learning farming by practical experience upon his father's homestead, and when he was sixteen years of age he engaged as a farm laborer for Senator Garber at Elkport. He retained this position for five years and six months and in 1883 married and bought the John Walsh homestead of one hundred and twenty acres. He paid for as much of this land as his capital of one hundred dollars would buy and went in debt for the remainder. Upon the property he has continuously resided since that time, engaging in general farming and stock-raising, and he has met with excellent success, his property being today worthy of comparison with the finest farms in the state. His prosperity has come as a natural result of his own industry, firm determination and well directed labor and his career furnishes a splendid example of the value of these qualities in the attainment of an honorable place in the world.

On the 2d of April, 1883, Mr. Broderick was united in marriage to Miss Alice M. Walsh, who was born in this township, May 29, 1862, a daughter of John and Maria (Carter) Walsh, natives of County Galway, Ireland, the former born August 15, 1819, and the latter, August 17th of the same year. The father crossed the Atlantic in 1840 and settled in Ohio, where he married a Miss Ryder, who died in that state. After a residence of four or five years there, John Walsh moved to Iowa and settled on the farm now owned by his son-in-law. He here married again, his second wife being Mrs. Broderick's mother, who had crossed the Atlantic in 1860. Mr. Walsh held various local offices and did especially efficient work for a number of years as township trustee. Mr. and Mrs. Broderick became the parents of eleven children: Ellen, who was born April 10, 1884, and died January 18, 1893; John P., who was born March 17, 1886, and who married Rose McDonald; Michael, who was born October 15, 1888, and died October 19th of the same year; a son, born October 2, 1889, who died on the day of his birth; Mary E., who was born January 5, 1891, and who married William Finnegan, a farmer of Fairview township; Alice, who was born December 25, 1892, and whose death occurred a few days later; a child, who died in 1895; Hugh J., who was born May 1, 1896, and who resides at home; Katherine Irene, born June 8, 1898; Alice Estrella, born January 30, 1901; and a child, who died in 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Broderick have also an adopted son, Thomas J., who was born December 7, 1904.

Mr. Broderick and family are members of the Cherry Mound Roman Catholic church and he is a republican in his political beliefs, taking an active and intelligent interest in the welfare of the section which his parents and grandparents did so much to upbuild. He served as justice of the peace for nine years and since 1896 has been notary public. In addition to this office he holds that of assessor of Fairview township and in this capacity has for the past five years discharged his duties in a capable and efficient way. Aside from his general farming and stock-raising interests he acts also as agent for four insurance companies in this vicinity and has secured a large and important patronage along this line, being known as a far-sighted, discriminating and resourceful business man. Mr. Broderick is well known throughout Fairview township and enjoys the confidence and respect of his neighbors, being accounted an active worker and a progressive farmer whose record is worthy of a name long known and honored in this locality.

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P. C. EVENMOE.

A well tilled farm of one hundred and fifty-six acres in Waterloo township has yielded most gratifying returns for the labor expended upon it by its owner, P. C. Evenmoe, who during the entire period of his active career has engaged in agricultural pursuits. Upon the property which he now occupies his birth occurred in 1870, his parents being Christian and Lucy Evenmoe, natives of Norway. They came from that country to America in 1856 and settled in Allamakee county where the father purchased eighty acres of land, which constitutes a portion of the farm now operated by the subject of this review. On section 7, Waterloo township, he followed farming and stock-raising until his retirement, adding to his holdings from time to time until he owned three hundred and thirteen acres, two hundred of which were in a high state of cultivation. He passed away January 28, 1907, having survived his wife since 1898. To their union were born six children: Olaus, Mary, Andrew, Dorothy and Peter, all of whom have passed away; and P. C., of this review.

P. C. Evenmoe acquired his education in the public schools of Allamakee county and in the Breckenridge Institute at Decorah. In his youth he assisted his father with the work of the homestead and when he was twenty-two years of age rented the property which he has operated since that time. Upon the death of his father he came into possession of his portion of the land and he now owns one hundred and fifty-six acres, one hundred of which are under cultivation. Upon this fine property he engages in general farming, paying particular attention to stock-raising, which under his able management has become an important source of income to him.

Mr. Evenmoe married in 1900 Miss Sophia Swenson, a native of Waterloo township and a daughter of John and Carrie Swenson, who were born in Norway and who came to America in 1858. After an attempted settlement in Minnesota, from which state they were driven out by the Indians, they made their home in Allamakee county, Iowa, where the father accumulated large landed holdings, owning at one time one hundred and forty acres. He afterward sold the property

and moved to Winneshiek county, where he and his wife passed away. They had a large family of children, eight of whom are still living, namely, Mary, Johannah, Gertrude, Maria, Belle, Sophia, Julia and Samuel. Mrs. Evenmoe acquired her education in the Breckenridge Institute in Decorah and for thirteen years previous to her marriage engaged in teaching. She and her husband have four children: Joel C., whose birth occurred in 1901; Leonard A., born in 1903; Carl E., born in 1907; and Henry G., born in 1910. The family are members of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Evenmoe is a republican in his political beliefs and is now in the fourth term of his able service as township clerk. A man of good business ability which has won for him substantial success and guided in all his dealings by the most honorable and upright principles, he possesses also those personal characteristics which command confidence and good-will and which place him among the most highly respected and valued residents of his native township.

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#### RICHARD WILLIAM WALSH.

No farmer in Allamakee county has achieved greater success in agricultural pursuits than Richard William Walsh, whose attractive homestead lies on section 26, Fairview township, and comprises three hundred and sixty acres. Through his own industry and enterprise he has gained an enviable degree of success and he stands today among the leading farmers and stock-raisers of this locality. He was born on the farm which he now operates in a pioneer log cabin, August 17, 1864, a son of William and Ellen (Reed) Walsh, natives of Ireland, the former born in County Galway, June 14, 1827, and the latter in County Mayo, December 25, 1834. The father's parents died in Ireland and when he was about twenty-one years of age he emigrated to America, obtaining employment at railroad work in Pennsylvania, where he remained for a number of years. He later moved to Galena, Illinois, and then to Allamakee county, Iowa, where he entered land and at the same time engaged in steamboating on the Mississippi river. During several seasons he engaged in this occupation and then settled upon his farm, which was at that time entirely unimproved and covered with a dense growth of timber. With characteristic energy and enterprise he began clearing and developing this land and his well directed efforts were eventually rewarded by success, the farm becoming one of the finest and best equipped in this vicinity. He died upon his holdings, which comprised three hundred and sixty acres, January 18, 1911. His wife survives him and is living happily under the devoted care of her son, who places his mother's interests and welfare above all other considerations, making her happiness the main object of his life.

Richard W. Walsh was reared upon his father's farm in Fairview township and in his childhood learned the details of farm operation by assisting with the work of the homestead. At the age of twenty he went to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where for four months he was employed by the St. Paul railroad, after which he moved to northern Minnesota and worked at farming in the employ of others for the remainder of the year. Returning to Wisconsin at the end of that time, he spent a winter in the northern lumber camps and then returned to Iowa, set-

ting upon the homestead, where he remained for six years. Removing then to Independence, Iowa, he rented a farm and after four years went to Minneapolis, where he was for three years engaged as a brakeman and switchman. Eventually he again returned to the homestead in Fairview township and upon this property he has since resided. He has steadily carried forward the work of improvement and development and has now a valuable and productive farm equipped with substantial buildings and provided with modern, labor-saving machinery. Mr. Walsh devotes a great deal of his time to his farming and stock-raising interests and has won that success which follows earnest and persistent labor.

Mr. Walsh is a member of the Roman Catholic church and he gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. However, he votes independently when he feels that the best interests of the community demand such action and he has always taken an intelligent interest in the welfare and growth of his township. For about eight years he held the office of township trustee but refused to serve longer, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his business interests. His sterling qualities of mind and character have gained him the friendship of many, while his business record commends him to the confidence of his fellowmen, for at all times he is reliable and straightforward.

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#### JOSEPH F. WACHTER.

Joseph F. Wachter, who since 1885 has lived upon the farm in Fairview township which he now operates, is well known in this vicinity as a progressive and substantial agriculturist, his fine property of one hundred and twenty acres being visible evidence of his life of industry and thrift. He was born in Aurora, Indiana, October 22, 1854, and is a son of Anton and Grace (Sproul) Wachter, natives of Wurtemberg, Germany, the former born in April, 1821, and the latter January 8, 1825. Their marriage occurred in Germany, where the father was a teamster and a freight and grain hauler, driving four and six-horse teams before the days of the railroads. They crossed the Atlantic to America in 1853 and settled first in Indiana, whence they removed to Wisconsin, where for sixteen years they resided upon a farm in the vicinity of Seneca. At the end of that time they came to Iowa settling in Fairview township, Allamakee county, where the father became an extensive landowner and prosperous farmer, making his home here until his death, which occurred May 8, 1898. His wife afterward removed to Harper's Ferry, where her death occurred May 8, 1909.

Joseph F. Wachter attended district school for four terms in Wisconsin, but his advantages along this line were limited and he is practically self-educated. When he was about eighteen years of age he began working at farming in the employ of others, and he afterward aided in the operation of the homestead, remaining there until 1885. He then married and bought a farm in Fairview township, whereon he has since resided. At that time there were but ten acres improved and the house consisted of a crude shack. This has been replaced by a modern dwelling. Substantial barns and outbuildings have been erected and the entire tract of one hundred and twenty acres is under cultivation. Mr. Wachter has carried forward the work of development with characteristic energy and



enterprise and his farming and stock-raising interests are today extensive and important, placing him in the front rank of progressive and substantial agriculturists.

On the 14th of October, 1885, Mr. Wachter was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Gast, who was born in Paint Creek township, April 25, 1861. They have become the parents of eight children: Emma, born September 22, 1886, a ladies' tailor at Nora Springs, Iowa; Lurena, born September 1, 1888, the wife of Nels Attall, a farmer, residing in Meade county, South Dakota; Hattie, born November 3, 1891, the wife of Albert Hancock, a farmer living in Montana; Lydia, born January 5, 1893, teaching in the district schools of this county; Florence, born December 14, 1895, who attends the Sisters' School; Walter and Gertrude, twins, born December 13, 1901; and Joseph, born February 5, 1906.

Mr. Wachter is a republican in his political beliefs, but he is not an active office seeker, preferring to do his public service in other ways. During the twenty-eight years he has lived upon his present farm he has brought the property from a raw tract to a highly developed and productive condition and has made many substantial contributions to the general advancement of this section of the state.

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#### SAMUEL W. BARNES.

Samuel W. Barnes, the oldest native son of Allamakee county living in the vicinity of Monona, if not the oldest in the entire county, has been prominently connected with farming and stock-raising interests for many years and in advancing his own interests along these lines has made substantial contributions to general agricultural development. He owns one hundred and forty acres in Linton township and upon this property was born January 6, 1853, his parents being Jones and Mary (Evans) Barnes, the former a native of Cumberland county, Kentucky, and the latter of Tennessee, born near the line, on the Cumberland river, in 1830. In his early life the father was an overseer on a large plantation, this being in the days of slavery, before the Civil war. In the early '40s he came north and for a time engaged in rafting cedar timber from Wabasha to Dubuque, Iowa, having formed a partnership with his wife's brother, who had come to this state ten years previously and who during the Indian troubles here was a scout under General Miles. The father settled first at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and then came to Linton township, Iowa, where he entered from the government the property upon which the subject of this review now resides and with characteristic energy he began clearing and developing the land, enduring all of the hardships and privations of pioneer times and finally evolving out of the wilderness a profitable and well managed farm. Upon this property he resided for many years, dying upon his holdings in March, 1878. His wife survives him and makes her home in Monroe, Washington, being still active and hearty in the eighty-third year of her age.

Samuel W. Barnes grew up amid pioneer conditions, acquiring such education as the little log cabin frontier schoolhouse afforded and spending a great deal of his time assisting his father with the clearing and development of the homestead.

At the age of twenty-one he became a farm laborer, working upon properties throughout Minnesota, Dakota and Nebraska. Not caring to settle in any of these states, he eventually returned home and purchased the homestead whereon he has since resided. He owns one hundred and forty acres of valuable land in Linton township and through the years has steadily carried forward the work of improvement and development until it is today one of the best agricultural properties in this vicinity. Upon it Mr. Barnes engages in general farming and stock raising and, being a practical and able agriculturist, has made both branches of his activities profitable. He is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery and the Monona Shipping Association and his ability is widely recognized in business circles.

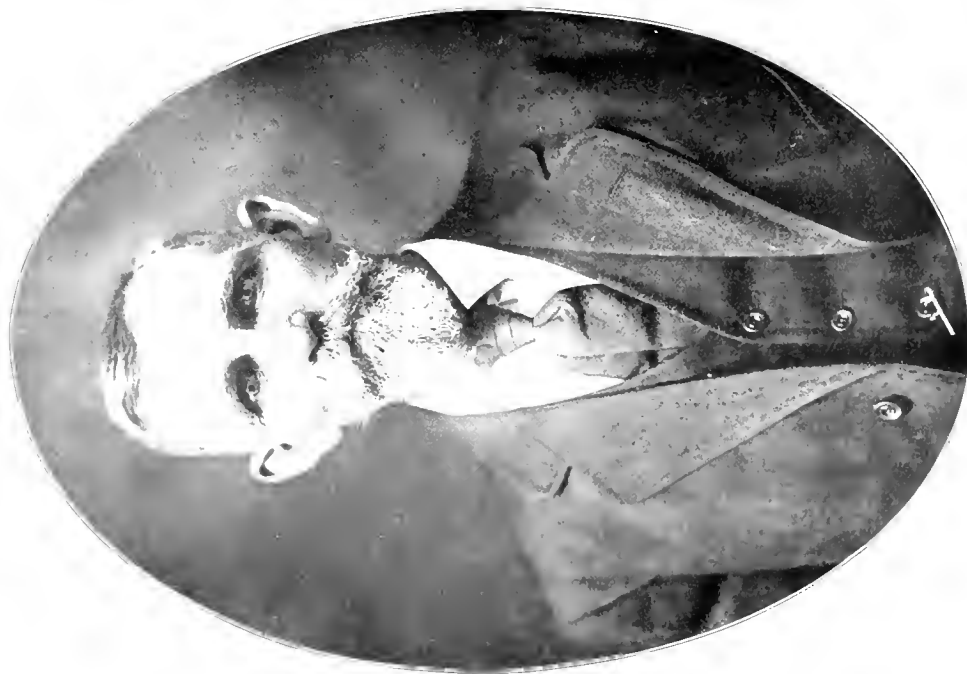
On the 2d of July, 1880, Mr. Barnes married Miss Rachel Hazelett, who was born in Clayton county, near Watson, in 1859, a daughter of George and Jane (Whetlinger) Hazelett, natives of the north of Ireland. The parents emigrated to America at a very early date and made the overland journey with ox teams in 1849, having spent six months upon the way. The father entered government land and upon this farm resided until his death, which occurred in 1888. His wife survives him and still resides upon the old homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes became the parents of three children: Jennie, who was born in April, 1886, and who married Ray Hancock, a farmer at Medicine Lake, Montana; a child, who died in infancy; and Mary, who was born in September, 1896.

Mr. Barnes belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and he gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He has the distinction of being one of the oldest native sons of Allamakee county and the oldest in this vicinity and he has borne an active and honorable part in the work of development which has transformed this section of the state from a frontier wilderness into a prosperous and growing community. He began his agricultural career at a time when the percentage of cultivated land in this county was less than one-half of what it is today and he has himself cleared and developed more than one-third of the cultivated land upon his own farm. The years have brought him success and a comfortable fortune and a high place in the regard of his fellow citizens, who respect his prosperity and honor his integrity of character.

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#### HERMAN A. PEGLOW.

Among the many sturdy, determined and industrious citizens of Allamakee county whom Germany has given to America is numbered Herman A. Peglow, whose valuable farm of one hundred and eighty acres lies on section 13, Franklin township. He has risen by his own efforts from a humble position to a place among the leading agriculturists of this vicinity and his record is one which is well worthy of emulation. He was born in Pomerania, Prussia, December 19, 1848, and is a son of Gottlieb Carl and Fredericka (Gerth) Peglow, also natives of that province, the former born October 17, 1816, and the latter, November 8, 1821. In his early life the father served in the Prussian army as a member of the noted Colberg Regiment which saw active service on the Baltic sea. The parents crossed the Atlantic in 1867 in a sailing vessel and on July 13th of that year landed in Quebec, Canada, whence they went by train to Chicago, Illinois.



MR. AND MRS. HERMAN A. PEGLOW



They arrived in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, July 20, 1867, and remained residents of that city until March 12, 1869. In that year they moved to Iowa and settled upon the farm where the subject of this review now resides. This was at that time an unimproved tract but with characteristic energy the father set to work on its development and at his death in 1899 owned one of the finest farms in this vicinity. He was past eighty-two years of age at the time of his demise and had survived his wife for many years, her death having occurred in 1886. They were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this review is the second in order of birth.

Herman A. Peglow acquired his education in the public schools of Germany and before and after laying aside his books assisted his father with the work of the farm, doing his mowing with a hand scythe. He became thoroughly familiar with practical agricultural methods and when he came to America at the age of eighteen was already an able farmer. He could speak no English at that time but all such obstacles to his success in life he met with confidence and courage. He worked as a farm laborer for one year but afterward returned to the homestead and long before the death of his father assumed entire charge of the farm, whereon he has resided since that time. He has added to it from time to time until his holdings comprise one hundred and eighty acres lying on section 13, Franklin township. Mr. Peglow has improved this fine property with substantial barns and outbuildings and has installed modern, labor-saving machinery and upon it he carries on general farming and stock-raising, both branches of his business being extremely profitable under his able management. His place is one of the model farms of this locality and everything about it is indicative of his careful supervision, practical methods and progressive spirit. Mr. Peglow is a stockholder in the Monona State Bank and the Monona Creamery Company, a member and director of the Farmers Commission Company in that city and also the Shipping Association, and he is recognized and respected as a far-sighted, capable and successful business man.

On the 5th of June, 1889, Mr. Peglow was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Raasch, who was born in Pomerania, Germany, September 15, 1861, a daughter of Carl and Caroline (Gutke) Raasch, the former a carpenter by trade. His death occurred in the fatherland and the mother subsequently married William Schwantz and with him and her children crossed the Atlantic in about the year 1881 and after residing in Milwaukee for a short time they all came to Iowa, settling in McGregor. Subsequently they moved upon a farm in Franklin township, where she passed away in 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Peglow have two children. Clara W., who was born April 24, 1890, graduated from the Monona high school in 1908, after which she taught in the rural schools of Allamakee county for two years and is now a junior in the College of Liberal Arts at the State University of Iowa City. Fred Julius, who was born March 19, 1892, is now assisting his father with the work of the farm. He is a graduate of the Ossian public schools. He is well known in the Modern Woodmen of America, in the local lodge of which he is one of the younger members.

Mr. Peglow is a republican in his political beliefs and has held various important public offices, serving as township trustee for several terms. He is now school treasurer and has discharged the duties of this office in an able and capable way since 1883. It is, however, his only outside connection for he has

always preferred to give his undivided attention to his business affairs since he commenced life empty-handed and dependent entirely upon his own labors and well directed energies for whatever success he might achieve. In all of his dealings he has been strictly honorable and is today one of the substantial farmers of Allamakee county, having accumulated a comfortable and gratifying fortune.

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#### WILLIAM HEFFERNAN.

A valuable farm of one hundred and fifty-one acres in Linton township pays tribute to the care and skill of William Heffernan, who is numbered among Allamakee county's progressive agriculturists and most successful and representative native sons. He was born in this township, February 22, 1855, and is a son of William and Mary (McCormac) Heffernan, the former born in Waterford, Ireland, in 1832 and the latter in County Fermanagh in 1838. In his youth the father learned the shoemaking trade and about 1850 emigrated to America, following this occupation for one year in New York city. He then moved to Poughkeepsie, in the same state, where his marriage occurred, after which he and his wife came west, settling in Galena, Illinois. The father followed his trade in that community until he came to Iowa in 1854, settling on what was known as the old Rice homestead, where the subject of this review was born. The parents continued to reside there for one year and then moved to another farm in Linton township, this property comprising a portion of William Heffernan's present holdings. The father spent the remainder of his life upon this property, engaging in farming, and died here December 28, 1903. He had survived his wife since December 21, 1899. Seven children were born to their union, of whom the subject of this review is the fourth in order of birth.

William Heffernan acquired his education in the Egan school in district No. 1, Linton township, and when not engaged with his books assisted his father with the operation of the homestead, becoming thus familiar with the best and most practical agricultural methods. When he was twenty-two years of age he left home and went to Nebraska, where he took up a homestead claim in Custer county which he held for fourteen years. He did not, however, reside continuously upon this property, going back and forth for one year and in 1879 walked from Broken Bow, Custer county, Nebraska, to Cherry Mound, Allamakee county, Iowa, leading a span of colts, the trip consuming three weeks. During the remainder of his time he lived on the homestead in Linton township, Iowa, caring for his parents in their declining years. Eventually he disposed of his property in Nebraska and bought the old Corcoran homestead in Allamakee county, a property adjoining his father's farm. He operated this and the family homestead until after the death of his parents, when he became proprietor of the entire tract. He has since disposed of some of the land, owing to his impaired health, and owns today one hundred and fifty-one acres which are ably managed and which he has made one of the valuable and attractive farms in this locality. Mr. Heffernan engages in general farming and has extensive stock-raising and dairy interests, all of the branches of his enterprise being carefully conducted and therefore profitable.

On the 12th of January, 1909, Mr. Heffernan was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Kelly, who was born in Linton township, February 15, 1857, a daughter of John and Bridget (Birmingham) Kelly, the former a native of County Galway and the latter of County Fermanagh, Ireland. Mrs. Heffernan's mother is a descendant of one of the noted families of Ireland. The Birmingham's were of Norman origin and came to Ireland at the time of the English invasion. The grandfather was a nobleman but lost his property on account of religious persecution at that time when Ireland was steeped in internal troubles. John and Bridget Kelly crossed the Atlantic at about the same time that Mr. Heffernan's parents made the journey and they settled in Ohio, where for a number of years the father worked in a hotel. After coming to Linton township, this county, he purchased land and turned his attention to farming, following this occupation until his retirement. He and his wife now reside in Linton township. Both are highly respected in Allamakee county and all of their living children, four sons and three daughters, are well-to-do. In their family were nine children, of whom two, however, died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly are widely known for their generosity, hospitality and kindness which qualities they practice in their old age as they have done during their entire life. Mr. and Mrs. Heffernan have an adopted child which they secured from a Catholic orphan's home in Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Heffernan are members of the Cherry Mound Roman Catholic church, and he gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, having served in a capable and efficient way as road supervisor. He is a stockholder in the Waterville Creamery Company and in the Farmers Telephone Company of Paint Creek township and is a business man of known reliability and worth. Throughout the township where his entire life has been spent he is well and favorably regarded and holds the unqualified confidence and esteem of the entire community.

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#### P. J. QUANDAHL.

P. J. Quandahl, an honored and respected citizen of Waterloo township, was born in Norway, March 25, 1851, and is a son of Jacob N. Quandahl, also a native of that country, who came to America with his wife and family in 1854 and settled first in Winneshiek county. From there he moved three years later to Waterloo township, Allamakee county, and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, a property which he afterward sold, buying another farm on section 30. Here he operated a grist mill and a mercantile store in partnership with his two sons, the subject of this review and his brother Nels. They were very successful in the conduct of this enterprise and the father became one of the prosperous and prominent business men of this vicinity. He died in Waterloo township at the age of sixty-eight, having survived his wife only a short time. Three children were born to their union, of whom only one, the subject of this review, now survives.

P. J. Quandahl was reared in his parents' home, having come with them to America when he was three years of age. When he had attained his majority he joined his father and his brother Nelse in the conduct of a grist mill and a general store and also in the operation of one hundred and eighty acres of land

in Waterloo township. Their association continued for seventeen years, at the end of which time the property was divided between the two sons. P. J. Quandahl now owns one hundred and sixty acres of improved land and gives a great deal of his time to its cultivation, although he also follows his trade as a millwright. He has recently turned over eighty acres of his land, and his mill, to his two oldest sons. He has at all times conducted his business interests in a careful and capable manner and has gained recognition as one of the resourceful and far-sighted business men of this locality.

In 1873 Mr. Quandahl was united in marriage to Miss Betsy Severson, a native of Norway, and they became the parents of nine children. Jacob and Knut are in partnership with their father, operating the mill and part of the homestead. Both are married and Jacob has two children, Evelyn P. and Truman J. The other children born to Mr. and Mrs. Quandahl are as follows: Helen, who married Alfred Opheim, of Montana; Sarah, the wife of Michael Bakkum, of Spring Row, Minnesota; Clara, the wife of George Burnett; Martha, who married S. Johnson, of McKenzie county, North Dakota; Bertha P., who resides at home; Elmer, of Montana; and Olaf S., also at home. The family are members of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Quandahl is a republican in his political beliefs and is interested in community growth and advancement. He has served in an able and efficient manner as trustee of Waterloo township and never neglects the duties of citizenship. He has now made his home in Allamakee county for fifty-six years and his life record, ever honorable and upright, has gained for him the warm esteem and unqualified confidence of those with whom business or social relations have brought him in contact.

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#### WILLIAM ALEXANDER NICHOLSON.

Proof of the success to be gained in the cultivation of land in Allamakee county is found in the fact that so many of her native sons remain within her borders and choose this vocation as a life work. This is true of William Alexander Nicholson, who was born in Fairview township, November 23, 1868, a son of William and Mary (Galagher) Nicholson, both of whom were natives of Ireland, the former born in County Galway, and the latter in West Meath. In early life the father learned the tanner's trade, and coming to America when a young man, worked in a tannery in Amsterdam, New York, where he remained for a few years. Eventually, in connection with his father-in-law, he purchased a tannery near that city and operated the same until 1862. His plant was destroyed by fire, and he subsequently came to Iowa, being for one year employed in McGregor. He then purchased land in Fairview township and made his home thereon until the time of his death, which occurred February 6, 1894. The mother died September 26, 1909.

William Alexander Nicholson was reared on the home farm, assisting his father in the work of plowing, planting and harvesting during the spring and summer seasons, and in the winter months he pursued his education in the district schools. He remained under the parental roof until he had reached the age of



twenty-eight years, when he purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which at that time was unimproved. As the years have passed he has not only increased the fertility of the soil, but has erected a modern home and outbuildings, and now has one of the valuable farms of this section of Allamakee county. He is engaged in general farming, following the most progressive methods in his work, and in connection with this he also engages in handling wood, shipping five thousand cords annually, supplying the excelsior companies of Guttenberg, Dubuque and Mason City, and he also ships to points in the Dakotas. He has engaged to some extent in the real-estate business, one year negotiating deals for local land amounting to eighty-five thousand dollars. He is a capable and wide-awake business man and has met with success in his various undertakings.

Mr. Nicholson was married August 26, 1902, to Miss Katie Kelly, who was born in Linton township, October 8, 1875, a daughter of John F. and Bridget Kelly. This union has been blessed with five children: Hazel Marie, who was born June 28, 1903; John William, born January 26, 1905; Thomas Edward, born February 2, 1907; Mary M., born May 22, 1909; and Bridget E., whose birth occurred on the 5th of August, 1911.

Mr. Nicholson is a democrat in his political belief and at one time served as constable, but has never aspired to political office. He is a member of the Roman Catholic church of Cherry Mound, and his fraternal relations connect him with the Modern Brotherhood of America. His life has been one of continuous activity and the success which has come to him is well deserved, for he has ever followed the strictest business methods in all his dealings with his fellowmen, and today he is numbered among the well-to-do and highly respected citizens of Allamakee county.

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### JAMES EGAN, JR.

James Egan, Jr., an active and progressive farmer, who in association with his two brothers owns and operates three hundred and twenty acres of choice land in Linton township, was born upon this property, February 9, 1860, and is a son of James and Catherine (O'Brien) Egan, natives of Ireland, the former born in County Galway in 1828 and the latter in County Cork in 1838. The father followed the shoemaking trade and continued at this occupation during practically all of his active life. He crossed the Atlantic in 1843 and for a time worked at his trade in Boston, Massachusetts, whence he moved to Galena, Illinois, and then to Iowa, arriving in this state about the year 1850. Although he bought land in Allamakee county he had it operated by others and he himself continued to follow his trade, in which he is still active to some extent. He resides upon the farm which he acquired in pioneer times and is well known and favorably regarded in this section of the state. For some time he was active in local politics and held the office of township trustee for several terms. He and his wife became the parents of ten children, six of whom are living: James, the subject of this review; Margaret, the wife of Daniel Maloney, of Esmond, North Dakota; Catherine, who married Michael Johnston, of Linton township;

Jane, who married James Brennan, of Dorchester; and Frank and Timothy, who are operating the home farm in association with the subject of this review.

James Egan was reared upon his father's farm in this township and early became familiar with the details of farm operation. For five years he worked in the employ of others and in 1889 went to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, where he secured a position with a grain dealer. He worked also in a wholesale flour and feed store, where he was employed for five years, after which he returned to the homestead. He and his brothers now control this property which comprises three hundred and twenty acres of fine land and upon which they engage in general farming and stock-raising, their well directed efforts being rewarded with a gratifying measure of success.

Mr. Egan is a member of the Cherry Mound Roman Catholic church and is a democrat in his political beliefs, taking an active interest in community affairs and cooperating heartily in measures to advance the permanent interests of the township. For the past ten years he has been serving as assessor and he still holds this position, discharging his duties in a capable, far-sighted and progressive way. He is a man of many sterling traits of character, able in business, progressive in citizenship and at all times true to high and noble standards, so that he has won the confidence and esteem of all who are associated with him.

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#### JAMES CONLEY.

James Conley owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of land in Fairview township, which constitutes one of the best equipped and most valuable properties in Allamakee county. Mr. Conley was born near Joliet, Illinois, August 25, 1864, and is the fourth in order of birth in a family of nine children, born of the marriage of John and Bridget (McCunnon) Conley, both of whom were natives of County Monaghan, Ireland. The father emigrated to the new world about 1850 or 1851, and for a time worked in the mills of Massachusetts. He later continued his journey westward, locating in Illinois, while in 1865 he came to Allamakee county, renting a farm in Fairview township. He prospered in his work and in 1871 found himself in possession of a sum sufficient to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of land in Fairview township. He spent the remainder of his life on this farm and became one of the substantial men of this section of the county. He passed away here on the 28th of July, 1911, having survived his wife for many years, her death having occurred in March, 1888. Of their nine children, two survive: James, of this review; and Anna, the wife of C. A. Spinner, who is engaged in the mercantile business at Waterville, Allamakee county.

James Conley was reared on the farm which is still his home and he attended the district schools of Fairview township. He worked for his father, giving him the benefit of his services until he had reached the age of twenty-four years, when he rented the homestead and worked independently until his father's demise, since which time he owns the place, having acquired the same by purchase. The farm consists of one hundred and sixty acres of fertile land, improved

with modern buildings, including a house and outbuildings, and here Mr. Conley is engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He follows the most modern and progressive methods in his work and his labors are bringing to him a substantial income.

Mr. Conley adheres to the democratic party in national issues but is somewhat independent in local politics. He has never held nor desired public office, preferring to devote all of his time to his private business interests. He is a communicant of the Roman Catholic church at Cherry Mound. Having spent his entire life in Allamakee county, he is deeply interested in its welfare and in every movement tending to promote its advancement along agricultural lines. He has a wide acquaintance here and is respected by all who know him.

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### GUSTAV C. FRANCK.

For many years Gustav C. Franck has been successfully engaged as a carriage and wagon maker, later taking up contracting and building and also engaging in the coal business, but since 1912 he has been connected with agricultural pursuits in Linton township, although he is still interested in his former line of business. He has turned to agriculture in order to give his sons the benefit of an outdoor life and healthful farm surroundings. Born at Carondelet, Missouri, August 4, 1860, Gustav C. Franck is a son of Martin and Mary (Arpe) Franck. The father was born in Bavaria, May 2, 1827, and the mother at Dobberan, grand duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, December 9, 1837. The father crossed to America in the spring of 1850, first locating in New York city, where he engaged as a cabinet-maker and carpenter. Later he went to Clinton, Iowa, and Dubuque, subsequently removing from there to St. Louis and thence to Springfield, Illinois. After remaining there for a time he went to Kankakee, that state, and lastly to Chicago, where ended his active career, passing away in 1909, being engaged in his business until a week before his death, despite his advanced age of eighty-two years. The mother passed away in 1903. They were the parents of five children, of whom our subject is the second in order of birth.

Gustav C. Franck attended school in Springfield and Kankakee, Illinois. At the age of seventeen, in 1877, he was apprenticed to a carriage and wagon maker for four years and then followed that trade for an equal period of time in Chicago. He then engaged in the coal business and was active in the promotion of the Chicago Coal Association, with which he was connected for about four years. At the end of that time he became connected with contracting and building and continued in that business until 1912, when he came to his present farm in order to afford his sons a better opportunity for leading an outdoor life and to realize some ideas and ideals which he had formed in the city. Although he is now largely interested in farming, he is still connected with his former business in partnership with his son, Walter C. Franck, their establishment being in Oak Park, Illinois.

On August 27, 1883, Mr. Franck married Miss Hulda Gueneman, who was born in Westphalia, Germany, March 17, 1863. Her mother died when she was but six years of age and she was reared by an uncle in the old country. Mrs.

Franck came to America in 1881 and until her marriage made her home in Chicago. By her marriage she became the mother of four children: Walter C., who was born June 21, 1884, and who is engaged in the contracting business at Oak Park, Illinois; Arthur L., who was born September 20, 1887, and who resides with his father; Hulda, who was born July 5, 1889, and who married J. L. Berger, a cutter in the employ of Hart, Schaffner & Marx of Chicago; and Elmer, who was born January 29, 1898, and who resides at home.

Mr. Franck is a member of the Evangelical Association and his family has also been reared in that faith. He gives his adherence to the republican party but has never cared for public office. Fraternally he is a member of the blue lodge of Masons of Oak Park. Mr. Franck is a progressive and aggressive business man and no doubt will be as successful along agricultural lines as he has been in commercial life. He has distinctive ideas of his own and intends to try out some of them which have occurred to him as practical. His advent among the farming fraternity of Linton township, Allamakee county, must be considered fortunate as no doubt he will take a leading part in promoting agricultural development in the section and in establishing new standards and in contributing to the prosperous conditions that prevail.

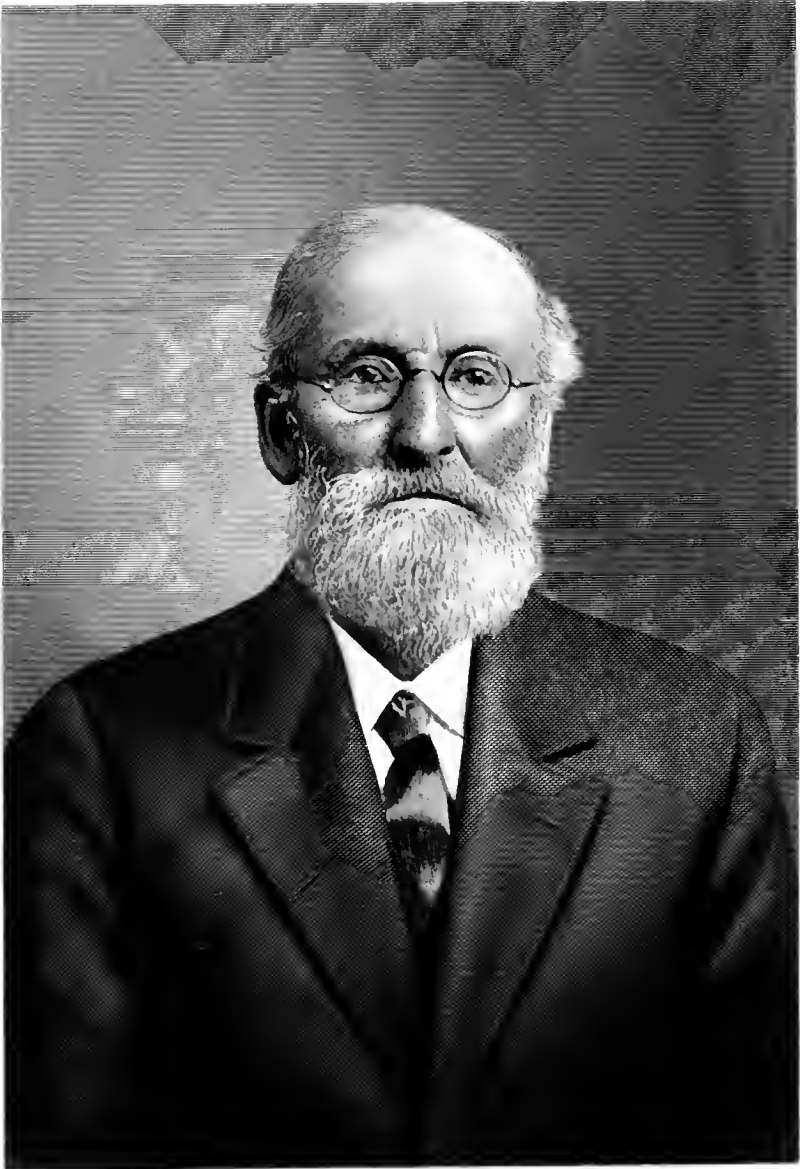
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#### OSCAR COLLINS.

Oscar Collins, who has long been actively and successfully identified with general agricultural pursuits in Allamakee county, is now living practically retired but still owns a valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres on sections 16 and 21, Franklin township, which is one of the most highly improved and most modern properties in the county. His birth occurred in Montgomery county, New York, on the 27th of October, 1836, his parents being Josiah and Elizabeth (Wright) Collins, the former a native of Montgomery county, New York, and the latter of Vermont. Josiah Collins followed farming throughout his active business career, and both he and his wife passed away in Montgomery county, New York. He was a member of the state militia. Our subject was the first born in a family of seven children, three of whom are still living and two of whom are residents of the Empire state.

In the acquirement of an education Oscar Collins attended the district schools of his native county. His father died when he was a lad of but ten years and for the next eight years he lived with an uncle. When a young man of eighteen he began working as a farm hand and was thus employed in New York until the spring of 1857, when he came to Iowa, here working by the month as a farm hand until 1861. He was married in the fall of that year and subsequently cultivated rented land in Monona township, Clayton county, until the winter of 1864. At that time he enlisted for service in the Union army as a member of Company L, Seventh Iowa Cavalry, serving as a private until June, 1866, when he was mustered out at Sioux City. He did hospital service and was fortunate in that he was never wounded. Returning to Monona, Iowa, he rented land and there made his home until 1870, when he took up his abode

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*Oscar Tollin*



*Margaret Ballin*

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on an eighty-acre farm in Franklin township which he had purchased in 1868. He erected a small house on the place and continued to reside thereon for ten years. On the expiration of that period he disposed of the property and bought the farm on which he now resides and which he had previously rented for two years. His original purchase comprised one hundred and sixty acres but he has since extended the boundaries of his place until it now embraces two hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land and constitutes one of the best equipped properties in Allamakee county. His buildings are all of modern type of the best construction. Mr. Collins makes a specialty of dairying, keeping about fifty head of high-grade Guernsey cattle and other stock in proportion. He still devotes his attention to the management of the farm but is now practically living retired, leaving the active work of the fields to others. His residence is commodious and modern in every particular and, as above stated, his farm buildings are of the latest and most up-to-date construction. The dimensions of his cow barn are eighty-six by thirty-four feet and the building contains sixty-three windows and is fitted with adjustable stanchions, adjustable mangers and feed boxes. There are also ventilators to carry away foul air, and fresh air tubes extend to the center of the structure. The ceiling is of the hip-roof, self-supporting style and there are no posts or pillars to interfere with the feed space. The building has a capacity of one hundred tons of hay and there is also space for a car load of ground feed or bran. It is fitted with forty-one stanchions and two large box stalls at the north end. The barns have cement flooring and light is furnished by an acetylene plant.

Mr. Collins has been twice married. On the 14th of November, 1861, he wedded Miss Orpha Melissa Cummings, who was born in Monona township in 1840 and was said to be the first white child born in Clayton county. Her parents were natives of Illinois and her mother a Miss Hannah Rowe before her marriage. Her father became one of the earliest settlers of Clayton county, this state, and there both her parents died. Mrs. Orpha M. Collins passed away in January, 1873, leaving four children, namely: Joseph L., born August 13, 1862, who married Miss Sarah Ferguson and is a hotel proprietor and ex-railroad contractor of Forest Grove, Montana; Emice, born in January, 1867, who is the wife of Charles Thornton, an agriculturist of Franklin township; Retta, who was born on the 19th of December, 1868, and is the wife of Frank Bloxham, an extensive agriculturist of Franklin township; and Page Wright, born on the 1st of January, 1871, who wedded Miss Charlotta May Adams, and is a farmer residing at What Cheer, Keokuk county. On the 2d of April, 1874, Oscar Collins was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Margaret (Dickson) Osborn, who was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on the 18th of March, 1833. Her parents, William and Margaret (Carmichael) Dickson, were both natives of that country. In early manhood the father worked as a weaver. It was in 1850 that he and his wife emigrated to the United States, residing in New York city until 1857. Coming to Iowa in that year Mr. Dickson purchased a tract of land and made his home thereon until he passed away, his demise occurring during the period of the Civil war. His wife was called to her final rest about 1885. Mrs. Collins was the third in order of birth in their family of seven children, four of whom are still living. Unto Oscar and Margaret (Dickson) Osborn Collins was born one son, Lyman Robert, whose birth

occurred on the 4th of November, 1876, and who assists his father in the operation of the home farm.

In his political views Mr. Collins is a staunch republican. He has ably served in the capacity of trustee and acted as school director for a period of fifteen years. The period of his residence in this part of the state covers fifty-six years and he is therefore well acquainted with its history and people. Mr. Collins always has been a pioneer in installing the latest improvements. He built the first modern house, the first successfully operated silo and was the first man in the county to have a milking machine which would milk four cows at the same time. His importance as leader in agricultural developments is well established by these signs of progressiveness. He has now passed the seventy-sixth milestone on life's journey and can look back upon an active, useful and honorable career.

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#### WARNER McCLARY HARRIS.

A well cultivated and highly improved farm of one hundred and sixty-seven acres near Postville gives evidence of the successful pursuits of Warner McClary Harris as an agriculturist in Allamakee county. He is a native of Post township, having been born August 3, 1874, and is a son of George W. and Ella (Laughlin) Harris, the former a farmer of the Postville district, of whom more extended mention is made in another portion of this work.

Warner M. Harris, in the acquirement of his education, attended school in Post township and also the Postville high school. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage, although he had rented land and engaged in farming five years before that event. When he married he bought the farm upon which he now resides, locating thereon the next day. His property comprises one hundred and sixty-seven fertile acres which he has improved with modern buildings and brought to a high state of productivity. He engages in general farming and also has extensive stock-raising interests. Mr. Harris is also a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Store and in the Canning Factory at Postville.

On February 23, 1898, Mr. Harris married Miss Rachel Folsom, who was born just across the border in Winneshiek county, September 4, 1879, and is a daughter of Thomas and Eliza (Ewing) Folsom, both parents being natives of Indiana. The father during his active life followed farming and at an early date settled in Allamakee county, where he operated the Myren mill and also cultivated rented land for some time. Later he removed across the county line to Winneshiek county, but again returned to Allamakee county, acquiring title to a farm in Post township, where he still resides. This property is one mile southwest of the Harris farm and there he is still actively engaged in its operation. The wife of our subject is the second in order of birth in a family of ten children. Mr. and Mrs. Harris are the parents of three children: Lloyd, born May 6, 1900; Robert Ray, born July 18, 1905; and Roger, born April 20, 1909.

Mr. Harris holds membership in the United Brethren church, and in his political views is independent, although he inclines toward the republican party.

Fraternally he is a member of the Woodmen lodge of Postville. One of the younger generation of successful farmers, he has done much toward promoting the agricultural growth of Allamakee county and is considered a serviceable factor in his locality, where he has gained many friends whose good-will and confidence he enjoys.

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### EDWARD TISDALE.

The pioneer history of Allamakee county contains the record of no more honorable, upright and capable man than Edward Tisdale, who died upon his farm in Lafayette township in 1906, after fifty-four years of continuous and active identification with agricultural interests of this locality. He was numbered among the real builders and promoters of the county, a man who faced the hardships and trials of pioneer existence and who developed out of a wild tract a productive and profitable farm. His death, therefore, deprived his township of one of its most valued and representative citizens.

Mr. Tisdale was born in Canada, October 8, 1826, and was a son of James and Sophronia (Brown) Tisdale, the former born in England March 8, 1795, and the latter in Seneca county, New York, January 10, 1797. They married on the 21st of April, 1824, and settled in Canada, where they resided for a number of years.

Edward Tisdale was reared at home and acquired his education in public schools in Canada. At the age of twenty-six he left the Dominion and came to the United States, settling in Allamakee county in 1852. At that time pioneer conditions prevailed everywhere, much of the land being still in possession of the government and almost all uncultivated and unimproved. Mr. Tisdale purchased two hundred and forty acres of wild land on section 31, Lafayette township, and he continued to reside upon this property for a number of years, becoming a prosperous and successful agriculturist. Later he disposed of forty acres of his homestead, retaining two hundred, upon which he carried on general farming and stock-raising until his death, which occurred February 24, 1906. The years brought him success, prominence and substantial fortune and his prosperity was well earned, coming as the result of far-sighted, able and well directed labor.

In Allamakee county, in 1857, Mr. Tisdale was united in marriage to Miss Harriet Ann Phipps, a native of Canada and a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Francis) Phipps, of whom more extended mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Tisdale became the parents of eleven children: Rhoda M., the wife of Max Tiden, of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin; Warren I. and Ella Louisa, who have passed away; Ida E., the wife of Ed Valentine, of Canada; Louisa C., who married W. F. Barber, of Canada; John E., also a resident of the Dominion; Nellie May, who has passed away; William, who lives at home; Alvah and Norman James, both deceased; and Nellie, who lives at home.

Mr. Tisdale gave his political allegiance to the democratic party and was widely and prominently known in public affairs, giving his aid and active cooperation to anything which he deemed essential to the development and growth of the county. In matters of citizenship he was at all times progressive and public-

spirited, and during the course of a residence in Lafayette township, covering over half a century, made many substantial and tangible contributions to its growth and advancement. His widow and two of his children, William and Nellie, occupy the old homestead and his son carries on the work of its development. They are well known and favorably regarded in Lafayette township, where their name has been known and honored since pioneer times.

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#### WILHELM AUGUST GOTTFRIED HERTRAMPF.

Farming, stock-raising and dairy interests of Linton township find a progressive and worthy representative in Wilhelm August Gottfried Hertrampf, who owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of fine land. He was born in the grand duchy of Oldenburg, Germany, September 16, 1865, and is a son of Gottfried and Margaret (Koester) Hertrampf, both natives of the fatherland, the former born in Silesia in 1825 and the latter in East Friesland, August 8, 1845. The father engaged in general contracting and built a great number of railroad canals in Germany, dying there in 1879. His widow afterward married again, her husband being Franz Hafke, with whom she came to America in 1888. They settled in Farmersburg, Clayton county, Iowa, where both passed away, Mr. Hafke dying in 1893 and his wife in 1903.

Wilhelm A. G. Hertrampf was reared in Germany and when still a child, at the age of thirteen, learned the trade of a woodturner and cabinet-maker, and after following these for some time learned the machinist's trade. He secured employment in a powder factory and there remained until 1888, when he crossed the Atlantic to America, settling with his mother and stepfather in Farmersburg, Clayton county, Iowa. For one year thereafter he worked as a farm hand and then went to Boston, Massachusetts, where he secured a position with the Harvard Company, piano manufacturers. He remained with this concern for eighteen months and then returned to Farmersburg, where for one summer he worked at the carpenter's trade. He then learned the brick and stonemason's trade, following it for four years, after which he invented a grubbing machine, which, however, he did not have patented on account of the expense attached to this operation. For four years he went to various parts of this and neighboring counties, grubbing up stumps for his neighbors, and at the end of that time he bought a forty-acre farm in Monona township, Clayton county, which he improved and developed for eleven years, selling it in order to purchase his present property. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land and upon it carries on general farming and stock-raising and also operates a large modern dairy, selling its products to the Monona Creamery Company, in which he is a stockholder. His interests are all carefully and conservatively conducted and have been attended by a gratifying measure of success, Mr. Hertrampf standing today among the representative farmers and progressive business men of this locality.

On the 15th of October, 1889, Mr. Hertrampf was united in marriage to Miss Magdalena Bencke, who was born in Germany, April 7, 1867, a daughter of Hans H. and Sophia G. Bencke, also natives of that country, where both passed

away. Mr. and Mrs. Hertrampf have become the parents of seven children. The eldest, Frank, was born September 6, 1890, and married Miss Anna Mielke, a daughter of Frank Mielke, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. The other children in this family are as follows: Edward, who was born June 9, 1893; Anton, born October 5, 1896; William, born April 14, 1899; Freda, born October 11, 1901; Minnie, born December 12, 1903; and Georgia, who was born November 26, 1906.

Mr. Hertrampf gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and is a member of the Lutheran church. A man of exemplary character and unusual ability, he has become well known throughout this township, commanding and holding the respect and high regard of all who come in contact with him.

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### EDWARD JAMES NICHOLSON.

Edward James Nicholson is a worthy representative of one of the pioneer families of Allamakee county. He devotes his entire time and attention to the operation of a tract of one hundred and twenty acres, located in Fairview township, and each year is adding to his financial resources. The farm on which he now resides was also the place of his birth, his natal day being June 13, 1879. His parents, William and Mary (Galagher) Nicholson, were both natives of the Emerald isle, the former born in County Galway and the latter in County West Meath. The father was a tanner, learning his trade in his native country. Following his emigration to the new world, he was employed in a tannery in Amsterdam, New York, for a time, and later in connection with his father-in-law, he owned and conducted a tannery near that city. The plant eventually was destroyed by fire and Mr. Nicholson subsequently removed to Allamakee county and engaged in farming, continuing in this occupation until the time of his demise, which occurred February 6, 1894, when he had reached the age of sixty-two years. The mother, who was born in 1835, departed this life on the 26th of September, 1909, having reached the advanced age of seventy-four years.

Edward James Nicholson was reared on the home farm and was trained to farm labor under his father's able direction. When not busy in this work he attended the district schools and therein fitted himself for a practical business life. At the age of eighteen years, his father having died in the meantime, he assumed the management of the homestead, remaining with his mother until her death. He is now the owner of the farm, comprising one hundred and twenty acres of well improved land, which annually yields good harvests in return for his labors. On the place are also found substantial farm buildings and a modern house. Mr. Nicholson is engaged in general farming and stock-raising and is meeting with success.

Mr. Nicholson established a home of his own on the 9th of October, 1911, by his marriage to Miss Catherine Finnegan, who is likewise a native of Fairview township, born January 13, 1891. She is the third in order of birth in a family of four children, born unto Patrick and Anna (O'Brien) Finnegan, the former born in Canada, November 15, 1855, while the mother's birth occurred

in Taylor township, Allamakee county, September 1, 1860. The father came to the states with his parents when a lad of six years. He is now the owner of a valuable farm in Fairview township and is actively engaged in its operation.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson have a son, Cleophus Anthony, who was born on the 2d of October, 1912. Mr. Nicholson gives his political support to the democratic party but he has never aspired to public office. He is a communicant of the Roman Catholic church at Cherry Mound. He is a wide-awake, energetic young man, and while he has already met with success, the future no doubt holds in store for him still greater prosperity.

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#### G. N. NORDGAARD.

G. N. Nordgaard, a well-to-do and prosperous agriculturist of Waterloo township, was born in Norway in 1853, a son of Nels O. and Eline Nordgaard. The parents were married in Norway and in 1861 emigrated to America, settling in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where the father purchased land. He added to his holdings from time to time and finally accumulated two hundred and twenty acres of land, upon which he carried on general farming and stock-raising until his death. He passed away in 1912, at the advanced age of ninety-two, and is survived by his wife, who still resides upon the homestead. In their family were eleven children: Ole, of Decorah, Iowa; G. N., the subject of this review; Christian, deceased; Maria, at home; Olava, the wife of Andrew Peterson, of Canada; Margaret, the widow of K. Brunsdale, of North Dakota; John, a resident of South Dakota; Rev. Nels, of Minnesota; Lena and Martin, both at home; and one, who died in infancy.

G. N. Nordgaard acquired his education in the public schools of Winneshiek county and graduated from a business college in Decorah, having been only eight years of age when his parents settled in Iowa. He was reared at home and from his childhood assisted with the work of the farm, becoming in this way familiar with the best agricultural methods and with everything connected with farm operation. At twenty-nine he purchased the property which he now owns and he has devoted practically all of his attention to its development and cultivation since that time. He has one hundred and twenty acres, which lie in Waterloo township with the exception of eighty acres in Winneshiek county. His land is highly improved, being provided not only with an excellent residence but barns, outbuildings and modern machinery, and the attention which he has given to it has made it one of the most desirable properties in this locality. Mr. Nordgaard is president of the Arctic Spring Creamery at Quandahl, Allamakee county, and is a far-sighted and discriminating business man, his ability being widely recognized in commercial circles.

In 1879 Mr. Nordgaard was united in marriage to Miss Berit Haugen, a native of Norway, who came to America with her parents in 1855 and settled in Winneshiek county, where her father and mother passed away. She was one of five children born to their union, two of whom survive. Mrs. Nordgaard died in 1906, leaving ten children: Nels, who is married and is engaged in farming in North Dakota; Germond, of North Dakota, who is married and is

engaged in farming and carpentering; Martin, who follows agricultural pursuits in the same state; Albert, who is married and resides upon his farm in North Dakota; Maria, taking a course as trained nurse at Northwood, North Dakota; Katherine, at home; John and Edwin, at home; Emma, who is taking the teachers' course at Decorah; and Nora, at home.

Mr. Nordgaard gives his political allegiance to the republican party, to which he has always been loyal, and he served his township efficiently as assessor for ten years. He is well known throughout Allamakee county and his progressive and enterprising spirit has gained him the respect and esteem of the entire community.

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### NICHOLAS KASCHEL.

Nicholas Kascel, who owns a valuable farm of two hundred and eight acres in Franklin township, adjoining Linton township, in Allamakee county, is a native of this state, where he was born on the Iowa river, near Lansing, in this county, August 29, 1876. He is a son of Nicholas and Charity (Jenkins) Kascel, the former of whom was born in Germany in 1840 and the latter in Pennsylvania, near the Virginia line, on January 15, 1843. When a very young man the father crossed the ocean to America and upon reaching these shores made his way to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where for a time he engaged in the butcher business. Later he made his way over the river, locating on the Iowa side near Lansing, and there acquired title to land whereon he resided until his death, which occurred about 1893. His farm was situated about four miles southwest of Lansing. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Kascel, Sr., were the parents of five children, of whom our subject is the youngest.

Nicholas Kascel attended the country schools near Lansing and continued his education for a time in the schools of that city. He remained with his mother until his marriage, when he bought the home farm which previously he had cultivated for a number of years as a renter. His mother then moved to Monona, where she was married to Frank Smith, of Lansing. They now make Monona their home. Mr. Kascel remained on the homestead, which originally comprised eighty acres, and has since added thereto from time to time, his present holdings amounting to two hundred and eight acres of fertile land, all of which is located in Franklin township, adjoining Linton. He engages in general farming, giving close attention to stock-raising, and by incessant labor and modern methods succeeds in obtaining a gratifying income from his enterprise. The farm is modernly equipped in every respect and his residence and buildings are up-to-date and substantial. Such success as has come to him is largely the result of his indefatigable energy and industry and highly merited. Mr. Kascel is also a stockholder in the Monona Creamery Company and the Farmers Shipping Association.

On the 6th of February, 1902, Mr. Kascel married Miss Augusta Butler, a native of Linton township, Allamakee county, where she was born September 18, 1880, a daughter of William and Minnie (Myers) Butler, both natives of Germany. The father always followed agricultural pursuits and was an early

settler in Linton township, where he resided until about 1885, when he removed to McGregor. There he met death by drowning, his boat being upset in passing a pontoon bridge. The mother subsequently married Jacob Sherbonda and they now reside in Linton township. Mrs. Kascel is the second in a family of six children. She and her husband have three children: Lizette Marie, born October 26, 1902; Glenn Lee, whose birth occurred on the 14th of January, 1904; and Lawrence William, born April 21, 1909. Mr. Kascel gives a general allegiance to the republican party but in local issues votes independently as his judgment dictates. Mrs. Kascel was reared in the Lutheran faith but neither she nor her husband belong to any particular church. Both are widely and favorably known in the district and enjoy in a large degree the esteem and confidence of the general public.

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#### HARVEY CLARK.

A native of Allamakee county, Harvey Clark devotes his attention to the cultivation of a valuable farm of one hundred and twenty-seven acres located near Postville. He has been successful in his pursuits, as he has always employed thorough and up-to-date methods and has industriously and energetically worked on the improvement of his property. He was born in Franklin township, October 30, 1861, and is a son of Belfield Carter and Mary (Powell) Clark, the father being generally known as Carter Clark. He was born in Nashville, Tennessee, June 11, 1832, and in the fall of 1849 became one of the pioneers of Iowa, first locating in Franklin township, this county. He was married in Allamakee county to Miss Mary Powell, who was born in Elkhart county, Indiana, November 28, 1832. Upon coming to Franklin township the father entered government land and began clearing and cultivating his property amidst the wilderness, the Indians only having been removed from here the year previously. He resided upon his first farm until 1887 and then sold out and removed to Adams county, Wisconsin, where he bought a large tract of land, to the development of which he gave his time and attention until his death in January, 1888. The mother resided upon that property until the 1st of May of the same year and then returned to Allamakee county, taking up her residence at Hardin in Franklin township. There she lived until 1905, when she removed to Waukon, where she now makes her home with her daughter Mrs. C. H. Stillwell. The father was not only recognized as one of the foremost agriculturists of Franklin township but also held various township offices, ever discharging his duties with faithfulness and greatly to the satisfaction of his constituents. The mother and her daughter Mrs. Stillwell were among the first teachers in this section, holding the first classes in Hardin. Mrs. Clark also taught one of the first schools in Post township, at which time she made her home with Judge Topliff, the first judge of Allamakee county. Mr. and Mrs. Clark became the parents of six children. Cordelia resides at Waukon. William makes his home at Marion, North Carolina, and is successful as a fruit grower, specializing in peaches, with which he supplies the wholesale markets. George, resident of Forest Mills, this county, is a contractor and builder, making a specialty of bridges and road work, but is





HARVEY CLARK AND FAMILY



also a prominent agriculturist, being an extensive landowner and breeder of Holstein cattle. He also operates grist and saw mills and is one of the most substantial citizens of his locality. The fourth in order of birth is Harvey, our subject. Linda is the wife of A. D. Farnham and they make their home near Milwaukee, Mr. Farnham being a creamery expert and butter maker. Mary, the youngest of the family, married C. H. Stillwell and they reside at Waukon. Mr. Stillwell is engaged in general contracting, house wrecking and similar pursuits.

Harvey Clark was reared under the parental roof and early grounded in the old fashioned virtues of industry and honesty. Naturally his educational opportunities were limited in that primitive period of pioneer life and what education he received was obtained at the little red schoolhouse in Franklin township. He remained at home until about twenty years of age, when he began his independent career by renting a farm in Franklin township, which he cultivated for seven years with such good success that at the end of that period he was enabled to acquire by purchase forty-seven acres, which he still owns. As his means increased he subsequently added to his holdings another eighty acres and now operates one hundred and twenty-seven acres devoted to general farming. His land is highly improved, and modern, well equipped buildings testify to the thorough methods which he employs and the prosperity which attends his labors as their result. He is considered one of the most up-to-date farmers in his vicinity and, while he has attained personal prosperity, has also been a factor in promoting the agricultural interests of the county. Mr. Clark is also a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Store at Postville.

On May 31, 1881, Harvey Clark was united in marriage to Miss Martha A. Jones, who was born near Waukon, this county, January 25, 1859, and is a daughter of Charles and Marinda (Lane) Jones, the father a native of England. The mother's native state was New York, being born in Poughkeepsie, on the Hudson river. During all his active life Mr. Jones was a farmer. Having crossed the ocean early in life, he made his first residence in New York, where he remained for about two years and in 1851 came to Iowa, locating near Round Prairie in Makee township, this county. There he entered government land and continued in its cultivation until about 1871, when he rented out the homestead and bought another farm near Forest Mills, upon which he remained until his death, which occurred about 1898. The mother of Mrs. Clark survives him and now makes her home with her sons upon a farm northeast of Forest Mills, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Jones were the parents of ten children, of whom Mrs. Clark is the third in order of birth.

To Mr. and Mrs. Clark two children have been born. Virgil LaValle, whose birth occurred January 1, 1885, married Helen Sharp, who at the time of her marriage resided in Portland, Oregon. She had, however, previously been a resident of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Virgil L. Clark now make their home in Portland, where he is prominent as one of the younger and successful members of the legal fraternity. They have one child, George H., born October 26, 1911. Mr. Clark gained a high reputation in Portland by securing the first verdict against the Portland Electric Power & Railroad Company ever rendered against that corporation since its organization. The suit was for personal injuries and he secured judgment against the company for the sum of five thousand dollars for

his client, the case being that of a young boy whose father had been killed by the road, the guardian bringing suit against the company. Virgil Clark is also prominent in Masonic circles and very enthusiastic in the work of the order, being a thirty-second degree Mason. The other child born to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Clark is Libbie M., whose natal day was September 25, 1890. She is the wife of Don E. Lamborn, a prosperous farmer of Franklin township.

Mr. Clark has ever taken a laudable interest in matters of political importance and for several terms served as township trustee, only discontinuing his services at his own initiative, refusing on account of other pressing duties to continue in the office. He is deeply interested in the cause of education and for over twenty years has efficiently served as secretary of the school board. His political adherence is given to the republican party, the principles of which he considers best adapted to good government and of greatest benefit to the majority. For some years Mr. Clark was a member of the Mutual Brotherhood of America but recently withdrew from that organization. He is highly respected and esteemed in his neighborhood for what he has accomplished, his success being especially creditable as it has come to him through his own efforts. While careful of his own interests, he is ever considerate of those of others and always weighs his actions in regard to what influence they will have upon the general welfare. He has therefore become a valuable factor in progress and advancement and his life work has not only been of benefit to him but of value to his state and county.

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#### GUSTAV FREDRICK RESSEL.

Among the worthy representatives of farming interests that Germany has furnished to Allamakee county, is numbered Gustav Fredrick Ressel, who owns and operates a well improved farm of eighty acres, located in Fairview township. He was born in Silesia, Germany, January 24, 1863, a son of August and Eleanor (Pool) Ressel, who were likewise natives of Silesia. The father owned a small tract of land and engaged in farming in his native country, and he also was employed by others at various times. The parents spent their entire lives in Germany and both are now deceased.

Gustav Fredrick Ressel acquired his education in the schools of his native land, attending until he had reached the age of fourteen, when he began learning the carpenter's trade. Believing that he might enjoy better business opportunities in the new world, he accordingly set sail for America in 1883. He spent about eighteen months in Chicago, working at his trade, and also worked at his trade in McGregor for about six months after coming to Iowa. He then purchased his present farm, comprising eighty acres in Fairview township and from that time to the present he has given his attention to its further development. He is engaged in general farming and follows the most progressive ideas in his work, so that he is meeting with success. He also raises stock to some extent and this branch of his business adds not a little to his annual income.

Mr. Ressel established a home of his own by his marriage in November, 1893, to Miss Augusta Kegel, who was born in the province of Pomerania, Ger-

many, July 22, 1863, the marriage ceremony being celebrated in Chicago. Her parents have always lived in their native land. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Ressel has been blessed with two daughters, Catharine, who was born November 12, 1895, pursued a business course in the Dubuque Business College, and is now employed as a stenographer in that city. Mollie, born July 10, 1897, graduated from the same institution and is at home.

Mr. Ressel's study of the political questions and issues of the day has led him to give staunch support to the democratic party, and his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Lutheran church. He has never been active in political affairs and the only public office he has ever held has been that of school director. Possessing all the traits and characteristics of his German ancestry, he is withal loyal to American interests, for he has found here the opportunities he sought, and having availed himself of the advantages here to be found he is working his way upward to success.

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### JOHN MELCHER.

John Melcher owns a well equipped and highly profitable farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Linton township, Allamakee county. He was born in the same township on May 7, 1875, a son of Nicholas and Amelia (Stiert) Melcher, both natives of Germany. The father is now a resident of Clayton county. He was born in 1844 in the fatherland and soon after serving in the army came to America, settling in Linton township, where he became a well known farmer, residing here until 1883, when he sold out and moved to Clayton county, locating on a place just across the line. He still owns land in Franklin township, this county, but lives practically retired in Clayton county, his sons operating the farm for him. The mother was born May 17, 1854, and died May 16, 1912. In her family were five children, of whom our subject is the eldest.

In the acquirement of an education John Melcher attended school in this township. For a time he worked upon the home farm and also cultivated some land at Walnut Grove, just over the county line in Clayton county. He remained at home until twenty-one years of age and then worked for a time as a farm hand in Franklin township until he married, when he bought the farm upon which he now resides, comprising one hundred and sixty acres. He has greatly enhanced the value of his holdings by making valuable improvements and his property is well equipped. He engages in general farming and also gives considerable attention to the breeding of live stock. He is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery Company.

On December 21, 1904, Mr. Melcher was united in marriage to Miss Effie Leas, who was born in this township July 27, 1886. She is a daughter of George and Sarah (Thias) Leas, also natives of Linton township. The father has always followed farming and grew to manhood upon the homestead where he now resides. He has practically retired from active work, leaving the more arduous duties to his sons. He served as township trustee, as school director and in various other local offices. Mr. and Mrs. Melcher have become the par-

ents of four children: George Lester, who was born October 17, 1905; Wilma Merrill, born July 11, 1907; Glenn Arthur, born in August, 1909; and Amelia Sarah, born September 1, 1911.

Mr. Meleher served for one term as school director of his district, giving thereby evidence of his interest in the cause of education. He has otherwise, however, never aspired to political office, preferring to give his entire attention to his private interests. His views incline toward the republican party and he staunchly upholds its candidates. Fraternally he is a member of the Volney lodge of the Modern Woodmen. Mr. Melcher has attained to a prosperity which is remarkable for one of his years, and his achievements have come to him as a result of good judgment and honest labor. All who know him respect and esteem him for his success and for those qualities of his character which have made possible his prosperity.

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#### M. T. PHIPPS.

M. T. Phipps is the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, located on section 32, Lafayette township. He is a native of Canada, born December 31, 1856, the third in order of birth in a family of five children, whose parents were Thomas and Maria (Francis) Phipps, both natives of England. On leaving his native land, the father located first in Canada and in 1853 established his home on one hundred and sixty acres of wild land, which he purchased in Allamakee county—the farm on which our subject now resides. On this land the father erected a log house and began life in true pioneer style. He was permitted to enjoy his new home for but a brief period, however, passing away here soon after his arrival. The mother continued to make her home on the farm for many years but is now deceased, her death occurring at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Edward Tisdale, in 1908. The five children in the family are: Harriet, the wife of Edward Tisdale, a resident of Lafayette township; Elizabeth, who became the wife of Murray Bacon, but is now deceased; M. T., of this review; Mary, the wife of L. P. Stillman, of Emmetsburg, Iowa; and Theresa, the deceased wife of G. M. Gemmel.

M. T. Phipps was a little lad of seven years when he was brought from Canada to Allamakee county. He was trained to work on the home farm, assisting his mother subsequent to his father's demise. He eventually came into possession of the homestead, comprising one hundred and sixty acres in Lafayette township and through his own well directed labors has made it a valuable farm. He and his family occupy a comfortable home, while his barns and outbuildings are substantial and kept in good repair. In addition to general farming he is engaged in stock-raising, having recently purchased six full-blooded Percheron mares and expects to raise registered horses.

Mr. Phipps chose as a companion Miss Elizabeth Valentine, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Job and Lucy Valentine, both of whom are deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Phipps have been born ten children, as follows: Charles, who died when only two years old; Harry and William, who are now in Canada; Grace, the wife of Lewis Drake, a resident of Center township; Alice,

the wife of Percy Bailey, of St. Paul; Mildred, the wife of Joe Mortimer, also of St. Paul; May, the wife of Early Bailey, who likewise makes her home in St. Paul; Theresa, Irvin and Le Roy, all of whom are with their parents.

Mr. Phipps is a republican, giving staunch support to the candidates of the party in which he has firm faith. He is an industrious, honest man, fully meriting the high regard which is everywhere accorded him.

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#### MICHAEL MARTIN WALSH.

No farmer in Allamakee county has achieved greater success in agricultural pursuits than Michael Martin Walsh, whose attractive homestead is situated on the exact spot where the old Winnebago mission once stood and comprises four hundred acres of valuable land. Through his own industry and enterprise he has risen to prominence as a farmer, each step in his career being a step forward until today he ranks among the men whose individual success has been an important factor in general agricultural development. He is a native son of Allamakee county, born in Fairview township May 21, 1875, his parents being Mathias and Honorah (King) Walsh, natives of Ireland. The father came to New York city in 1845 and moved from there to Iowa, where he settled upon the farm upon which he is still residing, being now in the eightieth year of his age. He is honored as a veteran of the Civil war, having served for ninety days as a member of a New York regiment. His marriage occurred in that state on New Year's day, 1859, and three of his children were born there. He has always taken an intelligent interest in public affairs and since coming to Iowa has served capably and conscientiously in various public offices, including those of justice of the peace and township assessor.

Michael M. Walsh was reared at home and acquired his education in what is now called the Nicholson school. When he was fifteen years of age he secured a position as farm laborer and soon afterward joined his brother Joseph in the purchase of a tract of land in the vicinity of the family homestead. Because the brothers were under age the deed had to be made out to the father but the sons developed and improved the property for a number of years. When Michael M. Walsh was twenty-one years of age he purchased another farm in Fairview township and after seven years bought a tract of eighty acres adjoining his present homestead. He has since added to his holdings from time to time and although he has disposed of some of his land, still owns four hundred acres. He operates this with the aid of hired help and is especially interested in stock-raising, keeping high grades of cattle and shipping a great deal of stock every year. His property is well improved in every particular, the buildings being substantial and in good repair and the equipment modern. Mr. Walsh devotes practically all of his time to the development of his farm and has won that success which follows earnest and persistent labor.

On the 4th of February, 1907, Mr. Walsh was united in marriage to Miss Helen Thirza Buxton, who was born in Fairview township, one and one-half miles from her husband's birthplace, on May 13, 1889. She is a daughter of Stephen Luther and Thirza Ellen (Hoadley) Buxton, natives of Vermont, the

former born June 19, 1839, and the latter November 26, 1844. In his early life the father followed agricultural pursuits and upon the outbreak of the Civil war left the farm and enlisted as a volunteer in the Eleventh Regiment, Vermont Cavalry. He served for three years and then enlisted for a second time, receiving his honorable discharge at the end of one year. He took part in many of the most important engagements of the Civil war and was twice wounded and once had his horse shot from under him. He was twice taken prisoner and held seven months in Andersonville prison and about six weeks in Libby prison. He was confined in Andersonville at the close of the war and after his discharge returned to Vermont, where he again turned his attention to farming. Ten years later he came west and settled in Clinton, Iowa, securing employment as a tie inspector for the Northwestern Railroad Company. In the meantime, however, he had taken up a soldier's claim in Dakota, and having made the necessary improvements, returned to Clinton for his family. Upon his arrival in South Dakota, however, he found that his claim had been jumped, the agent having purposely misinformed him, and his eight hundred dollars' worth of improvements became a total loss. He again returned to Clinton and after two years moved to Fairview township, where he located upon a small farm upon which he made his home until his death, which occurred September 19, 1906. His wife survives him and resides on a large stock ranch which she owns at Tarrizazo, New Mexico. He had always been interested in public affairs and especially in the cause of education, which he did much to promote during his term of service as school director. His daughter, Mrs. Walsh, is the youngest of four children and she acquired her education in what is now known as the Wachter school and in a business college at St. Louis, Missouri. She and her husband have become the parents of a son, Stephen Michael, who was born February 17, 1908.

Mr. Walsh is a member of the Monona Farmers Shipping Association. He is a democrat in his political beliefs and is interested in all that pertains to the welfare and progress of his native community. He and his wife are members of the Roman Catholic church at Cherry Mound and are widely and favorably known in Fairview township, where their excellent qualities of heart and mind have gained for them the friendship of many and the high regard of all who know them.

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#### CHARLES A. FETT.

Charles A. Fett, one of the successful farmers and representative business men of Linton township, owns one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 33 and in addition to its operation is proving able and far-sighted in the discharge of his duties as director and adjuster for the German Fire Insurance Company in Allamakee county. He was born in Pomerania, Germany, November 19, 1857, and is a son of Frederick and Henrietta (Schroeder) Fett, also natives of that province, the former born March 13, 1836, and the latter, March 12, 1832. In early life the father worked in the employ of others and later was a successful administrator. He came to America about the year 1883 and settled immediately



afterward in Monona, Iowa, making his home with his son, the subject of this review, who at that time lived in Clayton county, near Monona. In this family were six children, of whom Charles A. is the oldest.

The latter acquired his education in the public schools of his native country and when he was nineteen years of age began working at farming in the employ of others. In 1881 he left Germany and crossed the Atlantic to America, settling first in Chicago, Illinois, where he spent one year employed as a carpenter in a lumberyard. At the end of that time he came to Iowa and, settling in Clayton county, entered the employ of a farmer with whom he was associated for six years thereafter. He married at the expiration of that period and purchased a farm of his own near the village of Sixteen, Linton township, a property which he continued to develop and improve until March 1, 1904. He then disposed of his first farm and bought the one hundred and twenty acres on section 33, Linton township, upon which he has since resided. Here he carries on general farming and stock-raising and his well directed efforts have been attended with a gratifying measure of success. For more than nine years he has been connected with the German Fire Insurance Company as a director and adjuster in Allamakee county and he still holds these positions, discharging his duties in a capable and systematic way. He is in addition a stockholder in the Monona Creamery and in the Stock Shipping Association and his business ability is widely recognized.

On the 15th of December, 1887, Mr. Fett was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Kuester, who was born in Germany, May 6, 1868. They have become the parents of ten children: Elizabeth, who married Michael G. Bending, a resident of Chicago; Arnie, who is at home; Lydia and Minnie, both of whom are employed in Chicago; Elsie, who is filling a position in McGregor; and Matie, Charles, Oscar, Alma and Lorena, all of whom reside at home.

Mr. Fett gives his political allegiance to the republican party and was for two years constable in this township and refused the office of justice of the peace. He is an enterprising and progressive citizen who takes a commendable interest in public affairs and during the period of his residence in Linton township has made a host of warm friends.

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#### RICHARD KIELTY.

Fairview township numbers among its most prosperous and progressive farmers and stock-raisers Richard Kielty, who owns one hundred and twenty acres of the old homestead, upon which his father settled in early times, and a half interest in a forty acre timber tract in the vicinity. He was born in Clayton county, near his present home, November 20, 1862, and is a son of Patrick and Catherine (Geraghty) Kielty, natives of County Mayo, Ireland, the former born in May, 1817, and the mother about five years later. The father crossed the Atlantic in 1852 and landed in New Orleans, whence he moved to Kentucky, then to Ohio and then to Virginia. He married soon after his arrival and in 1855 moved with his wife to Iowa, settling in Clayton county, where for a time he engaged in farming in the employ of others. In 1865 he purchased land of

his own and upon it resided for eleven years, after which he moved to Fairview township, Allamakee county, and bought the farm upon which the subject of this review now resides. He operated this for a number of years, steadily carrying forward the work of its improvement until a few months before his death, which occurred in September, 1907. He was very prominent in local affairs, having held various township offices, the duties of which he discharged in a capable and conscientious way. His wife survives him and still resides upon the old homestead. She and her husband became the parents of eight children, five of whom are living.

Richard Kielty acquired his education in the public schools of his native township and in those of Fairview township, this county, whither he removed with his parents in his boyhood. He grew up on the homestead and in his youth aided in its operation, gaining a practical knowledge of the best agricultural methods. When he was about thirty years of age he and his brother John rented the home farm, operating it together until 1907, when they purchased the estate and divided it, Mr. Kielty of this review receiving as his share the one hundred and twenty acres which he still owns. He has also a half interest in a forty acre timber tract, which he owns in conjunction with his brother. He engages in general farming and stock-raising, and his interests being carefully and practically conducted, have proven profitable, so that he is today numbered among the substantial and representative agriculturists of this vicinity. He is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery and in the Farmers Commission Company of Monona and his ability is recognized and respected in business circles.

On the 29th of July, 1907, Mr. Kielty was united in marriage to Miss Theresa Schofield, who was born in Linton township, Allamakee county, November 6, 1874, a daughter of Peter and Ellen (Joyce) Schofield. Mr. and Mrs. Kielty have become the parents of two children: John Richard, who was born May 14, 1908; and Ellen Catherine, born June 15, 1910.

Mr. Kielty is a devout member of the Roman Catholic church and is a democrat in his political beliefs, having served for two consecutive terms as township assessor. His fraternal relations are with the Modern Woodmen of America. He has resided in this part of Allamakee county ever since boyhood and has become widely and favorably known. For a number of years he has been influentially associated with business and agricultural interests here and is a man whose high moral character and unquestioned integrity merit the respect and confidence of his neighbors and friends.

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#### WILLIAM THOMAS LLOYD.

William Thomas Lloyd owns three hundred and forty acres of fine farming land in Linton township and by constantly following the most progressive and practical methods in its cultivation has surrounded himself with an enviable degree of prosperity. Upon this property he has resided since his childhood but was born at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, June 12, 1870, a son of James and Mary (Johnston) Lloyd, natives of Ireland, the mother born in West Meath and the father in County Cork. When a young man the latter crossed the At-





JAMES LLOYD



MRS. JAMES LLOYD



lantic to America and for a time worked in the employ of others in New York city, later going to New Jersey and thence to Chicago, where he arrived in the fall of 1866. He became connected with the St. Paul railroad and an idea as to his worth, reliability and capability can be gained from the fact that with only nine other men he was held over during the winter when all others were discharged, simply because their employer, a Mr. Lawler, had recognized their ability for the work for which he had them selected. Mr. Lloyd then became connected with the Chicago station of the St. Paul road and ran his first train from Madison, Wisconsin, to Prairie du Chien, where he was made yardmaster, a position which he held until 1871. In that year he moved to Iowa, having purchased a farm in Linton township, and this property he began to clear and improve, engaging in agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred February 2, 1910. His wife survives him and makes her home with the subject of this review.

William T. Lloyd acquired his education in the district schools of Linton township, having been one year old when his parents removed to this part of Iowa. He was reared upon his father's farm and in his youth learned the best agricultural methods by assisting his father with the operation of the homestead. Upon reaching maturity he assumed entire charge of the property and after his father's death succeeded to it, making it by his able management one of the finest and most productive in this vicinity. He owns three hundred and forty acres and here carries on general farming and stock-raising, both branches of his enterprise being extensive and important. He is a stockholder in the Cooperative Creamery of Waterville and in the Farmers Cooperative Telephone Company of Paint Creek and his ability is recognized and respected in business circles.

On the 6th of June, 1899, Mr. Lloyd was united in marriage to Miss Katharine Kane, who was born in Boston, Massachusetts, September 6, 1880, an adopted daughter of William Hart. She was brought to Allamakee county when she was less than seven years of age and grew to womanhood here. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd became the parents of five children: John Joseph, who was born May 21, 1900; Mary Lillian, born May 28, 1901; James Leo, born March 13, 1903; William Searle, born June 15, 1908, who died July 7, 1908; and Francis Mallick, born April 6, 1910, who died September 17, 1912.

Mr. Lloyd's religious views are in accord with the doctrines of the Roman Catholic church and his political allegiance is given to the democratic party. His long residence in this township, extending from his infancy to the present time, has made him widely known and his many sterling traits of character have won him the respect and esteem of his neighbors and friends.

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### JOHN H. HERMANSON FRETHEIM.

John H. Hermanson Fretheim, or as he was better known in Allamakee county, John H. Hermanson, proved his loyalty in citizenship by active and able service in the Union army during the Civil war, his reliability in business by his many years of close connection with farming interests of Allamakee county, and his faithfulness to all ties and obligations by his upright and honorable

life. He passed away on his farm in Waterloo township, July 6, 1904, and his death was widely and deeply regretted, for in his passing Allamakee county lost a pioneer citizen and a man who during the half century of his residence here made tangible and substantial contributions to the agricultural development and general upbuilding of this part of the state.

Mr. Hermanson was born in Norway, in which country the family name was Fretheim. He came to America with his parents in 1854 and the family remained for a short time in New York where the father and one brother of the subject of this review passed away. Afterwards the mother and the remainder of the family came west and after spending one year in Wisconsin, settled in Allamakee county, Iowa, where they took up government land and also added to their holdings by purchase. Assisted by her sons the mother operated this tract for many years thereafter and under her able management it became a productive and valuable farm. Eventually she retired from active life, selling the land to her sons, and a few years later passed away. She and her husband became the parents of nine children, three of whom survive: John, of Decorah; Mrs. Christina Ellingson, of Austin, Texas; and Mrs. Ellen Peterson, of Allamakee county.

John H. Hermanson began farming in Waterloo township at an early age, cultivating first an eighty acre tract of land which he purchased from his mother's homestead. He suspended his agricultural labors in 1861, when he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Regiment, for service in the Civil war. He went to the front as private and served for three years, taking part in many of the important engagements of the war and also the battle with the Indians at Lake Mills, Minnesota. With a creditable military record he returned to Iowa and resumed the operation of his farm, remaining active and prominent in this line of work for forty years thereafter. During this period he won success, prominence and substantial fortune and his landed holdings increased steadily until he owned a one hundred and eighty acre farm in Allamakee county with one hundred and thirty acres in a high state of cultivation and an eighty acre tract in Wharton county, Texas. He gave practically all of his time to the cultivation of his Iowa farm and upon it steadily carried forward the work of improvement and development, erecting upon it substantial buildings and installing modern equipment. In the course of years it became a valuable and productive property and stands today as a worthy memorial to his life of industry and thrift.

Shortly after his discharge from service in the Civil war Mr. Hermanson married and to him and his wife were born eleven children: Albert, who is engaged in farming in Ross, North Dakota; Anna, who married Albert Langen of Allamakee county; Mrs. Nettie Loe, of Pekin, North Dakota; Iver, a farmer of Ross, North Dakota; Henry, engaged in farming in the same locality; Emil, a farmer of Elsworth, North Dakota; Mrs. Andrew Klefstad, of Pekin, in the same state; John, who is assisting his brother and mother in the operation of the homestead; Ida, who lives at home; Sanders, aiding in the conduct of the home farm; and Mayme, at home. All of these children received excellent educations in the public schools of Allamakee county and Mrs. Loe engaged in teaching previous to her marriage. The family are devout members of the Lutheran church.



John H. Hermanson gave his political allegiance to the republican party and was eminently progressive and public-spirited in matters of citizenship, cooperating heartily in all measures and projects to advance the general interests of the community. On several occasions he rendered the township excellent service as trustee and was found always prompt, capable and reliable in the discharge of his official duties. His death on the 6th of July, 1904, took from Allamakee county one whom she could ill afford to lose—a man of high principles, progressive standards and upright life, who during almost a half century of earnest and capable work along agricultural lines made many substantial contributions to the upbuilding and development of the state.

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#### PETER I. PETERSON.

A well improved farm of one hundred and fifty-six acres in the Yellow river valley is the property of Peter I. Peterson, and in its neat and attractive appearance reflects everywhere the many years of careful supervision and practical management which the owner has bestowed upon it. Mr. Peterson was born in Gol, Norway, May 5, 1854, and is a son of Iver and Olean (Blockstad) Peterson, also natives of that locality. They crossed the Atlantic to America in 1870 and came directly to Allamakee county, locating in Paint Creek township, where the father purchased a tract of practically unimproved land. He carried on the work of developing this property for seven years and then disposed of his farm, renting land in Fairview township, upon which he resided until his death, which occurred in July, 1886. His wife survived him some years, dying in September, 1909. They were the parents of four children: Peter I., of this review; Tolaf, who has passed away; Berige, the widow of Ole O. Halverson and a resident of Spring Grove, Minnesota; and Julia, the wife of Peter Anderson, of Tacoma, Washington.

Peter I. Peterson acquired his education in the public schools of Norway and Paint Creek township, Allamakee county, whither he came with his parents when he was sixteen years of age. One year later he obtained employment as a farm laborer and so continued until the age of twenty-seven, making his home with his parents during this time. He then rented land in Fairview township and after five years purchased from his father-in-law the farm upon which his wife was born. He now owns one hundred and fifty-six acres of valuable land and this is crossed by an old Indian trail from the south to the Winnebago mission, the road passing directly in front of Mr. Peterson's residence. The farm is well equipped with modern buildings all substantial and in good repair and labor-saving machinery has been installed to facilitate the work of operation. Nothing has been neglected which will add to the attractive appearance or value of the farm which is today a model place and worthy of comparison with the finest agricultural properties in this section of the state. Mr. Peterson engages in general farming and stock-raising and both branches of his activities have proven profitable under his able management.

On the 13th of December, 1886, Mr. Peterson was united in marriage to Miss Edna Hulse, who was born in the house where she now resides August 10,

1864, a daughter of Gilbert and Mary (Gardner) Hulse, the former born in Pike county, Pennsylvania, October 27, 1835, and the latter in Davenport, Iowa, April 24, 1843. The father came to Iowa in 1851 and located in Fairview township, making his home with his father, who held a squatter's claim on Yellow river. One year later Gilbert Hulse left this property and went to California, where he worked in the employ of others for three years. Returning to Iowa, he bought the farm whereon the subject of this review now resides, later disposing of this property and moving to the vicinity of Fort Dodge, where he spent four years engaged in farming. At the end of that time he returned to Fairview township and repurchased his farm, upon which he continued to reside for seventeen years thereafter, eventually selling it to his son-in-law. He then bought another farm in this vicinity and after four years sold this. Since that time Mrs. Hulse has made her home with her daughters, Mrs. Peterson and Mrs. Robert Aird, also of this township. She has lived here since very early pioneer times, having taken up her residence here when they were only seven or eight little log houses at the mission.

Mr. Peterson is a member of the Lutheran church and a republican in his political views. He served for two terms as trustee of Fairview township, discharging his duties capably and conscientiously, and his cooperation is always readily given to movements to promote the general good. A resident of Allamakee county since his childhood, he has witnessed a great deal of the agricultural development of this region and has become widely and favorably known as a man whose business integrity is unquestioned and whose contributions to agricultural progress have been many and substantial.

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#### JOHN SEGLAR.

One of the progressive and able young agriculturists of Allamakee county is John Seglar, whose attractive homestead of one hundred and fifty acres lies on section 28, Linton township. Upon this property he was born on the 19th of May, 1883, his parents being Michael and Mary (Papack) Seglar, natives of Bohemia, the former born February 19, 1838, and the latter, February 2, 1837. The parents crossed the Atlantic to America in 1871 and went to Chicago, Illinois, where they spent a few months. Finally, however, they moved to Linton township, Allamakee county, and here the father purchased land upon which he is still residing. In Bohemia he served his required term in the regular army and since coming to the United States has been found progressive and loyal in all matters of citizenship. He and his wife became the parents of eleven children, of whom the subject of this review is the youngest.

John Seglar acquired his education in the district schools of Linton township and in his childhood divided his time between his studies and assisting his father with the work of the homestead. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-four years of age and then purchased his father's property, upon which he has since carried on general farming. His holdings comprise one hundred and fifty acres of land, of which one hundred and thirty are tillable and one hundred in a high state of cultivation. Here in addition to general agricul-

tural pursuits he engages also in stock-raising and under his able management both branches of his activities have proven profitable and important.

On the 9th of July, 1907, Mr. Seglar was united in marriage to Miss Frances Kocin, who was born in Bohemia, December 30, 1884, a daughter of Michael and Anna (Frederick) Kocin, natives of that country, the former born in 1853 and the latter in 1861. The parents still reside in Bohemia, where the father is engaged in farming. Mrs. Seglar and her sister crossed the Atlantic in 1905 and settled in Chicago, whence Mrs. Seglar came to Iowa after her marriage. She and her husband are the parents of two children: Agnes Anna, who was born May 28, 1908; and William Joseph, born June 13, 1909.

Mr. Seglar is a devout member of the Roman Catholic church. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party and although he has never sought public office he did capable work for one year as school director. He is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery and the Farmers Shipping Association and is well known in business circles. Although still a young man he has attained a creditable measure of success and, being ambitious and energetic, will undoubtedly make continued progress in his chosen field.

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#### ALBERT A. SCHLITTER.

Albert A. Schlitter, a representative of a well known pioneer family of Linton township and one of the most progressive and able agriculturists of this locality, owning and operating one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 21, was born July 25, 1874, and is a son of Adolph and Caroline (Ziesow) Schlitter, natives of Germany, the former born in 1840 and the latter, August 6, 1842. They crossed the Atlantic to America about the year 1868 and went to McGregor, Iowa, whence they traveled with ox teams to Linton township. This journey was filled with hardships, as was also their trip across the ocean, during which they were seized with smallpox and detained at quarantine station in New York. After their arrival in Linton township they lived for a time in a rude dugout, but soon afterward the father purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 21 and he has never been across the county line since that time. He resided upon his farm, carrying on its improvement and cultivation until about 1887, when he disposed of his holdings and bought another tract, upon which he still resides, living now in retirement and making his home with his son John. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children, of whom the subject of this review is the ninth in order of birth.

Albert A. Schlitter attended district school No. 3 in Linton township and spent two months at business college in Nora Springs. After laying aside his text-books he remained at home for a number of years, after which he began clerking in a store at Watson. About one year later he became a partner in this business and continued connected with it for a similar period of time, after which he disposed of his interests and turned his attention to operating a threshing machine. After his marriage, which occurred in 1902, he purchased the farm which he now owns, and on the 5th of December of that year moved onto the property. He has cleared and broken ten acres and has added substantial improve-

ments to the place, erecting the necessary barns and outbuildings and installing modern equipment. He engages in general farming and is also an extensive stock breeder, both branches of his interests proving important and profitable under his able management.

On the 8th of October, 1902, Mr. Schlitter was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Schmidt, who was born in Clayton county, May 25, 1879. She is a daughter of William and Henrietta (Hoch) Schmidt, the former a native of France and the latter of Germany. The parents crossed the Atlantic at a very early date and settled in Iowa, where the father became a landowner. Upon the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in the Thirty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Regiment and served for three years in the Union army, receiving at the end of that time his honorable discharge. After his return from the service he settled on his farm in Clayton county and still makes his home upon this property, whereon he has recently erected a modern residence in which he is spending his retired life. Mr. and Mrs. Schlitter have become the parents of five children: Hazel Henrietta Caroline, who was born July 29, 1903; Milton Albert Adolph, born July 30, 1905; Leslie Frederick, born April 24, 1907; Mabel, whose birth occurred September 7, 1909; and Carlton George, born May 26, 1912.

Mr. Schlitter is a member of the Evangelical church at Watson and is connected fraternally with the Modern Woodmen of America. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he served for several years as constable and is at the present time school director. He is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery, the Monona Shipping Association and the Luana & Monona Farmers Telephone Company, and he is recognized in business circles as a man of sound judgment and ability. He has won by his own efforts a gratifying measure of success and his record is a credit to a name that has been known and honored in Allamakee county since pioneer times.

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#### GEORGE E. DECKER.

George E. Decker, the owner of a productive and valuable farm of ninety acres in Franklin township, has always lived within the borders of Allamakee county, his birth occurring in Jefferson township on the 27th of August, 1872. His parents were Edward and Mary Ann (McShane) Decker, the former born in Erie county, New York, on the 26th of October, 1843, and the latter in Virginia on the 19th of October, 1850. Edward Decker has followed general agricultural pursuits throughout his entire career. When only about one year old he was taken by his parents to Green county, Wisconsin, the family home being established near Monroe, where he remained until twenty-four years of age. At that time he came to Iowa, locating first in Jefferson township, where he purchased a partially improved farm and made his home until about 1876. In that year he took up his abode on a farm of forty acres, which he still owns. The period of his residence in this county covers forty-six years and he enjoys an enviable reputation as one of its substantial and esteemed citizens. His wife was called to her final rest on the 1st of April, 1908. Unto them were born three children, as follows: George E., of this review; Lottie, born December 16,

1874, who is the wife of John Campbell, a farmer of Linton township; and Ernest C., who wedded Miss Clara Bender and resides on the old homestead.

George E. Decker obtained his early education in Jefferson township and later attended a select school at Rossville. He began working for others when a youth of sixteen and also assisted his father in the operation of the home farm. He remained in the employ of others until the time of his marriage and then located on the farm of sixty acres which he had purchased prior to that event. For two years he was busily engaged in its operation and then sold the property, cultivating a rented farm in Jefferson township for a similar period. Subsequently he took up his abode on the farm of ninety acres on section 3, Franklin township, which has since remained in his possession. He has made all of the improvements on the property and has erected modern buildings for the shelter of grain and stock, his place now lacking none of the equipments and accessories of a model and up-to-date farm. Nearly all of his land is tillable and he devotes his attention to the pursuits of farming and stock-raising, keeping a number of horses, forty hogs and twenty head of cattle. He is a stockholder in the Luana Cooperative Creamery Company and has won and maintained a position among the prosperous and representative citizens of his native county.

On the 18th of January, 1899, Mr. Decker was united in marriage to Miss Anna Bell, who was born in Franklin township on the 28th of June, 1878, her parents being James W. and Ella M. (Johnson) Bell. A sketch of the father appears on another page of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Decker have become the parents of six children, namely: Elmer, whose birth occurred on the 31st of March, 1900; Belle, who was born February 20, 1902, and passed away November 19, 1906; Thelma, whose natal day was April 30, 1904; Ernest, born May 26, 1906; Bernice, whose birth occurred on the 11th of October, 1908; and Harold, who was born on the 2d of October, 1910.

Mr. Decker is a staunch republican in politics and is now serving for the second term as township trustee, making an enviable record in this connection. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Baptist church at Rossville, while fraternally he is identified with the Woodmen at that place. Both he and his wife have spent their entire lives in this county and have a circle of friends which is almost coextensive with the circle of their acquaintances.

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#### EDWARD C. WASKOW.

Edward C. Waskow, who devotes his attention to the pursuits of farming and stock-raising, is the owner of a valuable tract of land comprising one hundred and twenty-eight acres on section 11, Franklin township. His birth occurred at North McGregor, Clayton county, Iowa, on the 5th of August, 1881, his parents being Herman and Caroline (Gautke) Waskow, who were born in the years 1847 and 1857, respectively. The father, a native of Germany, followed the sea for a period of thirteen years, becoming a sailor when a youth of but thirteen. While still a young man he took up his abode in the United States and was married at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. At an early day he established his home in North McGregor and was there employed as foreman

in a sawmill for a number of years. Subsequently he took up his abode on the farm in Franklin township which is now in possession of his son Edward, maintaining his residence thereon until March, 1908. Since that time he has lived retired at Monona, spending the evening of life in well earned ease. Unto him and his wife were born four children, as follows: Anna, the wife of Julius Collignon, an agriculturist of Clayton county; Elvena, the wife of Henry Take, who is living practically retired at Monona, Iowa; Edward C., of this review; and Robert, who follows farming in Clayton county and resides south of Monona.

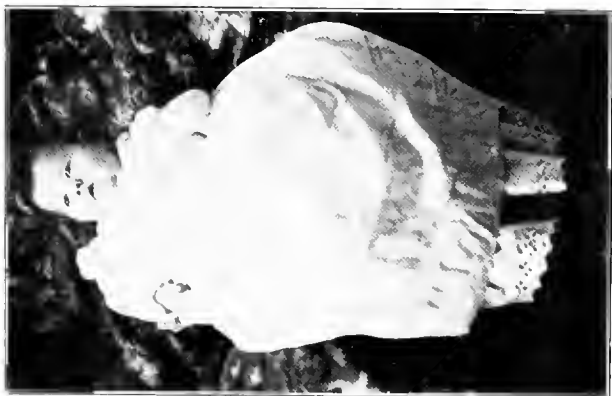
Edward C. Waskow acquired his education in the district schools of Franklin township and when a young man of twenty-two years started out as an agriculturist on his own account, being at that time married and establishing his home at Luana. There he cultivated rented land for a period of four years and then returned to the old homestead on section 11, where he has remained continuously since. He owns one hundred and twenty-eight acres of valuable land and is busily engaged as a grain grower and stock-raiser, both branches of his business returning to him a gratifying annual income. He is likewise a stockholder in the Monona Creamery Company and deserves representation among the substantial and enterprising citizens of the community.

On the 25th of December, 1903, Mr. Waskow was united in marriage to Miss Edith Ellsworth, who was born near Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on the 27th of March, 1887, her parents being Whitney and Mary Christina (Fish) Ellsworth. The father, an agriculturist by occupation, passed away near Cedar Rapids. The mother subsequently married George Meskimen with whom she resides on a farm near that of our subject. Mr. and Mrs. Waskow have four children, namely: Cecil, who was born on the 16th of October, 1904; Goldie, whose birth occurred in September, 1907; Lawrence, born November 17, 1908; and Marie, who was born November 27, 1911. In politics Mr. Waskow is a republican, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the German Evangelical Lutheran church at Monona. His entire life has been spent in this part of the state and he is well known here as a successful young agriculturist and representative and esteemed citizen.

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#### JAMES H. SCANNELL.

Among those who gained prosperity along agricultural lines in Allamakee county and who won the esteem of their fellowmen in an unusual degree was James H. Scannell, for many years engaged in agriculture in Linton township, who passed away on March 2, 1910, deeply mourned by his immediate family and a large circle of devoted friends who esteemed him for his high qualities of heart and mind. James H. Scannell was a native of Iowa, his birth taking place near Elkader, in Clayton county, on November 2, 1865. He was a son of Michael and Anna (McMorrow) Scannell, the father a native of Ireland, who became an early settler in Clayton county, this state, and the mother presumably a native of Clayton county. The father later moved to Missouri, where he made his home until his death, which occurred in 1897. The mother now resides in St. Louis.



MR. AND MRS. JAMES SCANNELL AND FAMILY





James H. Scannell received his education in Fairview township, at the Cherry Mound school, and also in Linton township. He passed his childhood and early youth with the Hines family, in which he had been adopted when but eleven months old. Patrick Hines then resided at McGregor but later he and his family came to Linton township, where they made their home on a farm until Mrs. Hines passed away, her death occurring about 1890. One year later James Scannell went to Missouri and there made his home with his father for four years, at the end of which period he came back to Allamakee county and engaged in farming, becoming the owner of the Hines homestead about that time. Two years later he married and settled on this farm, which then comprised one hundred and sixty acres of land on Suttle creek. He gave to the development of his land his entire attention, keeping his buildings in good repair and increasing the yield of his acres. Following up-to-date and modern methods, he succeeded in wresting a gratifying income from his farm and was successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits until his demise, which occurred on March 2, 1910.

On February 21, 1898, Mr. Scannell was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Leicht, who was born on the same farm and in the same house in which she still makes her home. Mrs. Scannell was born May 11, 1880, being third in a family of seven children, and is a daughter of Henry and Sophia Leicht, both natives of Baden, Germany. There the father was born August 31, 1846, and the mother, September 7, 1848. They were married in Allamakee county. The father emigrated to America in the early '70s, working for a time for others, but later rented land which he cultivated with such good success that he has been able to buy a farm of his own in Clayton county, just across the line from Allamakee county, in Giard township, where they still reside, the father still actively following agriculture. There Mrs. Scannell attended school and grew to womanhood. To Mr. and Mrs. Scannell were born seven children: Mary Theresa, May 24, 1899; Emmett Michael, January 15, 1901; Julius George, March 21, 1902; Anna Henrietta, July 24, 1904; Julia Margaret, November 4, 1905; John James, July 8, 1907; and Agnes Sophia, June 4, 1909.

Mr. Scannell was a devout member of the Roman Catholic church, in which faith he died and to which his widow also belongs. Politically he was an independent republican, voting the party ticket in national and state questions but preferring to follow his own judgment in local political issues, considering the qualifications of a man in preference to party lines. Although Mr. Scannell was yet a young man when he passed away, he had already achieved a distinct success which is the more remarkable as his start in life was made under heavy handicaps. Several years have passed since his death, yet he is well remembered by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance as a man of sterling traits of character. Since his death Mrs. Scannell has continued in the operation of the farm, looking after all the details and conducting the same with decided ability and remarkable success. She gives considerable attention to stock-raising, her herds being as good as any which can be found in the district. She is thoroughly modern in all her ideas as regards the cultivation of the fields, and a significant side light is thrown upon her enterprise by the fact that she has increased her property by an additional eighty acres, the homestead now comprising two hundred and forty acres of the most fertile land. As she was born in the same house which she now occupies, all her memories center upon this place and here she expects to con-

tinue at least until she has brought up her children to mature age, so that they may enjoy the happiness of a good home and the advantages of farm life. Not only is she highly esteemed as a plucky woman of resource and ability but has the love and veneration of all who know her, on account of her womanly qualities of mind and the motherly care which she bestows upon her family. She is interested not only in her own future but also in the welfare of the community, and with a warm heart is ever ready to extend help to those in distress or need.

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#### CHARLES HENRY MARBLE.

Charles Henry Marble, a progressive and practical farmer of Allamakee county, owning and operating seventy-five acres of land on sections 16 and 17, Linton township, was born in Clayton county, December 13, 1858. He is a son of Moses and Fanny (Snook) Marble, both natives of Trumbull county, Ohio, the former born in 1814 and the latter in 1820. In early life the father followed the wagon-maker's trade but later turned his attention to farming. He emigrated first to Illinois and then to Iowa, locating in Clayton county in 1845, and in Linton township, Allamakee county, in 1860. He became an extensive landowner, his holdings lying in the vicinity of what is now Big Foot school, and he continued to operate them until 1883, when he moved upon the farm where the subject of this review now resides. He improved and developed this property for some time and died upon his holdings in 1887, having survived his wife one month and twelve hours. At the time of the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in a volunteer company in Ohio but was never called to the front. He was, however, at all times loyal and progressive in matters of citizenship and was always ready to serve his county when called upon to do so. He was trustee for a number of years and was elected justice of the peace, although he did not qualify for this latter office. He and his wife became the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this review is the sixth in order of birth.

Charles H. Marble was reared upon his father's farm and at an early age became thoroughly familiar with the best agricultural methods. He continued to assist in the operation of the homestead until he was twenty-one years of age and then worked in the employ of others, continuing, however, to reside with his parents until their deaths. He succeeded to the ownership of the farm and has since continued to reside thereon, operating seventy-five acres of valuable land on the Yellow river, his holdings lying on sections 16 and 17, Linton township. He here carries on general farming and has been very successful, for he understands his business thoroughly, is progressive in his ideas and practical in his methods. He is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery Company and his ability is recognized and respected in business circles.

On the 9th of November, 1879, Mr. Marble was united in marriage to Miss Agnes J. Wallace, who was born near Farmersburg, Clayton county. She is a daughter of Jared T. and Mary L. (Wallace) Wallace, natives of New York state, the former born in 1834 and the latter in 1839. The father was a sailor in his early life and later followed the blacksmith's trade. He was an early settler in Iowa, locating in this state in 1848, and he grew to manhood here.

afterward following the blacksmithing business in Clayton county. In 1877 he took up his residence in Sixteen, Linton township, and from there moved to what was then known as Bunker Hill. He followed the blacksmith's trade there and at Waukon Junction and then returned to Sixteen. A short time before his death he went to Jackson county, Wisconsin, on a visit to his brother and there passed away in 1879. His wife survived him many years, dying in May, 1908. He tried to enlist for service in the Civil war but was refused on account of an injured foot. He was, however, a staunch supporter of the Union cause and during his entire life loyal and public-spirited in matters of citizenship. Mr. and Mrs. Marble became the parents of two children, the elder of whom died in infancy. The other, Laura L., was born September 13, 1881, and is the wife of Charles J. Vaughan, a farmer in Linton township.

Mr. Marble gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has always been interested in the cause of education, doing capable and far-sighted work in its promotion as school director. Having spent practically his entire life in this community, he has drawn around him a wide circle of friends and acquaintances who entertain for him the highest respect and esteem, a fact which indicates that the principles which have guided his conduct have ever been those which govern honorable and upright manhood.

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#### GEORGE H. DEEMER.

George H. Deemer is a man who owes his present success entirely to his own ability, industry and energy, for he began active life at a very early age and with very few advantages has steadily worked his way upward until he is today one of the substantial and prosperous farmers of Allamakee county. He was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, July 9, 1866, and is a son of Michael and Elizabeth (Campbell) Deemer, both natives of that locality, the former born in 1832 and the latter March 3, 1833. In his early life the father was a blacksmith. He came to Iowa in the fall of 1866, locating in Jefferson township, one mile and a half northeast of Rossville, but soon after his arrival he disappeared and the fact that he was never afterward heard of led to the opinion that he had been murdered or had met with an accident the details of which will never be known. The mother and her family moved to Nebraska, but in 1872 returned to Allamakee county, where she has since resided, now making her home with the subject of this review.

George H. Deemer is the youngest of a family of four children. He acquired his education in district school in the vicinities of Rossville, Watson and Sixteen, but when he was ten or twelve years of age he began earning his own livelihood, securing a position as a cattle herder for a neighboring farmer. Later he worked as a farm hand and continued thus until his marriage, after which he moved to Nebraska, where he spent four years. Returning to Iowa, he made his home upon his mother's farm until 1907, when he bought the property upon which he now resides. He owns eighty acres of valuable land, practically all under cultivation, and he engages in general farming and stock-raising, success steadily attending his well directed efforts.

Mr. Deemer was united in marriage to Miss Ula Biggs, who was born in Linton township in March, 1873, a daughter of David and Elizabeth (Fitch) Biggs, natives of Ohio. The parents came to Allamakee county in the early '50s and located on the farm in Linton township whereon they resided for many years thereafter. They have now retired and make their home in Rossville. Mr. and Mrs. Deemer became the parents of two children, one of whom died in infancy. The other is Harold Hampton, who was born August 11, 1912. Mr. Deemer is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America of Rossville and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party, serving at the present time as secretary of the board. He is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery Company, his ability being widely recognized and respected in business circles. Since beginning his active career at a very early age he has steadily worked his way upward, using every opportunity that has come to him and brooking no obstacles which could be overcome by a persistent and earnest worker. He is today one of the substantial and progressive farmers of Allamakee county and holds the respect and esteem of his neighbors and friends.

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#### JOHN RIDER.

John Rider, proprietor of the Valley Stock Farm, is one of the enterprising, progressive and successful farmers and stock-raisers of Allamakee county. He was born in Paint Creek township on the 1st of November, 1861, a son of Peter Rider, one of the early settlers of this county. The father, born in Ireland on the 20th of February, 1829, was brought to America by his parents, Peter and Elizabeth Rider, the family home being established in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. In 1851 the family came to Allamakee county, Iowa, locating in Taylor township, where both parents passed away. Peter Rider, Jr., father of our subject, became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of wild land on section 21, Paint Creek township, upon which he erected a pioneer log house which is still standing. He gave his time and attention to the improvement and development of this farm and in his agricultural pursuits met with most substantial success. In 1855 he was married in Allamakee county to Miss Ann McKigney, a native of Ireland and a daughter of John and Catherine McKigney, also natives of the Emerald isle. There the father died, while later the mother came to the United States and, locating in Allamakee county, Iowa, became one of the early residents of this section. Her daughter, Mrs. Peter Rider, died upon the Rider homestead in 1895 and Mr. Rider's death occurred the following year at the home of his son John, with whom he resided after his wife's demise. They were earnest Christian people, faithful members of the Catholic church at Cherry Mound, and were held in high esteem by all who knew them. In their family were nine children, of whom five died in childhood, while Thomas passed away at the age of nineteen years. The surviving daughters are: Kate, the wife of James Kaveny, of Nebraska; and Elizabeth, who married Mike Norton, of Howard county, Iowa.

The other surviving member of the family is John Rider, whose name introduces this review. He was reared on the home farm, acquiring an excellent

knowledge of agricultural pursuits under the direction of his father, and upon attaining manhood went into partnership with his brother-in-law, James Kaveny, in the purchase of one hundred and sixty acres of land. This they operated jointly for two years, after which Mr. Rider purchased his partner's interest and is now the owner of two hundred acres of well developed land. The farm is equipped with excellent improvements, all of which have been made by Mr. Rider, and the place, one of the attractive and valuable properties of the township, is known as the Valley Stock Farm. In addition to his stock-raising interests he carries on general farming, and the practical and progressive manner in which he conducts his various interests is proving productive of most enviable success.

In 1894 Mr. Rider was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hart, a native of Allamakee county and a daughter of Patrick and Jane (Tracy) Hart. Her father, who was born in Ireland on the 17th of March, 1830, came to the United States alone when nineteen years of age, locating first in Ohio. Later he removed to Dubuque, Iowa, and in 1852 became a resident of Allamakee county, here purchasing eighty acres of government land in Paint Creek township. This he cleared and improved, and that place remained his home until his death on the 23d of February, 1903. His widow, who was also born in Ireland, survives and makes her home with her children at Plainview, Minnesota. Mrs. Rider attended district school in the acquirement of her early education, which was later supplemented by a course of study in the seminary at Waukon. After leaving school she engaged in teaching, following that profession for twelve years prior to her marriage. By her union to Mr. Rider she has become the mother of seven children, all yet at home, namely: Jeanette L., Thomas J., Florence V., William E., Celia C., Hazel Marie and Helen E.

Public-spirited in large measure, Mr. Rider, however, has never engaged actively in public affairs, for the demands of his extensive agricultural interests have never left him time for outside matters. The name of Rider is well known in Allamakee county, where members of the family in three generations have resided, and John Rider has ever proved himself a worthy representative of an honored name. The high rank which he now occupies among his fellowmen is due not only to the success which he has gained for himself along agricultural lines but also to the honorable principles and upright purposes which have ever governed his actions.

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#### ELLERY M. HANCOCK.

With the exception of brief periods spent in Milwaukee, Chicago and Decorah, Ellery M. Hancock has been a resident of Waukon for fifty-seven years and he has long been numbered among the leading and representative citizens of Allamakee county. He has been a prominent factor in the public life of the county but since 1906 has continuously devoted his attention to the insurance business. His birth occurred at Winchendon, Massachusetts, on the 11th of July, 1850, his parents being Moses and Sally L. (Alger) Hancock. The father, who was born at Templeton, Massachusetts, on the 1st of December, 1808,

became a merchant and manufacturer of woodenware at Winchendon, that state. He was one of the selectmen of Winchendon, and at one time represented that town in the Massachusetts legislature. Leaving Winchendon in the spring of 1856, he made his way to Iowa and reached Waukon on the 9th of April. Here he embarked in the mercantile business in partnership with L. T. Woodcock, who had taken up his abode at Waukon two and one-half years before. Moses Hancock was called upon to serve the public in various capacities and acted as chairman of the first county board of supervisors in 1861. When he passed away in the year 1872, the community mourned the loss of one of its most respected and influential citizens. In 1832 he had wedded Miss S. L. Alger, by whom he had ten children, all of whom are deceased except the two youngest, namely: Ellery M., of this review, and George A., who is now a resident of Chicago. One of the sons, Frank E., enlisted in 1861 in Company B, Twelfth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, one of the three regiments to hold the "hornet's nest" during the first day's fighting at Shiloh—April 6, 1862. He was surrendered with his regiment and after spending six and one-half months in southern prisons passed away at Annapolis, Maryland, on the 26th of October, 1862, the first night after having been exchanged. George Alger, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was a farmer by occupation and a captain of militia in the War of 1812. He was a descendant of Thomas Alger, who settled at Taunton, Massachusetts, from England, about 1665. His daughter, Mrs. Hancock, died in the year 1877.

Ellery M. Hancock, who was a little lad of about six years when brought to this state by his parents, has resided in Waukon continuously since, with the exception of brief periods spent in work at the printer's trade in Chicago, Milwaukee and Decorah prior to 1873. His education was obtained in the common schools. In the spring of 1868 he entered the office of the Waukon Standard to learn the printer's trade, working under the direction of R. L. Hayward & Company. A. M. May was at that time the editor of the paper. In 1873 Mr. Hancock purchased a half interest in the journal, Mr. May owning the remaining half. Business was carried on under the firm style of May & Hancock, for about nine years or until 1882, when Mr. Hancock retired because of ill health, and turned his attention to insurance. It was about this time that he compiled a history of Allamakee county. He became secretary of the Waukon independent school district, serving in that capacity for many years. He likewise served as township clerk of Makee township for several terms, and at the time of the incorporation of Waukon in 1883, was elected city clerk, acting as such until 1895. In 1894 he was chosen recorder of deeds for Allamakee county and served in that capacity throughout the following twelve years, being five times reelected by flattering majorities. His record as a public official, characterized by unusual efficiency and faithfulness, is one of which he has every reason to be proud. In 1906 he once more entered the insurance field and has since successfully conducted business along that line in connection with abstracts of title.

In 1881 Mr. Hancock was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte M. Wedgwood, a daughter of Rev. John M. Wedgwood, who was for many years a loved pastor of the Waukon Baptist church and at one time superintendent of schools of Winneshiek county. The demise of the Rev. Wedgwood occurred in 1891. Mrs. Hancock is an alumna of Northwestern University, having previous to her marriage won the degree of M. D. from the Woman's Hospital Medical

College, now affiliated with the Northwestern. She served for two years as an interne in the Chicago Woman's Hospital and spent a similar period at the Rockford (Ill.) Seminary as instructor in mathematics and as graduate nurse. Prior to that time she taught in the Waukon school and also in Winneshiek county, and was deputy county recorder the twelve years her husband occupied that office. Mr. and Mrs. Hancock have two daughters, both of whom are experienced teachers, beginning with country schools. The elder, Clara L., received the degree of Master of Didactics from the Iowa State Normal School in 1906, and graduated from the Iowa State University in the Liberal Arts class of 1913. The younger, Harriet A., after preparatory work at the State Normal, has since taught in the graded schools of Decorah and Osage, Iowa.

Mr. Hancock has been actively interested in various fraternal societies, including the Iowa Legion of Honor, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Modern Brotherhood of America. He became one of the first members of the Waukon Military Company and was for many years a leading spirit in the organization, which has become a credit to the county. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Waukon Baptist church, to which his wife and daughters also belong. He is interested in all that pertains to progressive public movements and both in citizenship and in private life has manifested the sterling traits of character which everywhere command respect and regard.

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#### AUGUST G. MEINERS.

One of the most active and enterprising young men in public life in Allamakee county is August G. Meiners, now in the second term of his able service as clerk of the district court. He is a native son of Iowa, born in Union City township, Allamakee county, February 22, 1882, a son of J. Gerhard Meiners, born in Prussia, Germany, in 1836. The father grew to manhood in his native country and there married, following his occupation of farming in Prussia and continuing his agricultural pursuits after his arrival in America. He crossed the Atlantic in 1868 and came direct to Iowa, making a permanent location in Union City township. He here purchased a tract of raw land and opened up a farm, later adding to his holdings until he now owns two hundred and eighty acres, well improved and equipped in every particular. He there reared his family of ten children and still resides upon the homestead. He has survived his wife since 1891.

August G. Meiners grew up on his father's farm and acquired his elementary education in the common schools of Union City township. He was later for two years a student in a German Evangelical school in Minnesota and afterwards attended a business college for two years and supplemented this by a year in the State Normal School at Cedar Falls and during summer school in the State University at Iowa City. He early turned his attention to teaching and for ten years continued in this occupation, teaching in rural schools, as principal of graded schools and for three years as principal of the Waukon Business College. In 1910 he was nominated and elected clerk of the district court and after serving

one term of two years was in 1912 reelected without opposition. He is still serving and is discharging his important duties in an able, conscientious and far-sighted way.

Mr. Meiners is still greatly interested in educational affairs and does all that he can to promote public educational advancement. He was one of the founders of the Farmers Institute and served for two terms as secretary of the organization. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is well known in Allamakee county, where he was born, reared and educated and where he has been identified with important phases of public life since beginning his active career. He has never been found faithless to a trust and is upright, straightforward and honorable in all things, a native son of whom the county has every reason to be proud.

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#### GEORGE CLARK.

George Clark, one of the public-spirited and progressive men of Franklin township whose labors have been of material and substantial value to the community in the line of general progress, is known throughout Allamakee county as the owner of the Forest Mills, wherein he manufactures graham and rye flour and all kinds of feed. He is, moreover, the owner of two fine farms, his holdings aggregating six hundred acres of land, and he is classed with the most prosperous and progressive farmers and stock-raisers of the community in which he resides. He was born in this township, three miles east of Forest Mills, January 5, 1858, and is a son of Belfield Carter and Mary (Powell) Clark, the former a native of Tennessee, born in 1830, and the latter of Indiana, born in 1831. The father moved to Illinois when he was a young man and located at Woodstock, Illinois, whence in 1849 he moved to Iowa, entering land in Franklin township, Allamakee county, among the earliest pioneers. Frontier conditions prevailed everywhere, a wilderness of prairie and timber lands stretched for miles on all sides, and wild game abounded in the forests. The tract which Belfield Carter Clark acquired was entirely unimproved and a dense growth of timber had to be cleared away before the work of cultivation could be begun. With characteristic energy and determination he set himself to this work and it was finally accomplished, the farm gradually developing into one of the finest in this section of the state. The father continued to make his home upon it until 1887 and then moved to the vicinity of Grand Rapids, Wisconsin, where he resided for about one year. At the end of that time he returned to Iowa for a visit and here died in 1888. During his residence in this state he held various important local offices, serving his township with credit and distinction and making his name known and honored as a progressive and public-spirited citizen. His wife survives him and now makes her home in Waukon, this county. She and her husband were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this review is the third in order of birth.

George Clark acquired his education in the district schools of his native township and from his childhood was familiar with the best and most practical agricultural methods, having gained this knowledge through personal experience







GEORGE CLARK



MRS. GEORGE CLARK



upon the homestead. At the age of twenty he purchased land in Franklin township and turned his attention to farming, continuing upon that property for about ten years. At the end of that time he disposed of his holdings and moved into Waukon, where until September, 1908, he engaged in bridge building and general contracting. Upon that date he returned to Franklin township and purchased what is known all over Allamakee county as the Forest Mills. In them he has installed modern equipment and he has given a great deal of attention to their operation since that time, manufacturing all kinds of graham and rye flour and also feed. In addition he operates a sawmill in the vicinity, both being old-established enterprises in this section of the state. The sawmill was erected here in the year 1854 and the gristmill built as an addition to it in 1868. Mr. Clark has kept them in good repair and modern in equipment and accessories and under his able management they are both valuable business concerns, yielding heavy profits annually. In addition to this enterprise Mr. Clark owns also six hundred acres of land in Allamakee county and operates this as two farms, both being well improved, well managed and productive properties. He is interested in other business enterprises and is justly accounted one of the active, progressive and substantial men in this section of the state.

On the 26th of September, 1880, Mr. Clark was united in marriage to Miss Alice A. Farnham, who was born in Wisconsin on the 6th of May, 1860, a daughter of Daniel I. and Elizabeth (Farrington) Farnham, the former a native of New Brunswick. The parents came to Iowa about the year 1870 and located at Luana, Clayton county, where they resided for many years. The father is now living retired and he and his wife make their home with the subject of this review. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have become the parents of three children. Floyd I., born January 11, 1884, married Miss Alice Winters, a native of this county, and he resides upon his father's farm in Franklin township. Dora Isabelle, born August 3, 1888, is a teacher in the Waukon high school and resides at home. Gordon Lynn, born August 18, 1893, is also residing at home.

Fraternally Mr. Clark is affiliated with the Masonic lodge at Waukon and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has been honored by his fellow citizens by election to various positions of trust and responsibility although he never seeks public office. In analyzing his life record it will be seen that persistent, earnest work has constituted the foundation upon which he has built his prosperity and his diligence may well serve as an example for others to emulate.

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#### GEORGE C. FERGUSON.

Unusual determination, natural ability, industry and good judgment have led George C. Ferguson to attain the substantial position which he now occupies in the farming fraternity of Linton township, Allamakee county, where he owns three hundred and thirty-three acres of valuable land. He was born in Monona township, Clayton county, this state, on December 29, 1860, a son of William and Mary (Bair) Ferguson. The father was born near London, On-

tario, Canada, on December 3, 1832, and after a life rich in labors, but also rich in rewards, passed away October 6, 1909, in his seventy-seventh year. The mother, a native of York, Pennsylvania, was born May 6, 1837, her death occurring many years before that of her husband, on November 27, 1875. The father was educated and reared on a farm in Canada and crossed the border to the United States in 1852, coming directly to Iowa, where he located in Monona township, Clayton county, one mile from Monona. He continued there until the '70s, when he removed to Franklin township, where he bought land on which he resided for many years. He subsequently made his home with a daughter in Clayton county for about five years and then joined the household of Mr. Ferguson of this review, with whom he made his home until his demise. He was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him and on various occasions was offered public office, which he, however, always steadfastly refused.

George C. Ferguson was the second in a family of five children. He attended school in district No. 1, Monona township, Clayton county, and upon his father's farm near that city passed his boyhood, remaining at home until twenty years of age, when he began his independent career by working for others, accepting any work that came to hand until twenty-four years of age, when by strict economy and thrift he had accumulated sufficient means to buy one hundred acres of land, which is part of his present farm. For two or three years he also operated his father's farm and then built on his own land and moved thereon in 1894. He has since resided here, has put up substantial and well equipped buildings and brought his land to a high state of cultivation. When he arrived here all of his land was in a wild state but now his property, comprising three hundred and thirty-three acres, is one of the most valuable in the county. He engages in general farming, giving attention to grain raising and also live stock. Moreover, he has a ginseng garden which he planted about fifteen years ago and from which he derives a handsome income. He is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery Company and also in the Shipping Association of that city and holds stock in the Monona State Bank.

On March 5, 1889, Mr. Ferguson married Miss Hortense M. Haworth, who was born in Pennsylvania, on December 11, 1872, and died September 5, 1891, after only about three years of happy married life. She was a daughter of John and Frances (Randall) Haworth, the father a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of New York. John Haworth served during the Civil war for four years in the volunteer army, with Company I, Twenty-seventh Iowa Cavalry, as a private. He never received a wound during all that time, although he was in the hottest of fighting, and never was confined to a hospital. He later became a resident of Clayton county, owning a residence in Monona, where he died. There his wife still makes her home today. To Mr. Ferguson was born one child by his first wife, Walter, whose birth occurred on November 22, 1890, and who died on October 5, 1891. On September 14, 1892, Mr. Ferguson married Miss Chlista Jenkins, a native of Franklin township, where she was born near Lansing on April 9, 1874. She is a daughter of George and Mary (Kascel) Jenkins, both natives of Virginia. They came to Iowa about 1852, locating first at Lansing, Allamakee county, where they remained about a year. They then removed to Franklin township, this county, settling on the Yellow river, where

the father engaged in farming and became a prosperous landowner. He passed away in Franklin township on his homestead. The mother now resides in Monona. Mr. Jenkins was held in high esteem by all who knew him and was publicly active in various positions, having been honored with election to a number of township offices. Mrs. Ferguson was the oldest of four children born to this marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson also have four children: Robert A., born June 4, 1893; Walter A., whose birth occurred July 29, 1895; William, whose date of birth was May 12, 1902; and Sidney Reid, born February 1, 1907.

Politically Mr. Ferguson is a republican, giving his stalwart support to the measures and candidates of that party. He has always devoted his attention to improving his valuable farm property, having never found time to actively participate in political affairs. He is however, public-spirited and progressive and gives helpful support to all measures undertaken in the interest of the township or county. He is a member of the Masonic lodge, No. 70, at Monona and a trustee therein, and since 1903 has belonged to Northern Light Lodge, No. 156, I. O. O. F., in which he has served in all the chairs. Mr. Ferguson enjoys in full measure the confidence and high regard of his fellow citizens and has gained in life not only a substantial position but the friendship of many who esteem him for those qualities of his character which make for the highest citizenship.

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### JAMES MELAVEN.

Through the years of an active business career and in every relation of life James Melaven commanded the respect and enjoyed the confidence and friendship of all with whom he came in contact. His life measured up to the full standard of honorable manhood in all things and thus his death was the occasion of deep sorrow and regret. He had made many substantial contributions to the agricultural development of Allamakee county, for he came here in 1855 and was continuously identified with farming until his death, which occurred June 9, 1911.

James Melaven was born in Canada, August 12, 1826, and was a son of Thomas and Catherine Melaven, natives of Ireland. He came to Allamakee county with his parents in 1855 and the family settled on one hundred and sixty acres on section 21, Taylor township. This was all wild land and the father and son set about improving and developing it, carrying forward the work along practical and progressive lines. Upon the death of his parents Mr. Melaven came into possession of the homestead and for many years thereafter continued to operate the property, meeting with that success which always follows earnest, well directed and persistent labor. During the years of his residence here he not only promoted his individual interests but cooperated heartily in all movements for the general advancement, so that his death in 1911 deprived Allamakee county of a valued and representative citizen.

At Wexford, Iowa, Mr. Melaven was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Healy, who was born in Upper Canada, September 3, 1839, a daughter of John and Bridget Healy, natives of Ireland, who emigrated to Canada. In 1854 they

removed to Allamakee county, Iowa, and settled in Lafayette township, where both passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Melaven became the parents of twelve children: Thomas William, who resides in Harper's Ferry; Mary, the wife of John Kernan, of Chicago; Pelagia, who married P. J. Sullivan, of Sioux City; James A., of Oregon; John, who resides in Texas; Katie, who is now Sister Isabel in a convent at Dubuque; Peter, who makes his home at Harper's Ferry; Elizabeth Ann, who died at the age of nineteen years; Gregory, residing in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Urban V., at home; Winifred, who is in a monastery at New Orleans, Louisiana; and Felix, of Portland, Oregon. Urban V. Melaven is operating the homestead and will soon come into possession of the property. He was born on the 5th of July, 1879, and was educated in St. Joseph's parochial school. He married Miss Mary O'Neil, a daughter of T. J. O'Neil, of Taylor township, and they have three children, Leonard, Catherine, and Elizabeth. Mrs. James Melaven survives her husband and resides upon the homestead. She is one of the pioneer women of Allamakee county and is widely and favorably known here, her many excellent qualities of mind and character having gained her an extensive circle of friends.

Mr. Melaven gave his political allegiance to the democratic party and was very prominent in local party affairs, holding all of the township offices. He was a devout member of the Roman Catholic church and helped to organize St. Joseph's church, for which his father donated the land. He passed from this life honored and respected by all who knew him, for he dealt honestly and honorably with all men and his name came to be regarded as a synonym for integrity in business circles. He was never so busy but that his township could call upon him for cooperation in public affairs and any project which he believed beneficial to the community received his earnest endorsement and hearty support.

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#### A. G. HAGEN.

Farming has always been one of the principal sources of wealth in Allamakee county and the men who give their energies and activities to scientific agriculture in this region are representative citizens. One of the most careful and systematic farmers of Paint Creek township is A. G. Hagen, who is now engaged in the cultivation of a large farm, in which field of endeavor he is meeting with well merited success. He is a native of Paint Creek township, born April 22, 1870, on what was known as the Hagen homestead. He is a son of Gilbert and Agnette (Coldor) Hagen, natives of Norway, extended mention of whom is made on another page of this volume in connection with the sketch of Peter G. Hagen.

In the district schools near his parents' home A. G. Hagen acquired a good education, while broad practical training came while assisting his father in the cultivation of the home farm. He was only thirteen years of age when his father died and six years later, upon the death of his mother, he was left to fight the battle of life alone. Being thus early thrown upon his own resources he developed an independent, resourceful disposition which stood him in good stead in later years. Going to North Dakota, he spent one year working there, and then, returning to Allamakee county, Iowa, was employed by various farmers in Paint



Creek township for a few years. Later he worked for one year in the tin shop conducted by Hans Void, at Waukon, and the succeeding year in Fisher's grocery store of that city. When the Spanish-American war broke out his patriotic spirit prompted his enlistment and he became a member of Company I, Forty-ninth Iowa Volunteers, in the capacity of a private. He accompanied his regiment to Jacksonville, Florida, but there was taken ill with typhoid fever, and after spending seven weeks in the hospital at that city was brought back to Iowa and received an honorable discharge.

After he had fully recovered his health Mr. Hagen accepted employment on the farm of Mrs. Ed. Leyse, in Paint Creek township, being thus engaged for about a year, after which he married Mrs. Leyse's daughter and for one year rented his mother-in-law's farm. Wishing, however, to engage independently in agriculture and feeling that his careful savings warranted such a move, he purchased what was known as the old James Tracy farm, comprising two hundred acres on section 19, Paint Creek township, which has since remained his home. Although at one time this had been an improved tract it had been allowed to run down and was in poor condition at the time it came into Mr. Hagen's possession. Nothing daunted, however, he at once applied himself with characteristic energy to its recovery and soon brought it into excellent condition, greatly enhancing its value by remodeling the house, the building of a large barn and neat fences and outbuildings and the introduction of modern and up-to-date machinery to facilitate farm labor. He was successful from the outset and later was able to purchase an adjoining tract of ninety-two acres, so that he now has a highly cultivated farm of two hundred and ninety-two acres which stands as a monument to his life of industry, thrift and enterprise.

It was on the 22d of November, 1899, that Mr. Hagen was united in marriage to Miss Karen Leyse, and unto them have been born four children: Grant, Leonard, Mabel and Cora. The parents are members of West Paint Creek Norwegian church, while the political views of Mr. Hagen are in accord with the principles of the republican party. He has been called a "good farmer," a phrase which speaks for itself and indicates progressive methods and practical ideas.

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#### JOHN G. LAIRD.

John G. Laird, an influential and prosperous resident of McGregor, is operating a sawmill and deals in lumber and fuel. He is also the owner of eleven hundred acres of land located near that city, which is a well improved and valuable tract, the greater part being now under cultivation. Mr. Laird is a native son of this state, born in Bradford township, Chickasaw county, September 5, 1857, his parents being George and Catherine (Grant) Laird. They were both born near Montreal, Canada, the father in 1831, and the mother in 1835. In early life the father worked at the carpenter's trade and also engaged to some extent in farming. In May, 1857, he started for the middle west, traveling to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, by rail and boat. From that city he made his way to McGregor, Iowa, and thence to Chickasaw county, purchasing land in Bradford

township, which he cleared and improved and when not engaged in the cultivation of his farm he worked at his trade, being thus employed for fifteen years. He then sold his farm and removed to Bradford, devoting his entire time to carpentry. His last years, however, were spent in Nashua, and he passed away there in 1906. His first wife died in 1861 and he was married a second time. By the first union there were three children, of whom John G. Laird is the eldest, and of the second marriage six children were born, but only four survive.

John G. Laird acquired his education in the public schools and also in Bradford Academy. At the age of eighteen he began work in the sawmills, being employed in the timber during the winter months for two years. At the end of that time he rented a sawmill in Nashua, operating the same for one year, after which he built a steam sawmill at that place, equipping it with all the machinery necessary for carrying on a successful business. After about twelve years, because of failing health, he disposed of his mill and for about eighteen months lived practically retired in the hope of recuperating his health. He then established a general hardware business and also handled plumbing and heating apparatus. He continued in that line for thirteen and a half years, when he disposed of his interests in Nashua and removed to Allamakee county. Here he purchased a tract of timber land, erected a sawmill and began dealing in lumber and fuel. He not only cut the timber from his own land but made extensive purchases from others, which he manufactured into bridge timber, furniture and lumber for interior finishing. He has built a switch for loading his products, which are shipped throughout this state and the Dakotas. He is now the owner of eleven hundred acres of farm land, all of which is enclosed with fences and the greater part of it is under cultivation. He keeps on hand from one hundred to one hundred and fifty head of cattle, which range on the land from which the timber has been cut. He has been highly successful in all his business ventures and is now in comfortable financial circumstances. He and his family spend the summer months on the farm, while the winter seasons are spent in McGregor, that his children may have the advantage of the city schools. In addition to his other interests Mr. Laird holds stock in the water power company at Nashua, the power being supplied from the Big and Little Cedar rivers.

Mr. Laird made arrangements for having a home of his own by his marriage October 7, 1883, to Miss Elizabeth M. Richardson, who was born near Montpelier, Vermont, October 7, 1861. Her parents, Henry A. and Arlett (Pickett) Richardson, removed from the Green Mountain state to Nashua, Iowa, where the father established a saddlery business. Both he and his wife are now deceased.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Laird have been born five children, as follows: Catherine A., who was born July 7, 1885, and is now the wife of Ralph L. Brown, registry clerk in the postoffice at Charles City, Iowa; Marjorie E., who was born September 2, 1896, and graduated from the McGregor high school with the class of 1913; Burton F., who was born December 24, 1898, and is now in school; Charleton G., born March 16, 1902, and now in school; and Elton H., whose birth occurred in 1904, and who is also in school.

Mr. Laird votes for the candidates of the republican party. He served for eleven years as clerk of Bradford township, Chickasaw county, and then resigned the office, while for three years he served as supervisor of that county.

He is a Mason, belonging to the blue lodge at Nashua. He is not identified with any religious organization but attends the Congregational church. He is a capable business man, of sound judgment and honesty of purpose, and while he has not confined his attention to any one line of activity, his knowledge of the various lines in which he has engaged has been such that he has met with prosperity in each and every undertaking, and he now takes rank with the prosperous, influential and substantial citizens of McGregor and Allamakee county.

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#### CARL A. SPINNER.

Carl A. Spinner needs no introduction to the readers of this volume, for he has long been one of Waterville's prominent and representative citizens, having been for twenty years connected with important mercantile interests as a member of the firm of Spinner Brothers. Moreover, the high and upright principles of his life have gained him an enviable position in the public regard, commending him to the confidence and good-will of all with whom he comes in contact. He is a native son of Allamakee county, born in Village Creek, July 28, 1859, his parents being Peter and Katherine Spinner, natives of Germany and early settlers in this part of Iowa. A more extended mention of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Spinner is found on another page in this work. They became the parents of the following children: Carl A., of this review; Frank; Fred; Peter; William; Constantine, and Mary, who lives in Lansing.

Carl A. Spinner was reared in Village Creek and in his childhood learned the blacksmith's trade with his father. He worked at this until he had reached maturity and then came to Waterville, where he established a blacksmith and wagon shop of his own, conducting it successfully for thirteen years and at the end of that time selling out to form a partnership with his brother Frank in general merchandising under the firm name of Spinner Brothers. This is his present business connection and it has brought him prosperity and prominence, for he is today one of the best known business men in the city. The firm carries a complete line of general merchandise and has enjoyed a prosperous career. In 1912 the brothers built a fine business house, twenty-six by ninety feet in dimensions, with two stories and a basement. It is constructed of cement block and heated with a furnace and steam, being thoroughly equipped with all modern conveniences. Besides a complete line of general merchandise Spinner Brothers carry also a stock of harness, robes and horse blankets, and control a representative and growing trade along these lines. Carl A. Spinner was one of the promoters of the Waterville Savings Bank and is a stockholder in that institution. He owns also a fine residence in Waterville and a three hundred acre farm near the city, now operated by his son. As the years have passed he has steadily prospered and is today a successful and prominent man, connected through his trade relations with important business interests.

Mr. Spinner was married in April, 1880, in Lansing, to Miss Rosa Kluge, who was born and reared in Allamakee county. She died in Village Creek, while on a visit there, and left three children: Victor, who is now in the west; Theodore, who is engaged in farming; and Carl, bookkeeper for Armour & Company

at Sioux City, Iowa. After the death of his first wife Mr. Spinner was again married near Waterville in 1895. In that year he wedded Miss Annie Conley, and they have one daughter, Esther.

Mr. Spinner gives his political allegiance to the democratic party but has never been desirous of holding public office. He is connected fraternally with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Royal Neighbors and the Yeomen, and he and his family are members of the Roman Catholic church. As a business man he has always kept in touch with the trend of modern progress and through the able management of his own concern has contributed in no small degree to the commercial development of the city. In his business career he has made steady and honorable progress but he is no less highly esteemed for the traits he displays in relations of social life and of citizenship.

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#### ARTHUR BEHRENS.

Arthur Behrens, one of the substantial agriculturists and representative citizens of Allamakee county, owns and operates a well improved farm of two hundred acres on section 28, Post township. His birth occurred at Cedarburg, Ozaukee county, Wisconsin, on the 20th of August, 1862, his parents being Ahrend and Caroline (Mintzlaff) Behrens, both of whom were natives of Germany, the former born in Oldenburg on the 30th of September, 1832, and the latter in Pommern on the 18th of January, 1842. Ahrend Behrens emigrated to the United States when a youth of eighteen, while the mother of our subject was brought to this country as a babe of three months, her parents settling in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, when it was a mere village. Making his way direct to Cedarburg, that state, Mr. Behrens secured employment as a farm hand but subsequently purchased land and engaged in general agricultural pursuits on his own account with gratifying results. The last eighteen years of his life were spent in honorable retirement at Cedarburg, where his demise occurred in 1908. His widow there continued to make her home until she passed away in 1912, her death occurring while she was returning from a trip to California.

Arthur Behrens, the oldest in a family of seven children, acquired his education in the schools of Cedarburg township. At the age of twenty years, having learned the carpenters' trade, he began work at that occupation and was thus actively engaged until 1897. In that year he rented a tract of land in Garnavillo township, Clayton county, Iowa, continuing its cultivation for five years, at the end of which period he purchased the farm of two hundred acres in Allamakee county which has since remained in his possession. The property is one of the best equipped in the county and is highly improved and developed, the well tilled fields annually yielding generous harvests as a reward for the care and labor which is bestowed upon them. Mr. Behrens has long been widely recognized as one of the most progressive and successful agriculturists of the community and is likewise a stockholder in the Farmers Mercantile Association of Postville, the Postville Citizens Bank and the Luana Bank.

On the 2d of February, 1892, Mr. Behrens was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Meier, who was born in Garnavillo township, Clayton county, on the 31st



MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR BEHRENS



of October, 1867, her father being H. W. Meier, of whom more extended mention is made on another page of this work in connection with the sketch of Charles H. Meier, a brother of Mrs. Behrens. She is now the mother of three children, as follows: Arbe, whose natal day was May 20, 1895; Lorene, whose birth occurred in 1902 and who is attending school; and William, who was born January 19, 1909.

Mr. Behrens gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is now serving for the second term as trustee of Post township, making a creditable record in this connection. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the German Lutheran church at Postville. He has been straightforward and honorable in all his dealings, has manifested public spirit in matters of citizenship and has been loyal to the ties of home and of friendship. These qualities, therefore, have made his record one of honorable manhood well worthy of emulation.

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### CORNELIUS SELECTOR STILWELL.

The name of Cornelius Selector Stilwell is inseparably interwoven with the history of Waukon, where for more than forty years he has made his home. His life work has been the expression of ability in educational circles and in the practice of law and along other lines he has contributed to public progress, his work being an element for growth and development in the city of his residence and in much of its beneficent and charitable work.

Mr. Stilwell is a native of New York, his birth having occurred at Holland, Erie county, June 26, 1838. His father, Ezra Graves Stilwell, the second son of Ard and Anne (Fairchild) Stilwell, was of Scotch ancestry, and was born at Fairfield, Vermont, on the 6th of August, 1806. His death occurred at Fulton, Wisconsin, December 19, 1852, while his wife survived him for about forty years, passing away on the 27th of March, 1892, in Waukon. She was born at Alstadt, Cheshire county, New Hampshire, April 2, 1809, and was the youngest daughter of Calvin and Jemima (Todd) Howe, of English descent. Both the paternal and maternal grandparents of C. S. Stilwell removed with their families to western New York, settling in Allegany and Wyoming counties. Ezra Graves Stilwell and Polly Howe were married on the 4th of May, 1828, and unto them were born the following named sons and daughters: Calvin; Ard A.; Eliza J., who became the wife of U. F. Lewis; Sophronia A., the wife of L. N. Lewis; Cornelius S.; Hilas H.; Alonzo C.; and Ezra G.

Cornelius S. Stilwell, whose name introduces this review, received careful home training and enjoyed the educational opportunities offered in the public schools of New York until thirteen years of age, when the family left the Empire state for the middle west, arriving in Rock county, Wisconsin, in the fall of 1851. The family home was established in Janesville and C. S. Stilwell, then but thirteen years of age, secured a clerkship in a store owned by a Mr. Shumway, in whose family he lived while thus engaged. In 1852 the Stilwell family settled at Fulton, Rock county, Wisconsin, and the father and two of his sons, Ard and Cornelius, were employed in a large flouring mill at that place, the last named acting as grist clerk. It devolved upon him to weigh and number

the grists, weigh back and deliver the ground product to the proper customer, make the necessary entries in the "custom" book, which included entering the name of each customer; the kind of grain, the number of pounds, the number of the grit, the number of the sacks, the date the grist was received and the date it was to be ready for delivery; the weight of the ground product, and the date the grist was actually delivered to the owner.

Thus much responsibility devolved upon Mr. Stilwell, who was then not yet fourteen years of age. The position was an important one, for on occasions there were as many as forty or more grists in the mill at one time, each awaiting its turn for grinding.

While in Fulton Mr. Stilwell attended the village school during the winter seasons from 1852 to 1855, inclusive, the summer months being spent in the mill and at work at the carpenter's trade in connection with his brother Ard. His two sisters were married in Fulton and in 1856 the others of the family removed to Evansville, where was located a seminary in which Cornelius S. Stilwell became a pupil. The seminary was then conducted by Professor Smith, and later he attended the college of which Professor D. Y. Kilgore was president, pursuing a literary, scientific and normal course. He was graduated third in the normal department in 1861, at which time only twelve of the fifty-six men and women passed the rigid requirements of the Wisconsin state board of Normal regents. Mr. Stilwell during his connection with the school often occupied the place of teacher during the enforced absence of one or another of the teaching force, and his work in that connection proved profitable in giving him short reviews in Latin, French, mathematics and rhetoric. His college work was done during the summer seasons, while the winter seasons were devoted to teaching in Rock, Dane and Green counties of Wisconsin, that he might thus provide the funds necessary to enable him to continue in school.

On the 2d of October, 1862, in Green county, Wisconsin, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Stilwell and Miss Elizabeth M. Bowen, the youngest daughter of John and Isabella (Stewart) Bowen. On the same occasion was celebrated the marriage of his brother Hilar H. Stilwell to Eliza M. Bowen, and after the wedding feast was over the two grooms and their brides were accompanied to Evansville by their many guests and were there entertained by the Stilwell family, after which they started on a round of festivities which included various visits to relatives and friends. A half century later the two couples celebrated their golden wedding at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Stilwell in Waukon, on which occasion were present nearly forty relatives and hundreds of friends. It was indeed a notable occasion and it is a matter of interest to know that all four are still living, also a number who participated in the original wedding festivities.

Following his marriage Mr. Stilwell was elected principal of the schools of Albany, Wisconsin, and removing to that place entered upon his duties there. Two years later he came with his family to Iowa, settling in Allamakee county, and for a short time engaged in the milling and lumber business at Buckland. He was first called to public office in an appointment from his brother to the position of deputy treasurer of Allamakee county, and since that time he has made his home in Waukon. He has been recognized as an able and faithful public official during more than twenty-three years, serving as justice of the



peace, and it is a widely recognized fact that no man has been more loyal to a public trust than has Mr. Stilwell. Since 1870 he has been numbered among the members of the Allamakee county bar, having in the meantime read law in the office of C. T. Granger, late chief justice of the Iowa supreme court. Following his admission to the bar Mr. Stilwell began practice and his record has been notable in a number of cases which he has won. He would never enter upon a cause for the sake of the fees, nor would he undertake a case that he did not believe in the justice of his client's position. His success is undoubtedly due in considerable measure to the fact also that he would allow himself to accept no more business than he could handle honestly, thoroughly and for the best interests of his clients. No practitioner at the Allamakee county bar has been more careful to conform his practice to a high standard of professional ethics, and for more than forty years he has been recognized as an able and conscientious minister in the temple of justice, and now, although over seventy-five years of age, Mr. Stilwell is giving close attention to the law business of the firm of Stilwell & Stilwell, besides giving his personal attention to his outside affairs.

Moreover, Mr. Stilwell's efforts in other connections have constituted a valuable asset in growth, development and public prosperity in Waukon. In 1874 he was elected the first secretary of the Waukon & Mississippi Valley Railway Company, an enterprise that has done more than perhaps anything else to make Waukon the thriving little city it is today. This railroad was later merged into and became a part of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul system. In January, 1888, he became mayor of Waukon, Iowa, and was reelected in 1889, holding the office to the end of the second term.

As the years passed eight children were added to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Stilwell, including five sons and three daughters. The eldest, Mary Frances, was born at Ridott, Illinois, December 13, 1863, was graduated from the high school of Waukon in the class of 1881, and makes her home in this city. John Harrison, born at Buckland, August 23, 1867, died at Waukon, January 19, 1885. He was a bright and promising young man, making excellent progress in his studies at the time of his death, which occurred when he was but seventeen years of age. Cornelia Isabella, born at Waukon, July 31, 1869, attended the high school until graduated with the class of 1890. She was married in her father's home December 27, 1892, to Professor F. A. Wildman, who has engaged in teaching, has served as county superintendent of schools, and is now engaged in Chautauqua work. Mrs. Wildman was also a teacher prior to her marriage. Their children are: Metta June, who was graduated from the Waukon high school in the class of 1912; Harry N.; and Wayne. Charles Edgar, born at Waukon, September 9, 1871, was graduated from the Waukon high school in the class of 1884, took up the study of law under his father's direction, was admitted to the bar in 1893 and is now a leading lawyer of Maryville, Missouri, where he also takes a prominent part in public affairs. He was married August 20, 1902, to Angie Weed Nokes, of Malone, New York, and their children are Cornelius Bowen and William Weed. Cornelius Howe, born at Waukon, November 4, 1874, attended the public schools, became a member of the Iowa National Guard and went to the front in 1898 as a soldier in the Spanish-American war. He is now a member of Albert M. Stewart Camp of the United Spanish War Veterans. He was married at Waukon, January 19, 1910, to Mary Clark

Spencer, and is now engaged in contracting and building at Waukon, making a specialty of iron and cement bridges and road work. Calvin Stewart, born at Waukon, October 1, 1877, was also a member of the Iowa National Guard and a soldier in the Spanish-American war, and now belongs to Albert M. Stewart Camp. He has held the position of junior vice commander in the state department of the United Spanish War Veterans. He read law under his father, was admitted to practice May 2, 1905, and is now the junior member of the firm of Stilwell & Stilwell. He was married December 16, 1904, to Martha Helen Falby and their children are Falby and John Calvin. Jessie Edith, born at Waukon, December 21, 1880, was graduated from the high school in the class of 1900, took a course in a kindergarten college in Chicago and was married December 27, 1905, to M. J. Barthell a financier. They have one child, Barbara, and are now living in Waukon. Lewis Bowen, the youngest of the Stilwell family, was born at Waukon, April 22, 1884, was graduated from the high school and is now engaged in construction and road work, taking charge of the construction of bridges, sometimes for his brother and at other times for various ironworkers and builders. He makes his home at Waukon, although business often calls him into other states.

C. S. Stilwell is well known as a representative of fraternal interests in Waukon. He joined both the Masonic and Odd Fellow societies in 1870, becoming a member of the lodge and chapter at Waukon and the council at Dubuque, and the lodge and encampment of Odd Fellows at Waukon. In both organizations he has retained his membership to the present time and has represented his district in the Odd Fellows grand lodge and grand encampment many times and for many terms has held the office of deputy of his district. He has likewise been greatly interested in charitable work. Soon after coming to Waukon he was elected president of a society for the express purpose of raising and distributing funds for the relief of the poor. This work was later taken up with the churches of Waukon and much good has been accomplished in relieving distress. Mr. Stilwell displays a helpful spirit toward all movements and organizations that tend to ameliorate the hard conditions of life for the unfortunate, and his broad humanitarianism is again and again manifest in all his relations with his fellowmen.

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#### WILLIAM H. SEBASTIAN.

One of the most prominent and progressive young farmers of Allamakee county is William H. Sebastian, who owns and operates a fine property of one hundred and ten acres in Franklin township, constituting the farm upon which he was born on the 18th of July, 1886. He is a son of Frank and Maggie (Meyer) Sebastian, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Springfield, Clayton county, Iowa. The father crossed the Atlantic when he was a young man and settled in Clayton county, where he resided for a number of years, becoming well known as a progressive and successful farmer. About 1882 he moved to Allamakee county and settled on the farm whereon the subject of this review now resides. Later he moved to a smaller property just south of

Postville, and after three years took up his residence upon another tract of land just west of Postville, in Winneshiek county. Upon this he continued to reside until 1908 or 1909, when he moved into the city and retired from active business life. He is still an extensive landowner, managing valuable holdings in Allamakee and Winneshiek counties. He and his wife became the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this review is the fourth in the order of birth.

In the acquirement of an education William H. Sebastian attended district school in Winneshiek county and was a student in the public schools of Hardin for one term. In his childhood he assisted his father with the work of the farm and before he had attained his majority was a progressive and able agriculturist. At the age of twenty-one he hired out as a farm hand, working in the employ of others for three years and then taking up his residence upon the family homestead in Franklin township, upon which he has since resided. His holdings comprise one hundred and ten acres and he here engages in general farming, success steadily attending his well directed efforts. He has made many substantial improvements in buildings and equipment and, following always the most practical and progressive methods, has made his farm one of the finest in this part of the state.

Mr. Sebastian married, on the 26th of January, 1910, Miss Amanda Gericke, who was born in 1890 and is a sister of John Gericke, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Sebastian are the parents of a son, Harold, who was born May 19, 1912.

Mr. Sebastian is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Store in Postville and his ability is widely recognized in business circles of that city. In the community where he was born and where his entire life has been spent he is well known and highly respected, his genuine personal worth commanding the confidence and regard of all who come in contact with him.

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#### EDWARD G. HAGEN.

Edward G. Hagen, who owns and operates a farm of one hundred and forty-four acres on section 19, Paint Creek township, has to his credit a military record covering nine years' service and including participation in the Spanish-American war. He is numbered among the worthy native sons of Allamakee county, his birth having occurred in Paint Creek township on the 31st of May, 1865. His parents were Gilbert and Agnette (Coldor) Hagen, more extended mention of whom is made on another page of this work in connection with the sketch of Peter G. Hagen, a brother of our subject. His early education, obtained in the district schools, was supplemented by a course of study at Luther College of Decorah, Iowa. When twenty-one years of age he made his way to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, there securing employment as clerk in a country store. A year later his employer sold out and went to Tacoma, Washington, being accompanied by Mr. Hagen, who worked for a short time in the store which the former there purchased. Subsequently Mr. Hagen was engaged in the manu-

facture of tents, sails, awnings, etc., until eastern competition and improved machinery obliged him to abandon the enterprise.

On the 19th of December, 1895, he joined the United States army, becoming a member of Troop F, Fourth United States Cavalry, and spending three years at Boise Barracks, Idaho. He then reenlisted and went to the Philippine Islands, there participating in the following battles: Markeno Road, August 12, 1899; San Isidro, October 19, 1899; Arangat, October 12, 1899; Bangabon, November, 1899; Cebul, December 10, 1899; and Biacnabato, December 12, 1899. The period of his service in the Philippines extended from July 25, 1899, to August 28, 1901. Returning to the United States, he was located at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, until finally discharged at the end of nine years' service. He enlisted as a private, was made corporal on the 5th of June, 1899, promoted to the rank of sergeant on the 31st of October, 1900, and became quartermaster sergeant in 1901.

On leaving the army Mr. Hagen entered the service of the Occidental Land & Improvement Company and remained with that concern for seven or eight years, becoming foreman on their ranch and later foreman of warehouses. He was next engaged in the butchering business for two years and on the expiration of that period spent a few more months in the employ of the Occidental Land & Improvement Company. In August, 1912, he returned to Allamakee county and the following month purchased one hundred and forty-four acres of land on section 19, Paint Creek township, taking possession thereof in March, 1913. In the work of the fields he is meeting with success, raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate. Throughout his native county he is well known and highly esteemed as an enterprising agriculturist and representative citizen.

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#### JOHN E. LARSON.

Among the citizens of Allamakee county who have made substantial contributions to the general agricultural development of this section of the state is numbered John E. Larson, who was born in the township and on the farm where he now resides in 1861. He is a son of Easton and Johanna Larson, natives of Norway, who emigrated to America in 1854 and in the same year settled in Allamakee county, Iowa, the father turning his attention to farming. He purchased government land and added to it from time to time, being an extensive property owner and a prosperous farmer at the time of his death, which occurred in 1888. His wife survives him and resides upon the homestead, having reached the age of eighty-eight years. To them were born three children: Mrs. Dorothy Egan, of Winneshiek county; Lucy, deceased; and John E., of this review.

The last named was reared under the parental roof and from his childhood has been familiar with the best methods of farming, having assisted his father with the operation of the homestead. After the latter's death he purchased the farm, comprising one hundred and twenty-seven acres in Waterloo township, seventy-five of which are in a high state of cultivation. Here he engages in

breeding and raising stock in addition to the cultivation of the fields and is meeting with that success which always rewards earnest and persistent labor.

In 1885 Mr. Larson was united in marriage to Miss Johanna Swenson, who was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, a daughter of John O. Swenson, who came to this state in the early '50s, among the first settlers. He had previously attempted settlement in Jackson county, Minnesota, but had been driven away by the Indians. After his arrival in Allamakee county he turned his attention to farming here, residing on a valuable and productive property until his death. He and his wife became the parents of ten children, eight of whom are still living. To Mr. and Mrs. Larson were born six children, two of whom have passed away. The others are: Emelia, born in 1889; Carina, born in 1892; Edgar, whose birth occurred in 1900; and Ida, whose birth occurred in 1905.

The family are members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Larson gives his political allegiance to the republican party and for four years rendered the township excellent and effective service as trustee. He is highly esteemed by his fellow citizens, among whom his entire life has been spent, not only by reason of the success he has attained along agricultural lines but also because of his many substantial qualities of manhood.

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#### THOMAS CAVANAUGH.

Thomas Cavanaugh, prominently connected with financial interests of Harper's Ferry as cashier of the Bank of Harper's Ferry, was born in Waterloo township, this county, May 24, 1879, a son of Michael and Mary (Danaher) Cavanaugh, natives of Ireland. The father emigrated to America in 1840 and lived for a time at Vicksburg, Mississippi, and afterward at Galena, Illinois. He was one of the pioneers in Allamakee county, coming to this part of Iowa in 1853 and buying one hundred and sixty acres of government land in Waterloo township. Upon this he made substantial improvements, and continued to make his home thereon until his death in 1888. He was married in Wexford, this county, to Miss Mary Danaher, who as a child came from Ireland with her parents and settled in that locality, where she grew to womanhood. She survives her husband and lives upon the old homestead which has been increased by purchase to two hundred and eighty acres. She is a devout member of the Roman Catholic church, to which her husband also adhered, he having been one of the organizers of the church at Dorchester. To them were born five children: Anna, the wife of William Ward, of Hanover townhsip; Morgan, who resides on the home farm; Margaret, the wife of Henry McCullough, of Union Prairie township; Nellie, at home; and Thomas, of this review.

Thomas Cavanaugh acquired his education in the district schools of Waterloo township, in Valder College, Decorah, and in the State Normal School at Cedar Falls. After laying aside his books he turned his attention to teaching, remaining active at this occupation for seven years thereafter. In 1909 he aided in organizing the Bank of Harper's Ferry and was elected its cashier, a position which he has since held. This concern is capitalized at fifty thousand dollars and W. F. Daubenberger, of McGregor, is its president; J. F. Daubenberger

acting as vice president. It does a general banking business and, having been founded upon safe and conservative lines, has had a steady and rapid growth. Mr. Cavanaugh's energy and financial ability being accounted among the most helpful factors in its development.

At Harper's Ferry Mr. Cavanaugh was united in marriage to Miss B. M. Guthnick, a daughter of Herbert Guthnick, of that place. They have two children, Mary and Angelo. Mr. Cavanaugh is a devout member of the Roman Catholic church and is a democrat in politics. He has, however, never been eager for office, preferring to do his public service in other ways. He is interested in the welfare of Harper's Ferry and as the years have gone by has won for himself a creditable position as a valued citizen and business man.

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#### CALVIN AUGUSTUS ROBEY.

Returning from service in the Civil war with a creditable military record, Calvin Augustus Robey purchased one hundred and three acres of land on section 32, Paint Creek township, and upon this property he has since carried on the work of improvement and development, making it today one of the model farms of the locality. In the course of years he has gained success, prominence and a substantial fortune and he is ranked today among the representative and able citizens of this part of Iowa. He was born in Monongalia county, West Virginia, September 27, 1843, and is a son of Hezekiah and Caroline (Porter) Robey, the former a native of Ohio, born in 1812, the latter a native of West Virginia. The grandfather of C. A. Robey was Loyd Robey, who emigrated direct from Scotland to Ohio, in an early day. The subject of this sketch came to Allamakee county with his parents in 1855, and the father farmed on rented land until his death, four years later. His wife survived him many years, dying in Jefferson township at the age of eighty. To them were born seven children: Calvin A., of this review; M. L., Sarah and J. C., all of whom have passed away; E. W., of Dickinson county, Iowa; James, deceased; and one who died in infancy.

Calvin A. Robey acquired a grammar-school education in his native state and in Allamakee county, and while still pursuing his studies enlisted at Rossville in Company K, First Iowa Cavalry, and went south with his regiment. He spent two and one-half years in the Western Army, engaging in scouting and in charging on towns, firing on the rebels and expelling them from their strongholds, and with a creditable military record returned to Allamakee county after peace was declared. He purchased one hundred and three acres of land in Paint Creek township containing a few log buildings but destitute of other improvements. With characteristic energy Mr. Robey set himself to develop this property and has carried forward the work throughout the intervening years, his farm being today one of the model properties of this vicinity. In addition to it he owns a controlling interest in three hundred acres of fine timber land in Linton township, probably the largest tract of the kind in Iowa. Mr. Robey has engaged in the lumber business for a number of years and has cut, sawed and piled about four hundred thousand feet of good hardwood lumber. At the age of seventy he is





C. A. ROBESY





MRS. C. A. ROBEBY



still active and hearty and accomplishes every day work which would be a credit to a man twenty years his junior.

In Allamakee county Mr. Robey was united in marriage, May 13, 1866, to Miss Isabelle Dunn, who was born in West Virginia, a daughter of William Dunn, an early settler in Allamakee county, where he located in 1852. Mrs. Robey passed away December 21, 1911. She was a devout member of the Baptist church, which she joined as a girl of fourteen, and was a lady of many exemplary qualities of character and highly respected and esteemed wherever she was known. She became the mother of eleven children: Angie, the wife of J. L. Kelly, of Paint Creek township; Edith, who married O. B. Kelly, of Jefferson township; B. L., a farmer of Jefferson township, who married Lois M. Lovelace, a Baptist minister's daughter; Bertha G., the wife of S. H. Reeve, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Ray C., who married Hazel Henderson, a native of Jefferson township; Ella W., the deceased wife of A. L. McClintock; Harry, who was killed by a horse when he was twelve years of age; William Dudley, who died at about the same age; Edna, who passed away at thirteen; and two children who died in infancy.

A progressive and public-spirited citizen, Mr. Robey has always taken an intelligent interest in community affairs and, representing the republican party, has held various positions of trust and responsibility. He twice took the census of Paint Creek township and indeed held all of the important township offices, his public career being varied in service and faultless in honor. Although he received only a common school education, he is today a well informed and cultured man, having throughout his entire life been a wide reader and a deep thinker. His home had always been supplied with numerous and well selected books and a spirit of refinement has pervaded it. Mr. Robey has been an extensive traveler and while his wife was living she accompanied him on various journeys through the eastern and western states. In 1913 he took a trip to Philadelphia in order to visit his daughter who resides there and also to attend the reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic held on the Gettysburg battlefield. Since 1868 he has kept a diary of all the important events in the township and county and is thoroughly familiar with this section of Iowa from pioneer times to the present. He has been closely identified with Allamakee county in its up-building and prosperity and is justly accounted a progressive and representative citizen. From time to time he has given hearty cooperation to many movements for the public good and has contributed in a substantial measure to the development and growth of one of the greatest counties in Iowa.

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#### THORE ENGBRETSON.

Thore Engebretson, who passed away in Allamakee county at the age of seventy-eight years, was one of its honored pioneers and successful agriculturists, owning two hundred and eighty acres of rich and productive land in Center and Paint Creek townships. He was a native of Barrum, Norway, and in that country wedded Miss Helena Marie Nelson, who was born in the same province. In 1851 they crossed the Atlantic to the United States with their family of four

children and for one year made their home at Rock Prairie, Wisconsin. In 1852 they came to Allamakee county, Iowa, purchasing and locating on a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land on sections 35 and 36, Paint Creek township. The log shanty on the place, which had been built by a former resident, remained their home for a time. Later a stone house was erected which is still standing and doing good service. Mr. Engebretson prospered in his undertakings as an agriculturist and subsequently purchased an additional tract of one hundred and twenty acres, making his farm one of two hundred and eighty acres, which is still in possession of three of his children, who reside on the place. At the time of the Civil war he responded to the call for troops and for one year loyally served the Union cause as a member of Company F, Ninth Iowa Cavalry. He came to the new world a poor man and experienced all the vicissitudes and privations of pioneer life. It was only by dint of persistent and untiring labor that he won the success which eventually placed him among the substantial and representative citizens of his community. His wife was called to her final rest at the age of seventy-five years. They were devoted members of the Lutheran church and their lives were in consistent harmony with their professions. In his political views Mr. Engebretson was a staunch republican.

Mr. and Mrs. Engebretson were the parents of the following children: Anton, who resides on the old homestead on section 35, Center township, with his two sisters, Emma and Christina; Mary, the wife of L. O. Larson, of Taylor township, this county; Johanna, who is the widow of George Bieber and resides in Rock county, Minnesota; Ludwig, who died at the age of forty-five years; Edward, who is deceased; Olof, a resident of Rock County, Minnesota; Christian, who was drowned in childhood; and Emma and Christina, who reside on the old homestead farm with their brother Anton, the former having been blind since the age of ten years. Anton Engebretson carries on general agricultural pursuits with good success. He is now sixty-four years of age and has lived here from pioneer times to the present, having witnessed the wonderful transformation that has occurred as early conditions have given way before the onward march of civilization.

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#### FRANK MYRON NAGEL.

Frank Myron Nagel, a worthy native son and enterprising young agriculturist of Allamakee county, is the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and seventy-seven and a half acres on section 21, Franklin township, and devotes his attention to its operation with excellent results. His birth occurred at Hardin on the 29th of July, 1889, his parents being Julius J. and Clara (Dunning) Nagel, the former a native of Garnaville township, Clayton county, Iowa, and the latter of Franklin township, Allamakee county. Julius J. Nagel was born on the 1st of October, 1858, while his wife's natal day was February 9, 1863. A sketch of the former, who is a prominent agriculturist of Franklin township, appears on another page of this work.

In the acquirement of an education Frank M. Nagel attended district school No. 3 of Franklin township. He remained under the parental roof until he had

passed the age of twenty and then rented a farm, which he cultivated for one year. On the expiration of that period he purchased a farm of one hundred and seventy-seven and a half acres on section 21, Franklin township, which has since remained in his possession and in the operation of which he has won success. The land is rich and productive and annually yields bounteous harvests. Mr. Nagel raises the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and also devotes considerable attention to live stock, finding both branches of his business remunerative.

On the 11th of May, 1910, Mr. Nagel was united in marriage to Miss Leta Renpage, who was born at Wheaton, Illinois, on the 20th of February, 1890, her parents being Henry and Effie (Thornton) Renpage. The father's birth occurred in Germany in 1854, while the mother was born in Franklin township, this county, in 1864. Henry Renpage worked as a blacksmith in early manhood but after coming to Iowa turned his attention to general agricultural pursuits. At the end of seven years' residence here, in 1909, he removed to Ottertail county, Minnesota, purchased a farm and has operated the same continuously since. Our subject and his wife have two children: Chalmer Gilbert, whose natal day was November 23, 1911; and a son, not yet named.

Mr. Nagel gives his political allegiance to the republican party but has not sought nor desired office, preferring to devote his attention exclusively to his business interests. He is a substantial young agriculturist of his community and has won many friends by reason of his upright and honorable life.

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#### H. B. MINER.

Among the men who have been active in inaugurating and shaping the agricultural and political development of Allamakee county since pioneer times is numbered H. B. Miner, whose residence in this section of the state dates from 1856. A spirit of enterprise, initiative and progress, has actuated him in all the varied activities of his career, making his business attainments of a high order and his work in politics a credit and a benefit to the community where he has so long made his home. For thirty consecutive years he served as surveyor of the county and he has held other important official positions, his work being distinguished by the same energy, progressiveness and public spirit which dominate his character and influence all the phases of his public and private life.

Mr. Miner was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, January 24, 1840, and is a son of Thomas E. Miner, a native of Virginia, who grew to manhood in that state. After a period of able service in the War of 1812, the father went to Ohio, settling in Jefferson county, where he engaged in farming. He there married Miss Fannie Coyle, a native of Maryland, and they began their wedded life on the farm in Jefferson county, where nine of their children were born. In 1856 the family removed to Allamakee county, Iowa, where they were numbered among the pioneers, Waukon being at that time nothing more than an insignificant crossroads village. The father entered one hundred acres of land in Linton township and with the help of his sons cleared this property, broke the soil, fenced the fields and opened up a new farm which in time became one of

the valuable places of the section. He spent the remainder of his life upon the homestead, dying November 3, 1872. He had survived his wife two years and both are buried in the Council Hill cemetery.

H. B. Miner acquired his education in the public schools of Jefferson county, Ohio, and in 1856, when he was sixteen years of age, came to Iowa with his parents, settling in Allamakee county, where he has since resided, being today one of the honored pioneers. He helped clear, improve and develop his father's farm at a time when there were but three families in Linton township and amid the inconvenient and often hard conditions of pioneer life grew to manhood. Having supplemented a course in the Ohio public schools by two years' attendance at the Richmond (Ohio) Presbyterian Seminary he was unusually well educated for those days and when he began his independent career turned his attention to teaching, having received his first teachers' certificate as early as 1860. He followed that occupation only during the winter months, spending his summers assisting with the work of the farm. He later engaged in agricultural pursuits on his own account and his early training made him a practical, able and successful farmer. He continued to reside upon his property until 1899 when he removed to Waukon, where he has since made his home.

Being a far-sighted, discriminating and progressive man, Mr. Miner has been carried forward into important relations with the public life of the city and is considered today one of the leading figures in local republican politics, having always been a staunch supporter of the principles and policies for which that party stands. He cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864 and has voted for every republican presidential nominee since that time. He has himself taken an active and prominent part in local politics, his public career beginning while living on the farm, when he served as township assessor and also as township treasurer. During this time also he studied surveying, becoming very proficient at that profession, in which he has continued to engage in a public or private capacity since that time, accomplishing much important work along this line. In 1879 he was elected county surveyor of Allamakee county and served so efficiently, conscientiously and capably that at the end of his first term he was returned to office and he thereafter served for thirty years—a conclusive evidence of the value and importance of his labors and their acceptability to the public at large. Mr. Miner's friends are fond of saying that the only way he could be gotten out of this office was to be legislated out, for his service ended when the office of county surveyor was abolished in Iowa. He has, however, continued his work in a private capacity, having been since connected with important surveying projects in Allamakee and Clayton counties. He is in great demand for surveys calling for careful, expert and prompt labor and is particularly proficient in running and establishing lines and corners. In addition to holding the office of county surveyor he has also served as deputy county treasurer and he has made his name a synonym for high ideals of political morality and for earnest, capable and discriminating work in the public service.

Mr. Miner was married in Clayton county, March 17, 1864, to Miss Hattie E. Bywater, a native of England, born near Leeds, and a daughter of George Bywater, who came of old and honored English ancestry. He was an expert flax dresser by trade and was sent to America in the interests of a large English company engaged in the manufacture of fine linens. He located at Lansingburg,

near Troy, New York, where he bought and dressed flax for his employers, and where he and his wife died. His daughter was reared and educated in that state and later went to Madison, Wisconsin, where she spent some years, but in 1862 came to Monona, Iowa. She had fitted herself for teaching and followed that occupation in various schools in this part of the state, holding a position in the same district school of which her husband had previously been teacher. Their oldest son later taught in that institution as did also two of their daughters. Mr. and Mrs. Miner became the parents of five children: Dr. Frank D. is in active practice of dentistry in Hazelton. Dr. Cora R. is also a dentist by profession, practicing in Waukon, for some years. Addie F., a graduate nurse of Wesley Hospital, Chicago, is now superintendent of Sheridan Park Hospital on Belmont avenue in Chicago. Willis H. is county engineer of Allamakee county. The oldest child in this family, Fannie, died in 1879 at the age of fourteen. All the surviving members acquired excellent educations, supplementing the usual public-school course by attendance at college. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and while on the farm Mr. Miner served as Sunday school superintendent for five years.

Fraternally Mr. Miner is a member of the Masonic order, belonging first to Clayton Lodge, No. 70, and now to Waukon Lodge, No. 144, F. & A. M. He is probably one of the best known and most influential residents of Waukon, where he has resided for so many years and where his work as a private citizen and as a public official has commended him to the trust, good-will and confidence of all with whom he has come in contact.

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#### GEORGE D. L. THOMAS.

George D. L. Thomas is a native of Allamakee county and a son of one of the pioneers of the '40s. He is a self-made man and now owns a valuable farm of ninety-seven acres in Linton township, to the cultivation of which he gives his whole attention. He was born at Waterville, this state, September 24, 1865, his parents being John and Nancy Jane (Snell) Thomas, both natives of Indiana. The father was born February 22, 1824, and the mother was about ten years younger, her birth record having been destroyed by fire when she was a mere child. The father practiced medicine in Indiana and came to Iowa on a visit in the late '40s. He made the trip from Indiana to this locality and back on foot but the following year he and his brother and wife rode overland in a one-horse wagon. The first winter he made his living here by hunting and the following year engaged in buying and selling land, so continuing for a number of years until he became the owner of a grist-mill at Waterville. He also built a sawmill there and later a second mill of the same kind, engaging in the milling business for about fourteen years. At the end of that period he turned his attention to farming, acquiring title to a farm in Franklin township, and was so engaged until he removed to Waukon, where he farmed for two years before another removal was made to Rossville, where five years were spent. He then came to Linton township, where he died in 1908, the mother having preceded him by one year. The father enlisted in the Mexican war as a drummer boy,

as he was too small to be taken as a regular. However, the war came to a close before the regiment arrived at the front.

George D. L. Thomas is the eighth of ten children born to his parents. He attended school at Bear Hollow in Linton township and also at Waukon and Rossville. When nineteen years of age he took up farm work, remaining on his father's place until he married, when he bought a farm for himself in Linton township. There he resided until 1906, when he sold out and located on his present place. It comprises ninety-seven acres of fertile land and is devoted to general farming and stock-raising. His buildings are substantial, his fields under high cultivation, his stock high grade and his machinery up-to-date and modern, indicating his progressive spirit and thorough methods. He is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery Company and also in the Shipping Association.

On March 24, 1896, Mr. Thomas married Miss Iona Russell, who was born in Linton township at what is now called Sixteen, April 24, 1872. She was a daughter of Washington and Ada Russell, natives of Wisconsin and early settlers of Allamakee county. The father was for many years a prominent farmer and now resides retired at Fennimore, Wisconsin. The mother passed away and her daughter, Mrs. Thomas, is also deceased, her demise occurring November 19, 1907, when but thirty-five years of age. On April 24, 1910, Mr. Thomas married Miss Blanche Rose, who was born in Franklin township, February 14, 1885, a daughter of Charles and Vina (Johnson) Rose, natives of that township. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have become the parents of a daughter, Inez, who was born in November, 1911.

Mr. Thomas gives his allegiance to the democratic party and efficiently served as school director of his township. Devoting his entire time to his agricultural pursuits, he has been very successful and is today numbered among the substantial farmers of his section.

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#### THOMAS W. MELAVEN.

Thomas W. Melaven, since 1890 connected with mercantile interests of Harper's Ferry as proprietor of a general store, was born in Taylor township, November 6, 1859, and is a son of James and Elizabeth (Healy) Melaven, the former a pioneer in Allamakee county, more extended mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work.

Thomas W. Melaven was reared at home and acquired his education in the public schools of Taylor township. He remained with his parents until 1890 and then came to Harper's Ferry, where he purchased a stock of general merchandise and established himself in business. He now has the largest and best store in the village and controls an important and growing trade, accorded him in recognition of his upright and honorable business methods, his constant courtesy and his earnest desire to please his patrons.

Mr. Melaven married Miss Aline Guthnick, who was born in Harper's Ferry, and they have become the parents of one child, Ethel. Mr. Melaven is a devout member of the Roman Catholic church and is a democrat in his political beliefs. interested and active in community affairs. After the incorporation of the



town he served as mayor for eight years and his administration was distinguished by the accomplishment of a great deal of constructive and beneficial work. While giving close attention to his personal interests he has never lost sight of his duty as a citizen, being deeply interested in all matters pertaining to the public welfare and giving of his time and means toward the advancement and promotion of the community at large.

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### WILLIAM MORTON KELLY.

During a period of residence in Allamakee county covering forty-six years, William Morton Kelly made many substantial contributions to its agricultural and business development and his name still stands as a synonym for progress, reform and advancement in the communities where he was known. A great many of the business enterprises in this part of the state profited greatly by his initiative spirit and his untiring industry and a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 33, Paint Creek township, stands as a memorial to his life of energy and thrift. Upon this property he passed away January 18, 1907.

Mr. Kelly was born in Ohio on the 7th of April, 1833, and was of Irish descent, though his father, Daniel Kelly, was a native of Ohio as was his father before him. The public schools of his native county afforded William M. Kelly his educational opportunities and after laying aside his books he turned his attention to farming, engaging in that occupation in Ohio until 1861. In that year he came to Allamakee county and he remained an honored and respected resident of this part of Iowa until his death. He settled first in the village known as Sixteen, in what is now Linton township, and remained there seven years, removing in 1868 to Rossville, where he became very successful in the conduct of a general store. He went to Mason City in 1870 and became a merchant there, but after three years returned to his business in Rossville, building up in that community a large, well managed and profitable mercantile enterprise. However, in 1878, he again turned his attention to farming, buying on section 33, Paint Creek township, a one hundred and sixty acre tract which had formerly belonged to his brother Richard. It had been improved but was badly run down and Mr. Kelly turned his attention with characteristic energy to its development, repairing the buildings, erecting new ones and neglecting nothing which would add to the attractive appearance or value of the place. He made it an excellent property, provided with all the accessories and conveniences of a model farm and at his death was numbered among the representative and progressive agriculturists of his locality.

In Ohio on the 19th of August, 1858, Mr. Kelly was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Lewis, a daughter of Jesse and Esther Lewis, and they became the parents of thirteen children, eight of whom are still living: Nettie, who makes her home with her brother Daniel; Alice, twin sister of Nettie and the wife of Samuel Campbell of Nebraska; Mary, who married T. B. Campbell of Sheridan, Wyoming; Daniel, who is engaged in farming in Paint Creek township; Jesse L., also a farmer in Paint Creek township; William H.; Mattie, the wife of Albert Gast of Paint Creek township; and Fred, a resident of Giltner, Nebraska.

William H. Kelly is operating the family homestead and is accounted one of the successful and representative farmers of Allamakee county. He was born in Rossville, March 2, 1870, and acquired his education in the district schools. After the death of his father he came into possession of the farm and has ably carried forward the work of development. He married Miss Sarah Klees, a native of this county and a daughter of Mathias and Emeline Klees, the former of whom has passed away. The mother lives upon a farm in Linton township. Mr. and Mrs. William H. Kelly have one daughter, Ruth. Mrs. William Morton Kelly survives her husband and makes her home upon the farm with her son and daughter-in-law. She is a lady of many excellent traits of mind and character and her long residence here has brought her wide-spread esteem and many friends.

William Morton Kelly was a member of the Presbyterian church and was a democrat in his political beliefs. He was prominent in the party's councils and active in public affairs, being eminently progressive and public-spirited in matters of citizenship. For many years he rendered his township excellent service as trustee and was for three years a member of the county board of supervisors. Projects for the advancement and development of Allamakee county seldom lacked his ready and hearty cooperation, and meritorious business enterprises could always look to him for support. Thus he aided in the organization of the Waterville Creamery which is still in operation and which has proven through the years an important factor in business expansion. In Allamakee county where he was widely known, he held the esteem and confidence of all his associates and his death was felt as a personal loss by all who were fortunate enough to come within the close circle of his friendship.

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#### JOSEPH HARTLEY.

Different occupations claim the attention of Joseph Hartley, one of Allamakee county's most prominent and successful native sons, for he is not only one of the largest landowners, most prosperous farmers and extensive stock-raisers in this vicinity, but he is also a representative and able business man. For the past twelve years he has owned and operated a large, portable sawmill, doing general customs work, and he controls an important trade as a grade contractor, his interests being all of a constructive character, which makes them valuable as factors in general advancement and growth. He was born in Union City township in 1869 and is the eldest of the ten children born to John W. and Sarah G. (Ratliffe) Hartley, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work, in connection with the sketch of Benjamin Hartley.

Joseph Hartley acquired his education in the log schoolhouses in French Creek and Union City townships, and after he had laid aside his books continued to assist with the work of the homestead, a thing he had been accustomed to do since his childhood. When he was twenty-seven years of age he began his independent career, buying three hundred and thirty-two acres in Union City township, and upon this property, which is known as the Gilchrist farm, he still resides, carrying forward its further cultivation and development



JOSEPH HARTLEY



along progressive and modern lines and meeting with the success which is the natural result of his industry and practical labors. He is particularly interested in stock-raising, being one of the most extensive breeders of his township, and he has made this branch of his interests an important source of income to him. Mr. Hartley has invested extensively in Canada lands, realizing as a judicious and discriminating business man the value of this property, and he now owns twelve hundred and eighty acres in Manitoba, ninety miles west of Winnipeg, which for three seasons he has had farmed in small grain. He owns in addition to this valuable holding vacant city property in Winnipeg. His contracting business is an important and valuable one. He has recently completed a piece of road grading in Iowa township estimated at ten thousand dollars, and he put in the first artesian well on the Iowa river in Allamakee county, and has been connected with a great deal of other important work of this character. Being ambitious and energetic, he has been carried forward into important business relations and, continually enlarging the scope of his interests, stands today among the most successful and prominent of Allamakee county's native sons.

Mr. Hartley married, in 1896, Miss Carrie L. Howes, a native of French Creek township and a daughter of John Howes. She is one of a family of nine children, six of whom are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Hartley have five children: Ethel L., who was born in 1897, and who is attending high school at Waukon; John J., whose birth occurred in 1899; Belle S., born in 1901; Albert G., born in 1906; and Charles E., born in 1912. The parents are devout members of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Hartley is connected fraternally with the Masonic order, holding membership in the lodge at Waukon. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party, of which he is an active member. Naturally, however, he gives most of his attention to his business affairs, which are bringing him richly merited success. His worth is widely acknowledged, his business enterprise having gained him distinction in commercial circles, and his business probity stands as an unquestioned fact in his career.

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#### SOLVE K. KOLSRUD.

Solve K. Kolsrud, proprietor of a large and profitable general mercantile establishment in Waterville and one of the prominent, able and public-spirited residents of Waukon, has lived in Allamakee county since 1877. He was born in Norway in 1875 and two years afterward was brought to America by his parents, who came directly to Iowa, locating first in Paint Creek township, Allamakee county, and later settling in Jefferson township on a farm. Their son grew to manhood there, acquiring his early education in the public schools and supplementing this by a course at Decorah Institute and the Upper Iowa University and at Fayette, Iowa, where he took a commercial course. After completing his studies Mr. Kolsrud turned his attention to teaching, following that occupation for several winter terms in different counties of this state and spending his summers during this time in farming.

Solve K. Kolsrud became connected with general merchandising, in which he has since attained prominence and prosperity, when he formed a partnership with Tollef Johnson and under the firm name of Johnson & Kolsrud opened a store in Waukon. After three years he sold his interest in this enterprise and accepted a position with the International Harvester Company, whom he represented as a traveling salesman for six or seven years in northeastern Iowa. He left this position when he was appointed deputy auditor of Allamakee county and did such able and conscientious work in that capacity that after four years he was elected auditor, serving until January 1, 1913, and discharging his duties in a businesslike, able and progressive manner. In December, 1912, he purchased his brother's general store in Waterville and has since continued to conduct it, controlling today an important and growing trade. He keeps a large and well selected stock of goods and the business has steadily expanded since he assumed control, being now a large and profitable enterprise. Mr. Kolsrud makes his home in Waukon, where he owns a neat and attractive residence and where he intends to live for some time to come in order to give his children the benefit of the excellent schools in the city.

In Center township, Allamakee county, on the 14th of June, 1896, Mr. Kolsrud married Miss Gunda Marie Bakkum, who was born and reared in that community. They became the parents of the following children, Agnes G., Katherine Alvira, Stella Grace, Harry Frederick and Lillian. The parents are members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Kolsrud is a member of the Knights of the Macabees. Having lived practically all of his life in Allamakee county, he has become widely known here and the fact that many of his staunchest friends have known him since childhood is an indication that his career has been straightforward, honorable and upright in all its relations.

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#### ALBERT H. GAST.

A native of Linton township, Allamakee county, Albert H. Gast has become prominent in that locality as one of the substantial farmers, owning Sunnybrook Farm, a property largely devoted to stock-raising and comprising one hundred and seventy-five acres, of which eighty-six are in Linton township and the remainder in Paint Creek township. He was born May 15, 1863, and is a son of John and Catherine (Heimbruch) Gast, both natives of Hesse, Germany. The father was born September 12, 1839, and now lives retired in this state, while the mother, who was born June 8, 1839, passed away June 6, 1911. The father always followed farming and was brought to this country by his forebears when but five years of age. The family first located in Canada, where he grew to manhood, remaining there until about twenty years of age. In 1861 he came to Iowa and bought eighty acres of land, which is part of the farm upon which our subject now resides. It was then nothing but a wilderness, abounding in game and not much else. He cleared and improved this tract and later added thereto until he owned more than two hundred acres, all of which he cut out of the timber, our subject ably assisting him in this deterring and slow labor. The father continued there until 1910, when on account of his wife's

health he left the farm and went to McIntire, Mitchell county, this state, where she subsequently passed away. Mr. Gast has continued to reside there since his retirement. He has always participated in any movements undertaken in the public interest and for six years served as township trustee, also holding various other local offices. In his family were eleven children, of whom Albert H. Gast is the second in order of birth. He is one of twins, his brother having died in infancy.

Albert H. Gast, in the acquirement of his education, attended the school in Linton township now known as the Big Foot school. He worked at home with his father from the age of ten years, early becoming used to the hardships of agricultural life under pioneer conditions. He remained at home until twenty-six and then hired out as a farm hand, saving during that year one hundred dollars, which he put out on interest and which he has never touched since but is still drawing dividends. This is mentioned as an example of the determination, thrift, industry and ambition of Mr. Gast, who by exercising these qualities has attained to the prominent position which he now occupies. After one year he engaged in threshing during the season, finding this a very profitable occupation, and in the rest of the time worked at the carpenters' trade, continuing along both lines until 1895, when he married and bought his present farm in March of that year. He has made many valuable improvements thereon, erected modern and substantial buildings and instituted the latest implements and machinery. Sunnybrook Farm comprises one hundred and seventy-five acres, of which eighty-six lie across the line in Linton township. It is mostly devoted to stock-raising and there Mr. Gast gives his close attention to these interests. Everything about the place is up-to-date and modern and the farm has a reputation of producing the largest yield and the best stock in the vicinity. Mr. Gast is also a stockholder in the Monona Creamery.

On February 26, 1895, Mr. Gast was united in marriage to Miss Martha M. Kelly, a native of Mason City, Iowa, born November 29, 1871. She is a daughter of William and Sarah (Lewis) Kelly, both natives of Harrison county, Ohio. Her father in early life was a farmer and became a pioneer in this section of Iowa in the '50s. Later he went to Mason City, where he engaged in the mercantile business and then came to Rossville, this county, where he opened and conducted a general store. However, later he returned to his farm in Paint Creek township and continued thereon with gratifying success until his death, which occurred January 18, 1907. He was nearly seventy-four years of age, the date of his birth being April 7, 1833. His wife survives and still resides on the old homestead, making her home with a son. Mr. Kelly was prominent in official circles, having served as county supervisor for one term and also as township assessor and in other local offices. He was public-spirited, exemplifying in his life true American citizenship, and was ever ready to give of his time and money in the furtherance of the public welfare. Mrs. Gast is the seventh in order of birth in a family of eight children and she became the mother of two, the first of whom died in infancy, while the other is Esther Pearl, born July 6, 1898.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Gast are members of the Presbyterian church at Rossville. In his political views he is a republican, although he often votes independently, following his own judgment especially in supporting local candidates.

He is a trustee of Paint Creek township. Such success as has come to him is highly merited, for it is the outcome of strenuous and well directed labor. Mr. Gast, however, has not only brought about his own prosperity but has been a valuable factor in raising agricultural standards in Allamakee county and promoting agricultural development here. He is conceded to be one of the influential men in his section and enjoys in full measure the high regard of all who know him. He is also very progressive and up-to-date, being the first man to install a telephone in his neighborhood and he purchased the first automobile taken south of Waukon, it being a Ford which he still runs.

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ARTHUR W. SWENSON.

Arthur W. Swenson, well known as a representative of farming and stock-raising interests in the vicinity of Postville, was born in Post township, a mile and a half north of the city of Postville, November 24, 1875, his father being Evan Swenson, of whom mention is made on another page of this volume. At the usual age he began his education as a pupil in the public school at West Grove, in Post township, and when not busy with his text-books he worked in the fields, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He continued to work upon the home farm until after he had attained his majority, spending a year in his father's employ after he reached the age of twenty-one. When twenty-two years of age he rented a tract of land in Post township near the old home, living thereon for a year. He afterward rented and cultivated a farm of two hundred acres in Ludlow township, residing there for a year and a half. He prospered during that period and with the money which he had earned purchased the farm upon which he now resides, becoming the owner at first of one hundred and sixty acres, to which he has since added by further purchase from time to time until he now has a valuable tract of three hundred and fifty-nine acres, pleasantly and conveniently located within six miles of Postville. The tract is practically all tillable land. He operates the farm in a general way, raising considerable stock. He handles horses, cattle and hogs, keeping a high grade of shorthorn cattle, and his stock-raising interests constitute a profitable source of income. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Store in Postville, in the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company at Postville, and in the Luana Creamery Company and the Farmers Cooperative Shipping Association at Postville. He is recognized as a man of excellent business ability, accomplishing what he undertakes by reason of his unfaltering perseverance, his keen discrimination and his undaunted energy.

On the 24th of November, 1898, Mr. Swenson was united in marriage to Miss Nina E. Harris, who was born in Post township and is a daughter of George W. and Ellen (Laughlin) Harris. Her birth occurred July 3, 1878, and by her marriage she has become the mother of five children: Hall LeRoy, born September 27, 1899; Doris Ellen, born December 14, 1901; Roland Evan, November 17, 1903; Florence Katharine, July 23, 1907; and George Wesley, October 24, 1911. The parents are members of the United Brethren church and Mr. Swenson belongs to the Modern Woodmen Camp of Postville. In politics he is a repub-



lican and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, but has never sought or desired office. He is now serving as school director and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend. He is interested in all that pertains to public progress and gives active and hearty support to many measures for the general good. His life has been well spent and those who have known him from his boyhood are numbered among his staunchest friends. He has always resided in the county which is now his home and here he has carefully directed his business affairs until he has become one of the substantial citizens of the community.

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REV. R. L. VAN NICE.

Rev. R. L. Van Nice, since 1889 pastor of the Presbyterian church at Waukon, was born at Crawfordsville, Indiana, October 15, 1850, a son of Isaac and Elizabeth Van Nice and the youngest of a family of twelve children. When two years of age the parents moved to Henry county, Illinois, and settled on a farm one-half mile west of Cambridge, the county seat. Mr. Van Nice received his high-school training there and later took private instruction under Rev. Mr. Thompson, of Kewanee. He afterward taught a country school and in 1870 moved with his parents to Missouri, settling in Barton county. After a year there Mr. Van Nice entered college at Fulton and also received instruction in theology under Rev. N. L. Rice. His health failed at this time and he was a semi-invalid for some years thereafter. Returning to Illinois, he taught school at Morristown and afterward pursued his studies in private, preparing for his life work. In the fall of 1875 he was licensed to preach and in the spring of 1876 was sent to take charge of a church at Nevada, Vernon county, Missouri. Finding a large field in the vicinity of that city without a preacher, Mr. Van Nice preached at various places and organized four congregations before he left the locality. In the summer of 1881 he was called to the presidency of Ozark College, Greenfield, Missouri, and in the fall of that year became pastor of the Greenfield church. Mr. Van Nice's health becoming impaired, he resigned from the college, continuing his work as pastor of the church until 1888. In that year he became pastor evangelist of the Ozark presbytery, retaining this office for fourteen months and then resigning to accept a call from the board of missions to be pastor evangelist of the work in the Iowa synod. Soon after taking charge of the state work Mr. Van Nice moved to Chariton and in October, 1889, came to Waukon, with the intention at that time of remaining only four weeks, in order to assist the Waukon congregation in securing a pastor. Failing to secure a man whom the church approved, he was presented with a call and in November, 1889, accepted this and was made pastor of the church. He has since remained in charge of this congregation and has done excellent work among its people, his religious zeal combining with executive ability as factors in his success.

Mr. Van Nice has been twice married. He wedded first on the 16th of January, 1879, Miss Dora L. Fain, who died in 1883, leaving one son, Charles E., who is manager of a lumberyard at Roberts, Illinois. On the 10th of February, 1885, Mr. Van Nice was again married, his second wife being Miss Ida

Turrentine, a daughter of John Turrentine, president of Marionville College. They have two sons: Roy B., an artist on the Chicago Tribune; and J. Horace. Mr. Van Nice is well known in Waukon, where he has been connected with religious interests for almost a quarter of a century. He holds the love of his people in large measure, as he does the esteem and confidence of the people of all denominations.

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#### AMOS W. NAGEL.

Amos W. Nagel devotes his attention to the operation of his farm of two hundred and eighteen acres on section 16, Franklin township, and has met with a gratifying measure of success in his undertakings as an agriculturist. His birth occurred in Clermont, Fayette county, Iowa, on the 3d of December, 1862, his parents being Frederick P. and Mary (Meyer) Nagel, both natives of Germany. The father was born in Frankfort in 1822, while the mother's birth occurred in Mecklenburg in the same year. In early life Frederick P. Nagel worked as a journeyman shoemaker in his native country. Crossing the Atlantic to the United States at an early day, he made his way first to Chicago and at that place conducted a shoe store at the corner of State and Randolph streets. Subsequently he embarked in the same business at Clermont, Iowa, remaining there until 1874 or 1875, when ill health necessitated his removal to a farm in Clayton county, four miles south of Postville. After seven years' residence there he took up his abode in Franklin township, Allamakee county, and here made his home until the farm was taken over by his son Amos in 1900. In that year he went to Waukon, there spending the remainder of his life in the home of his daughter. His demise occurred in February, 1911, while his wife was called to her final rest in 1891.

Amos W. Nagel, the fifth in order of birth in a family of eight children, obtained his early education in the district schools of Franklin township and later spent one winter in a select school at Waukon. He spent the first twenty-three years of his life under the parental roof and at different times was employed as a farm hand by others. In 1886 he made his way to Omaha, Nebraska, and for eighteen months was there employed in the Omaha & Grant Smelting Works. Returning to this state, he became identified with the photograph business in association with A. C. Norton at Monona and was thus engaged for eighteen months. On the expiration of that period he went to Chicago and worked at that art in the employ of others until he was obliged to abandon it because the close confinement was impairing his health. He was subsequently in the service of Siegel, Cooper & Company for nine months and was afterward employed for one year as a coachman by H. H. Gross, superintendent of the Panoramic. In the fall of 1893 he returned to Franklin township, this county, and has here devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits to the present time, owning two hundred and eighteen acres of rich and productive land on section 16. He has instituted many improvements upon the place, and the farm with its well tilled fields and well kept appearance is the visible evidence of the progressive methods and unflinching industry of its owner.

On the 11th of October, 1897, Mr. Nagel was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Hammon, who was born at Elkader, Clayton county, on the 19th of August, 1878, her parents being Henry and Augusta (Wittenburg) Hammon, natives of Mecklenburg, Germany. The father's birth occurred on the 26th of November, 1845, while the mother's natal day was September 11, 1848. Henry Hammon followed general agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career. In 1865 he emigrated with his wife to the United States, arriving in Castle Garden, New York, on the day of Lincoln's assassination. Making his way to Clayton county, Iowa, he was there actively engaged in farming until his removal to Franklin township, Allamakee county, where he has since resided. Both he and his wife survive and make their home with their sons. Mrs. Nagel was the fourth in order of birth in a family of ten children. By her marriage she has become the mother of nine children, as follows: Lois Winifred, who was born on the 31st of July, 1899, and died on the 5th of May, 1902; Louis Frederick, whose natal day was August 19, 1900; Celia Beatrice, whose birth occurred on the 24th of January, 1902; John Albert, born October 31, 1903; Ralph Donald, who was born April 24, 1905; Sybil Irene, born May 16, 1907; Mildred Augusta, whose birth occurred on the 24th of May, 1909; Walter Neal, born January 2, 1911; and Vera Ruth Idelia, who was born on the 9th of December, 1912.

Mr. Nagel gives his political allegiance to the democracy, while his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church. Fraternally he is identified with the Masons, belonging to Lodge No. 70 at Monona. His life, in all of its various relations, has been of such character as to command the respect and esteem of those with whom he has been associated.

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### JOHN BRENNAN.

John Brennan, now retired, though for many years a representative and prosperous farmer of Paint Creek township, owns eighty acres of valuable land on section 34. He was born in County Carlow, Ireland, in December, 1841, and is a son of Thomas and Mary (McDonald) Brennan, also natives of the Emerald isle. John Brennan spent his early life in his native country and as a young man emigrated to the United States with his parents. He settled first in Wisconsin, where he engaged in various occupations, spending a great deal of time in rail-roading, and in 1861 he enlisted from that state for service in the Civil war. He spent four years as a member of Company D, Sixth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, reenlisting at the expiration of his first term as a member of the same company and regiment. He was with the Army of the Potomac and took part in all the engagements in which his regiment participated, these including some of the most important and hotly contested battles of the Civil war. He was on the field at Gettysburg and attended the fiftieth anniversary of that engagement.

After the close of hostilities Mr. Brennan returned to Wisconsin and there remained until 1873, when he came to Allamakee county, Iowa, purchasing his present farm. This was at that time slightly improved, the buildings\* being all of logs, and through the passing years he steadily carried forward the work of development, erecting a modern residence and excellent barns and outbuildings.

Of late years he has rented his land and lives in retirement, his leisure rewarding an active, honorable and useful life.

At Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, July 12, 1867, Mr. Brennan was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Johnson, a native of Ireland and a daughter of Robert and Catherine (Chogren) Johnson. Mr. and Mrs. Brennan have one daughter, Mary, who is now the wife of M. J. Hart, of Waterville. They are devout members of the Roman Catholic church and Mr. Brennan is a democrat in his political beliefs, taking an active and intelligent interest in community affairs without being an office seeker. He is widely known in Paint Creek township, where he has resided for forty years, and his substantial characteristics have gained for him the warm regard and unqualified trust of his fellow citizens.

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#### WILLIAM F. LAND.

Among Allamakee county's most reliable and far-sighted business men, among its most successful and practical farmers and public-spirited and progressive citizens is numbered William F. Land, who owns and operates eighty-five acres on section 32, Franklin township, and in addition to his agricultural interests is local agent for some important eastern business concerns. A spirit of enterprise and progress, guided and controlled by sound and practical judgment, has influenced him in all the activities of his career and has brought him to a position of prominence and prosperity in his native county. Mr. Land's birth occurred in Franklin township, August 16th, 1869, his parents being John and Maria (Coon) Land, natives of Ontario, Canada, the former born February 22, 1828, and the latter May 3, 1825. The maternal branch of the family dates back to the time of Peter Stuyvesant. In Canada the father worked as a teamster and during the Mexican war came to the United States, locating first near Three Rivers, Michigan, and going from there to Dundee, Illinois. He worked in an iron foundry in that city until he moved to Iowa in 1858, locating in Hardin, where for some time he engaged as a teamster for the Hardin flour mill, becoming recognized as a most reliable man in this line of work in the vicinity. Later, however, he turned his attention to farming, purchasing land on section 32, Franklin township, and upon this property he continued to reside until his death, which occurred December 23, 1908. He had survived his wife only a few years, her death having occurred February 2, 1905. To their union were born four children: Mary, who died in infancy; John Monroe, who is a farmer residing on section 33, Franklin township; William F., of this review; and George L., a retired farmer living in Waukon.

In the acquirement of an education William F. Land attended district school in his native township and in his childhood aided with the operation of the homestead, becoming early familiar with the best agricultural methods. After his marriage he moved to a tract of land which he had previously purchased, turning his attention to farming on his own account. Having learned the mason's and carpenter's trade in his youth he built upon his property a modern residence, and he has since that time made other substantial improvements, his farm being today one of the finest and best equipped in this township. The time which is



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM F. LAND



not devoted to its further development Mr. Land gives to his duties as agent for the American Insurance Company of Newark, New Jersey, and for the Smith System Heating & Ventilating Company, dealing in ventilators for school-houses, stores, etc. He is well known in business circles of this part of Allamakee county, where his energy, foresight and ability are highly respected.

On the 3d of December, 1893, Mr. Land was united in marriage to Miss Cornelia E. Perkins, who was born in Saratoga county, New York, August 17, 1875. She is a daughter of Henry S. and Mary E. (Van Avery) Perkins, the former born at Warrensburg, New York, January 22, 1832, and the latter in Saratoga county, that state, in 1842. The father passed away June 24, 1908, and the mother makes her home at Tribbey, Oklahoma, having afterward married M. W. Lang, of Portland, Oregon. Mrs. Land is a stockholder in the Pacific Union Life Association in the latter city. On the paternal side she is of Scotch-English extraction. Members of this family have been prominent in a number of the American wars and Mrs. Land's father served in the Union army during the Civil war, having enlisted at the first call for troops in 1861, in the One Hundred and Eighteenth New York Volunteer Infantry, Eighteenth Army Corps. He was promoted to the rank of corporal and saw service at Antietam with the Pioneer Corps under Grant, serving with credit and distinction until the close of hostilities. He and his wife became the parents of four children: Ida May, who died in childhood; Cornelia E., the wife of the subject of this review; Perry L., a farmer in Franklin township; and Emery J., stenographer and bookkeeper for a large wholesale commission firm in Portland, Oregon. Mr. and Mrs. Land have two children: Nellie Ruby, who was born August 12, 1895; and Mary Margaret, born October 21, 1900.

Mr. Land is a stockholder in the Luana Creamery Company. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has been honored with various positions of trust and responsibility, for he takes an intelligent interest in public affairs and is always active in advancing the permanent interests of the community. He served for three years as road supervisor and is a member of the school board, acting as president of that body at the present time. His success in life has come as the natural result of his industry, honesty and enterprising spirit and these qualities, being dominating elements in his character, have brought him also the respect and esteem of the people among whom his entire life has been passed.

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#### M. J. HART.

M. J. Hart is one of the extensive landowners of Allamakee county and is equally prominent as a buyer and shipper of horses, cattle and hogs. His business interests are, indeed, important and, furthermore, his life record indicates the possibilities of attainment of success when one is ambitious, energetic and capable. Mr. Hart has worked his way upward entirely through his own efforts and his business record is a most creditable one. He was born on the Hart homestead in Paint Creek township on the 19th of March, 1860, and is a brother of W. S.

Hart, of Waukon, in connection with whose sketch mention of the family is made.

In the district schools M. J. Hart pursued his education and for twelve years after putting aside his books he was engaged in railroad construction work. In this way he visited nearly every state west of the Mississippi but for several years past he has devoted his attention largely to the buying and shipping of horses, cattle and hogs and to the management of his extensive real-estate interests.

Mr. Hart was united in marriage, in 1900, to Miss Mary Brennan, a daughter of John Brennan, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. They attend the Catholic church and contribute generously to its support. Mr. Hart has always made his home in Allamakee county, although business interests have at different times called him into other sections. He has a wide acquaintance here and is recognized as a most able business man, alert, energetic, wide-awake and determined.

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#### J. F. OSMUNDSON.

J. F. Osmundson, a veteran of the Civil war and today one of the substantial and representative farmers of Waterloo township, is a native of Norway, born in 1839. His parents, Osmund and Anna Rierson, were also natives of that country and emigrated to the United States in 1850, making their first settlement in Racine county, Wisconsin. There the father followed the stone mason's trade for one year, at the end of which time he moved to Iowa and bought land in Waterloo township, Allamakee county, turning his attention to farming. Eventually, however, he sold this property and in the '70s moved to Renville county, Minnesota, where he again engaged in agricultural pursuits, following this occupation until his death, which occurred in the late '70s. His wife survived him a number of years, dying in 1893. To their union were born six children: J. F., of this review; Benjamin, who was killed during the Civil war; Ole, deceased; Gabriel, of Montana; Henrietta, the deceased wife of Hans Anderson, of Chicago, Illinois; and Annie, the deceased wife of Erik Oleson, of South Dakota.

J. F. Osmundson acquired a limited education in Norway and at the age of ten years accompanied his parents to America. When he was only eleven years of age he became a sailor on the Great Lakes and continued in this occupation until 1861, when he enlisted in Company C, Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, for service in the Civil war. He was mustered out in the following June and immediately afterward reenlisted, this time joining the United States navy at Chicago. He served until the close of hostilities and with a creditable military record returned to Iowa, purchasing a tract of land in Waterloo township, which constitutes a portion of his present farm. To this he added from time to time, becoming a large landowner, his holdings aggregating five hundred acres. Of this he has recently deeded one hundred and forty acres to his son but the rest of the farm remains in his possession. Two hundred acres are in a high state of cultivation, and the property, equipped with a substantial residence, fine barns and outbuildings and modern machinery, reflects everywhere the owner's many



years of careful supervision and practical labor. It lies almost entirely on section 31, Waterloo township, but a portion of the property is in Winneshiek county.

In 1869 Mr. Osmundson was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ellingson, who was born in Norway and who came to America with her parents when she was still a child. Mr. and Mrs. Osmundson became the parents of a number of children. Edward, the eldest, operates the homestead. He married Miss Ida Fretheim, a native of Winneshiek county, and to them have been born seven children, six of whom survive, Jerry, Carrie, Henry, Edith, Agnes and Inga. Benjamin, the next in order of birth in the family of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Osmundson, is married and resides upon his farm in Winneshiek county. Annie is still at home. Rachel became the wife of William Peterson, a resident of Waukon. Lizzie married Sander Anfinson, of Winneshiek county. Henrietta, the youngest member of this family, is the wife of Albert Larson, also of Winneshiek county.

Mr. Osmundson is a devout member of the Lutheran church and is a republican in his political beliefs, interested in the welfare and progress of his township and county without being active as an office seeker. For almost a half century he has lived upon the farm which is yet his place of residence and during that time he has gained the respect and esteem of his neighbors, who recognize in him a man of upright character and high ideals, loyal in citizenship and straightforward and honorable in all the relations of life.

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### JOHN HENDRICKSON.

John Hendrickson needs no introduction to the readers of the history of Allamakee county for he is a representative of one of the pioneer families of this section and is, moreover, a leading and prosperous farmer of Paint Creek township, where he owns two hundred acres of valuable land. He was born upon this farm in 1879 and is a son of Solva Hendrickson and a grandson of Hendrick Solveson, pioneers in this part of Iowa, of whom more extended mention is made elsewhere in this work in connection with the sketch of H. A. Hendrickson. The father purchased the land known as the old Bryson farm in 1885 and this property has remained in possession of members of the family since that time. John Hendrickson is one of a family of five children, as follows: Randy, the wife of Albert Syverud, of Canton, South Dakota; Mrs. George Thompson, of Paint Creek township; Anna, who resides with her brother; Celia, who married Ed Whotom of Canton, South Dakota; and John, of this review.

John Hendrickson acquired his education in the district schools of Paint Creek township and from an early age assisted with the work of the home farm, becoming before he was twenty-one an able and practical agriculturist. He owns today two hundred acres of fine land on section 18 and upon this carries on general farming and dairying, both branches of his business being profitable and important under his able management. He is unmarried and makes his home with his sister Anna, who is a capable and efficient housekeeper.

Mr. Hendrickson is well known in Allamakee county and is today numbered among the men who have been potent forces in the later agricultural development of Paint Creek township. He is a successful farmer, a progressive, enterprising and loyal citizen, and his record is a credit to a name that has long been honored in this vicinity.

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#### IRVING A. McSHANE.

Irving A. McShane owns and operates a well improved farm on section 4, Franklin township, and is widely recognized as one of the enterprising young agriculturists of his native county. His birth occurred in Franklin township on the 12th of September, 1886, his parents being Albert and Elizabeth A. (Roderick) McShane. The father, likewise a native of Franklin township, this county, was born a mile and a half southeast of his present home, his natal day being October 1, 1855. His parents were Cornelius and Margaret (Durr) McShane, the former a native of Monongalia county, West Virginia, and the latter of Greene county, Pennsylvania. Cornelius McShane, the grandfather of our subject, followed farming throughout his active career. He came to Iowa in 1851 or 1852, settling first in Linton township, Allamakee county, where he became a landowner. About two years later he took up his abode in Franklin township, locating on the place on which his son Albert was born and continuing to reside thereon throughout the remainder of his life. His demise occurred on the 7th of February, 1907, while his wife was called to her final rest on the 29th of January, 1905. The period of his residence in this county covered more than a half century, and in his passing the community lost one of its honored pioneer settlers and substantial agriculturists.

Albert McShane, the father of Irving A. McShane, was the sixth in order of birth in a family of thirteen children. In the acquirement of an education he attended district school No. 3 in Franklin township and later continued his studies at Smithfield and Bear Hollow. He remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority and subsequently worked as a farm hand for about four years. On the expiration of that period he was married and a year later rented a tract of land in Franklin township, cultivating the same for six years. At the end of that time he bought a farm of eighty acres in Franklin township, which he has operated continuously since, all of the land being under cultivation with the exception of a small patch of timber. The place is devoted to general farming, and the well tilled fields annually yield harvests which find a ready sale on the market. Mr. McShane is a stockholder in the Luana creamery and well deserves representation among the substantial citizens of his native county.

On the 30th of March, 1880, Albert McShane was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth A. Roderick, who was born in Jefferson township, Allamakee county, on the 21st of October, 1857. They became the parents of nine children, as follows: Sophia Edna, born December 27, 1880, who is the wife of Frank Colvin, a farmer of Franklin township; Henry, whose birth occurred on the 1st of December, 1882, and who follows farming in Franklin township; Irving A., of this review; George, who is at home; Fannie, whose natal day was January

15, 1889, and who is the wife of Herbert McCracken, a farmer of Clayton county; Mary, born March 28, 1891, who is the wife of Joseph Geno, a resident farmer of Jefferson township, this county; Lizzie, who was born on the 30th of July, 1893, and is still under the parental roof; Lottie, who was born on the 5th of November, 1896, and died on the 28th of December, 1900; and Glenn, whose natal day was June 24, 1900. The religious faith of the family is that of the Baptist church. Mr. McShane gives his political allegiance to the democracy but has never sought nor desired office as a reward for his party fealty. Both he and his wife have spent their entire lives in Allamakee county and are well known and highly esteemed within its borders.

Irving A. McShane, whose name introduces this review, acquired his education in the district schools of Franklin township. He spent the first twenty-one years of his life under the parental roof and worked for others at different times. Subsequently he continued in the employ of others until March, 1912, and then purchased the farm which is now in his possession and which he has cultivated successfully to the present time. His residence is modern and commodious and his property is well improved in every particular.

On the 29th of September, 1909, Mr. McShane was united in marriage to Miss Anna Nelson, whose birth occurred near Grand Meadow, Clayton county, in 1883, her parents being Christian and Hilda (Torgerson) Nelson. The mother passed away in the winter of 1910, and in 1913 Mr. Nelson was again married. He now makes his home in Clermont. Our subject and his wife had one child, who died in infancy. Mr. McShane is a republican in his political views but does not consider himself bound by party ties and often casts an independent ballot at local elections. He is a young man of many sterling traits of character, and high regard is uniformly tendered him.

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### J. GERHARD MEINERS.

One of the first settlers in that portion of Union City township in the northern part of Allamakee county was J. Gerhard Meiners. He was born in Schale, province of Westphalia, Prussia, August 20, 1836. Until his eighteenth year he remained at the home of his parents where he was educated in the government schools. As wages were meager in his native country, and he being of an adventurous nature, he departed for the Netherlands in 1854 where he was engaged in various occupations for four years, principally in Amsterdam and Delft.

In 1859 he had decided to sail for America but before his plan matured he was drawn by lot to serve in the Prussian army where he served faithfully for four years as a member of the Fourth Squadron of the Guard Cavalry and on account of his splendid physique he was stationed with the Guard Cuirassier Regiment at Berlin. At the conclusion of his four years service, in 1863, he returned to his parental home where he followed the occupation of carpenter until he was again called to the service of his country in 1864, in the war between Prussia, Austria and Hanover as allies against Denmark which ended on the 18th day of April, 1865, by the capture of the Döppler Schanzen. Scarcely had

he reached home when the call came again for him to follow his flag in the war between Prussia and Austria. At the close of this war, in 1866, it was evident that a war between France and Germany could not be averted and he determined to end his career as a soldier and seek his fate in America and accordingly he set sail for America in 1868 accompanied by his mother and his young wife, Anna Catharina Spiegler, with whom he was united in marriage just previous to his departure. On his arrival he settled directly on his present homestead in Union City township.

Scarcely had he reached this country when his mother passed away, September 4, 1868. Death called his wife October 18, 1870, and left him and an eighteen months old daughter to mourn her loss. In 1871 he was united in marriage to Anna Adelheid Schoo and to this union were born six sons and four daughters of whom one son died in infancy. Death again visited the home and on January 21, 1891, took from the family the wife and mother after an illness of a short duration.

Shortly after his arrival in America he purchased a tract of raw land and erected a log cabin. Since then he has purchased other real estate so that his holdings now consist of a two hundred and eighty acre farm, well improved and well equipped with modern buildings. Since the death of his wife in 1891 he has lived, a widower with his children, on his old homestead.

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#### ROBERT WESLEY ERWIN.

Robert Wesley Erwin, manager at Waukon of the Missouri Iron Company, whose headquarters are at St. Louis, Missouri, was born in Tapan, Ohio, August 2, 1872, and is a representative of an old American family, his ancestors on both sides having fought in the Revolutionary war. He acquired his early training in the public schools of Fulton, Missouri, and completed a high-school course at Bay City, Michigan, afterward studying at Westminster College, Fulton, and the Utah State College, from which he received the degree of B. S. After his graduation he remained connected with the institution as teacher for four years. He has held the positions of assistant chemist at the Utah experiment station and major of the Utah national guard, which he helped to organize. In 1895 he returned from the west and entered the employ of the Granite City Steel Company at Granite City, Illinois, the main office of this concern being in St. Louis, Missouri. He was chief chemist of this company for one year and was then promoted to the position of assistant superintendent. He left the employ of the Granite City Steel Company in 1897 to take the position of chief chemist for the American Steel Foundry Company, an office which he held for two years, going from it to the position of superintendent, which he held until the consolidation of the American Steel Foundry Company with the American Steel Foundries Company in 1905. During this time he also acted as consulting chemist and chemical engineer for the Sligo Furnace Company, of St. Louis, with works at Sligo, Missouri, and for the National Iron & Steel Company, of Mexico City. He is now manager of the Missouri Iron Company, whose headquarters are at St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. Erwin married, on October 19, 1899, Miss Catherine Listeman, of Collinsville, Illinois, and they have a daughter, Catherine Elizabeth. In civil life Mr. Erwin has held the following positions: secretary of the board of education of Granite City, Illinois; trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church, of that city; and secretary and director of the Granite City Building Loans Association. He belongs to the Masonic order and is connected with the Sons of the American Revolution, the Iowa Engineers' Society, the American Institute of Mining Engineers and the St. Louis Engineers Club. At the time of the Spanish-American war he organized two companies of recruits and in Waukon he aided in the foundation of the Peoples National Bank. He has always taken an active part in educational and religious work.

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### GABRIEL PEDERSON.

Gabriel Pederson, prominently connected with business interests of Waterville as a member of the firm of Pederson & Company, general merchants, and well known in official life as the capable and efficient postmaster of the town, was born in Norway June 6, 1866. He acquired his education in his native country, attending public schools and gaining a German and English education. In 1881 he crossed the Atlantic to America and came directly to Iowa, joining an uncle in Allamakee county. Here he was employed on a farm for several years thereafter, but in 1892 went to Montana, where for one year and a half he worked at anything that would bring him an income.

Returning at the end of that time to Allamakee county, he secured a position as clerk for Victor H. Stevens in the latter's general store at Waterville, and after serving in this capacity for several years he purchased an interest in the concern, the business being reorganized under the firm name of Pederson & Company. Mr. Pederson has been the active manager since that time and a great deal of the credit for the success of the enterprise is due to his initiative spirit and executive ability. Eventually his partner Mr. Stevens moved to Dubuque, where he passed away in 1912. Mr. Pederson still continues to conduct the business and has secured a large and representative patronage, drawn not only from the city but from the surrounding districts as well. He carries a full line of high class merchandise and keeps his stock always tastefully and attractively arranged, studying the needs and demands of his customers, whose confidence he has in large measure. In addition he is one of the owners of the electric light plant of Waterville, which is operated by a gasoline engine, and he aided in the organization of the Waterville Savings Bank, of which he owns stock. He has been postmaster and express agent for a number of years and has proven straightforward, energetic and reliable in the discharge of his duties.

Mr. Pederson was married August 31, 1896, to Miss Ida Bryson, who was born and reared in Paint Creek township. She is a daughter of John S. Bryson, who was born in Dundee, Scotland, in 1831, and who came to the new world with his parents in 1836, locating in Canadian West. In 1840 the family removed to Connecticut, where John Bryson received his first six months' schooling and later secured a position in the woolen factory where his father was over-

seer. The Bryson family removed to Wisconsin in 1849, but afterward returned to the east, residing in New York state for one year. In 1850 they settled in Iowa, the father taking up a tract of wild land in Paint Creek township, Allamakee county, where with the assistance of his son James S. he broke the first sod in that section. John S. Bryson was married June 11, 1865, to Miss Tilde O. Rema, a native of Norway, who came to America, settling in Paint Creek township, Allamakee county, Iowa, about the same year that the Bryson family made their permanent location here. Mr. Bryson became a well known and representative farmer of Paint Creek township and was active also in public affairs, holding various positions of trust and honor. Mr. and Mrs. Pederson are the parents of six children, Ruth, John A., Alice L., Rolf B., Alfred and Lester.

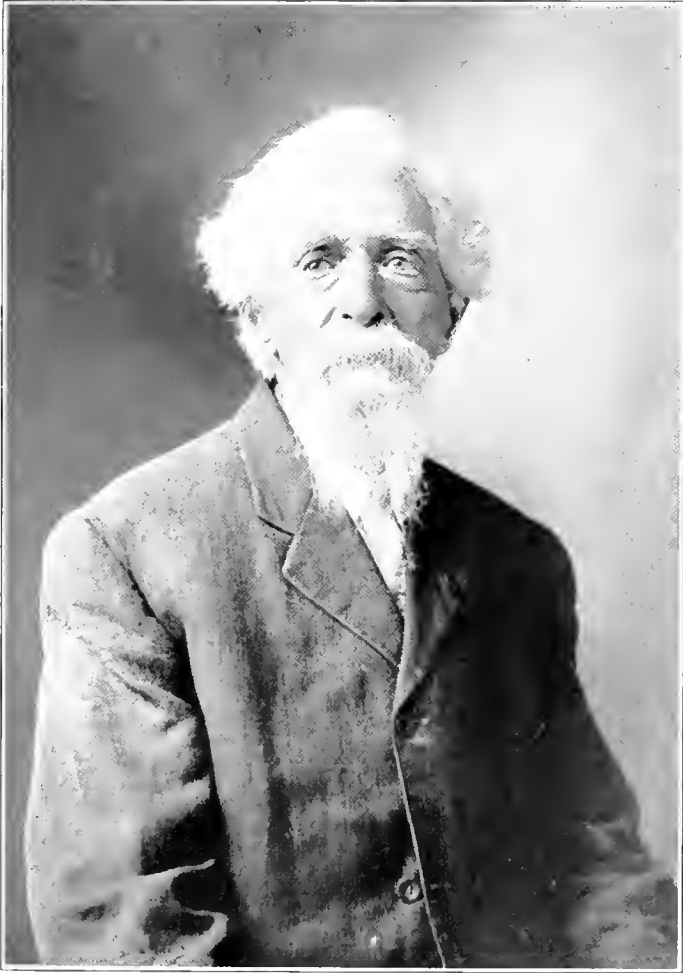
Mr. Pederson is very prominent in local fraternal circles, holding membership in the Masonic order. He belongs to the blue lodge and chapter at Waukon and is a member of McGregor Commandery, K. T. He is a charter member of the Waterville lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America and he and his wife belong to the Order of the Eastern Star. A resident of Allamakee county almost continuously since 1881, he has become well and favorably known here and in business and social life has won a large circle of friends.

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#### HUGH McCABE.

Hugh McCabe has been a resident of Allamakee county since 1848 and has, therefore, witnessed its entire growth and development, for few settlements had been made within its borders at the time of his arrival and all the evidences of frontier life were to be seen, while the hardships and trials incident to pioneer existence were to be met. Mr. McCabe was at that time only a child, but even then bore his share in the general burden and through many active, honorable and worthy years since that time has worked his way upward to success. His record may well serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement, showing what may be accomplished by energy and determination, intelligently directed, for it has been by his own efforts that he has gained the prominent position which he now occupies as a substantial agriculturist of this county.

Hugh McCabe was born in County Armagh, Ireland, in March, 1839, and when he was still a child crossed the Atlantic with his uncle, who was first mate on the ship Abbie Blanchard, sailing between Liverpool and New York. Mr. McCabe spent a few years in the latter city and then came west to Iowa, settling in Allamakee county in 1848. He remained, however, only a few months, later taking a steamer down the Mississippi to St. Louis, where for three months he worked in the employ of Pat McCann. Returning to Allamakee county, he worked upon a farm for three years, earning one hundred dollars per year. He also drove stage for some time but abandoned both occupations at the outbreak of the Civil war, when he enlisted in the Union army, joining Company B, Twelfth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Earle. The regiment was sent to St. Louis, where it drilled for a time, and then was transferred to the seat of war, participating in the battles of Fort Henry, Fort Donelson and Shiloh. In the latter engagement Mr. McCabe was taken prisoner and held for six



HUGH McCABE





months and eleven days, first in Macon, Georgia, and afterward in the famous Libby prison, from which he was paroled and sent to Benton Barracks at St. Louis. Having secured a thirty day furlough, he returned to Waukon and spent some time recuperating and visiting his old friends, later returning to Benton Barracks, where his company was reorganized and sent south to Vicksburg. Mr. McCabe there worked on a canal and with his comrades fought his way to Jackson, Mississippi, where he took part in the battle of that city and also in the engagement at Black River Bridge. Under General Sherman his regiment participated in the Vicksburg campaign and siege and was present at the fall of the city. It was later sent down the river to New Orleans and Mobile and thence to Spanish Fort. In 1864 Mr. McCabe took part in the battle of Tupelo, Mississippi, and was there wounded by a piece of shell but not disabled. He served until the close of the war and was mustered out at Memphis, Tennessee, afterward returning north, where he received his honorable discharge at Davenport, Iowa, in January, 1866. In that year he returned to Waukon and, on April 2, married Miss Lydia Alice Gates, a native of Ohio, born in Butler county, near Cincinnati. She is a daughter of Samuel and Mary Ann (Montgomery) Gates, who moved from Ohio to Indiana, where they resided in St. Joseph county. They afterward moved to South Bend and then to Iowa, driving through with two ox teams and settling in Allamakee county in 1857.

Mr. and Mrs. McCabe began their domestic life on a forty acre tract of wild land, which Mr. McCabe proceeded to break, fence and improve. He built upon it a cabin, in which they made their home until he traded the farm for a one hundred and twenty acre tract, slightly improved. He fenced this property, added to it more land and now owns two hundred acres, constituting one of the finest farms in this section of the state. At one time he held title to over three hundred acres. Throughout the years he has steadily carried forward the work of development, building a fine residence, a good barn and substantial out-buildings and installing all the machinery and equipment necessary to the conduct of a model agricultural enterprise. His success is the more creditable to him because it has been attained entirely through his own labors, for he came to America a poor boy, penniless and without friends, and he has made each year of his activity since that time a period in his advancement until today he is one of the most substantial and representative citizens of the county, which he has aided in upbuilding.

Mr. and Mrs. McCabe became the parents of six children, four of whom are still living. Mary Ellen grew to maturity and married Ed Howe. She passed away leaving three sons. Lizzie lives at home. Alice, who is deceased, was the wife of Cornelius Sullivan. John Emmett is married and makes his home upon his farm. Katherine lives at home. Thomas Henry also resides upon the home farm. The family are members of the Roman Catholic church.

Few men in Allamakee county are more widely known than Mr. McCabe, who is numbered among the original settlers in this section of the state. In his youth he helped to build the first log cabin in Waukon for Scott Shattuck, who gave forty acres for the town site. For sixty-five years he has lived in the county and is one of the few who have so long witnessed its growth and development. Throughout a great portion of this period he has made his home on the farm which is yet his place of residence, but he has not confined his attention and efforts

to it alone, although he has made it a valuable property. From time to time he has given hearty cooperation to many movements for the public good and has been one of the greatest of the forces which have transformed the county from a wilderness and reclaimed the region for purposes of civilization.

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#### ERIC THOMPSON.

Eric Thompson, who owns eighty acres of valuable land on section 30, Paint Creek township, and is numbered among the active and successful farmers of his locality, was born in Norway on the 15th of February, 1855, and is a stepson of Thomas Guttornson, of whom extended mention is made elsewhere in this work in connection with the life of George Thompson. His own father was A. Aslakson. Eric Thompson was still a child when his parents settled in Allamakee county, and here he was reared on a farm in Paint Creek township, acquiring his education in the district schools. At the early age of sixteen he began his independent career, working first as a farm laborer and later engaging in agricultural pursuits upon rented land. About the year 1903 he purchased eighty acres on section 30, Paint Creek township. This was partially improved, being provided with a good residence but poor outbuildings, and Mr. Thompson has steadily carried forward the work of development. He has improved the buildings and added to them, erecting a new granary, and he contemplates the erection of a new barn within the next twelve months. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and has met with a gratifying measure of success.

In Allamakee county, Mr. Thompson was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Haas, a native of Norway and a daughter of Ole Haas, who died in that country. Mrs. Thompson came to the United States when she was twenty-five years of age. She and her husband have two children, Oscar and Mamie, both of whom reside at home.

The parents are members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Thompson gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He is, however, not active as an office-seeker, preferring to devote his entire time to his business interests, which are all carefully conducted and therefore profitable.

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#### WILLIAM R. DUTTON.

William R. Dutton is a representative of journalistic interests in Allamakee county as owner and publisher of the Waukon Standard. His birth occurred in Belmont county, Ohio, in 1858, and in that state he followed the profession of school teaching for a period of eight years, while subsequently he became identified with the newspaper business. He took an active part in politics and held a number of important offices. For two years he served as a chief in the census bureau at Washington. In 1901, leaving Ohio, he took up his abode in Oklahoma and acted as postmaster at Anadarko for two years, while his wife held a similar position at Foraker, Oklahoma, for seven years. Mr. Dutton also served in the

third and fourth legislatures of Oklahoma as state senator and in the latter was chosen as the republican candidate for the position of president pro tempore. He was the recognized leader of the minority party. In July, 1913, he purchased the Waukon Standard from John H. DeWild and on the fourth day of the following month assumed charge of the Journal, in the publication of which he has already demonstrated his able and progressive methods. He is a capable and experienced newspaper man and also enjoys an enviable reputation as a public speaker of force and power. Senator Dutton is a valuable addition to Waukon's citizenship and well merits recognition among the leading and representative residents of this county.

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#### O. T. CONWAY.

Among the native sons of Allamakee county who have won success and prominence in agricultural pursuits, carrying forward the work of development which their fathers began in pioneer times is O. T. Conway, owner of five hundred acres of land on section 29, Paint Creek township, a fine property which has been the family homestead for many years. Upon this farm his birth occurred, his parents being James and Rose (Gordon) Conway, natives of County Roscommon, Ireland. The father was born July 17, 1820. The parents were married in 1843 and in the same year emigrated to the United States, settling in Baltimore, Maryland, where they resided until 1847. They then removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, and the father obtained employment as a deck hand on a boat on the lower Mississippi river. He was afterward promoted to the position of second mate and acted in that capacity during the terrible epidemic of cholera in 1849. He was at that time on the Red river, and he was often obliged to go ashore between stations in order to bury the dead. These were mostly negroes and Mr. Conway often placed ten in the same grave. He severed his connection with river navigation in 1850 and brought his family to Dubuque, Iowa, he himself coming to Allamakee county and locating one hundred and sixty acres of wild land on section 29, Paint Creek township. In December of the same year his family joined him and all who were old enough aided in the clearing, development and improvement of the homestead. For four years Mr. Conway spent only the winter months on his farm, while during the summer he worked on the upper Mississippi river but eventually took up a permanent residence upon the property. He was one of the first settlers in Paint Creek township and endured all the hardships and trials of pioneer existence, evolving out of the wild and unimproved tract an excellent and productive farm. The years brought him prominence, success and substantial fortune, and he gradually extended the field of his activities to include participation in local political life. He became well known in the ranks of the democratic party and held various important township offices, as well as that of county sheriff. He died upon his homestead in 1895 and was survived by his wife until 1904. To them were born ten children, five of whom are still living, as follows: Mary, the wife of John McErlane, of Paint Creek township; D. B., who resides in Seward, Nebraska; W. P., of York, Nebraska; Rose, the wife of P. Maloney, of Jefferson township; and O. T.,

of this review. The deceased members of this family are J. J., who died at Sibley, Iowa; J. F., who passed away in Gurshen, Nebraska; Ellen, the deceased wife of James Carroll, of Milbank, North Dakota; and two who died in childhood.

O. T. Conway was reared upon the family homestead and acquired his education in the district schools of Paint Creek township. At an early age he began assisting with the work of the farm and before he was twenty-one was a practical and able agriculturist. After the death of his father he came into possession of the homestead and there he has since carried on general farming and stock-raising, success following his well directed and progressive labors. He married Miss Emma Adams, a native of Clayton county, Iowa, and they have one daughter, Rose Ellen. Mr. Conway is numbered among the substantial and representative farmers of this part of Iowa and among Allamakee county's most progressive and successful native sons. His record is an added credit to a name that has been held in high honor and esteem since pioneer times.

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#### JOHN JACOBSON.

The pioneer history of Allamakee county contains the record of no more able and deservedly successful man than John Jacobson, who came to Paint Creek township in 1851 and for many years has been prominently connected with its agricultural progress. He has developed here three fine farms and is today the owner of a valuable and productive property of one hundred and twenty acres, upon which he has resided for a number of years.

He was born in Norway on the 7th of November, 1843, and is a son of Tron and Hendricka Jacobson, also natives of that country. The parents emigrated to the United States in 1850 and after spending the winter in Rock county, Wisconsin, came in the spring of 1851 to Allamakee county, Iowa, making the journey in a covered wagon drawn by ox teams. The father preempted eighty acres of land in Paint Creek township, but this was taken away from him by a man from Indiana who proved an earlier claim. Mr. Jacobson afterward acquired another eighty acres of land and turned his attention to its improvement and development, building upon it a log house, which was his home until his death in 1908, when he was ninety-five years of age. He had long survived his wife, her death having occurred in 1880. Both were members of the Lutheran church and the father was a staunch republican in politics. He took an active interest in the development of the section to which he came as a pioneer. In his family were ten children, two of whom died in childhood. The others are: Mrs. A. N. Nelson, of Lansing; Mrs. I. A. Johnson, of Lafayette township; Mrs. Ole Berke, who resides in Paint Creek township; Mrs. Ed Erickson, of Lansing; Martin, who resides upon the old homestead; John, of this review; Nettie, who lives in Waterville, Iowa; and Hans, who resided in Lafayette township until his death, which recently occurred.

John Jacobson was eight years of age when he came to Allamakee county with his parents and he was reared in a frontier region, his childhood being spent amid the hard conditions of pioneer life. Before he was twenty-one he

was a practical and able farmer, having learned the best agricultural methods through his experience upon his father's farm, and at the age of twenty-seven he began his independent career, settling upon one hundred and twenty acres of land which he purchased from his father. Five years later he bought one hundred and eighty acres near Waterville and upon this he resided until 1901, when he removed to his present property of one hundred and twenty acres. This is a well improved and valuable tract of land, reflecting everywhere the care and supervision of its owner, who is a progressive and able agriculturist and a far-sighted and discriminating business man.

Mr. Jacobson married Miss Wagot Solverson, a native of Norway, and they became the parents of nine children; T. S. Buringrud, who lives at Bucyrus, North Dakota, and who has adopted what is called the farm name of the family; Adolph, also of North Dakota; Sander, of Waterville, Iowa; Ingeman, also of Waterville; Otto and Selma, who live at home; and Henry, Manuel and Richard, who have passed away. The surviving members of the family are devout adherents of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Jacobson gives his allegiance to the republican party and is interested in everything pertaining to community growth and welfare. He has resided in Paint Creek township since 1851 and is one of the few remaining citizens who have so long witnessed its growth and development. By his able work in the improvement of his three farms he has made substantial contributions to its progress and by his honorable, upright and straightforward life has won the confidence and esteem of the people among whom he has so long lived and labored.

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### JOHN SCOTT BRYSON.

In pioneer times the Bryson family was founded in Iowa and ever since the name has stood as a synonym for integrity, honesty and steadfastness of purpose combined with a determination and energy which always result in success. From 1851 until his death John Scott Bryson remained an active and honored citizen of Paint Creek township and through the years of an active and honorable business career he commanded the respect and enjoyed the confidence and good-will of all with whom he came in contact. His work formed an important element in the development and upbuilding of this section of the state, his life measured up to the full standard of upright manhood in all things and his death deprived Allamakee county of one of the earliest and greatest of her pioneers.

John Scott Bryson was born in Dundee, Scotland, June 13, 1831, and was a son of James Bryson and a grandson of Alexander M. Bryson, natives of Redgorton, Braehead, Perthshire, Scotland, the former born August 26, 1802. The family is of ancient origin and its history is definite as far back as 1700. When James Bryson, the father of our subject, was seven years of age he was left an orphan and dependent upon his own resources. As a boy he herded cattle and sheep in Perthshire, later becoming errand boy for a fashionable lady and still later obtaining employment in the linen and woolen mills of his native country. On the 1st of March, 1824, he married Miss Margaret Scott and in April, 1835,

the family emigrated to America, settling in Canada on the St. Clair river. There the father took up two hundred acres of dense timber land and after enduring great hardships and privations founded a home, in which they continued to reside until 1840, when they removed to the United States, settling in Thompsonville, Connecticut, where the father and children obtained employment in the factory of the Thompsonville Carpet Company. After nine years they removed to Rock county, Wisconsin, but a year later went to Auburn, New York, where they again worked in a factory. In April, 1850, the family again started west and in May of the same year landed from a horse ferryboat on the west side of the Mississippi river at McGregor's Landing, Iowa, a state which had been their objective point for several years. On the 11th of May, 1851, they settled in what is now Paint Creek township, Allamakee county, the father taking up land on sections 17 and 18 and developing there a profitable and productive farm. This property he sold in 1866 and removed to Elgin, Illinois, but after one year returned to Paint Creek township, continuing to reside here until his death. The mother died on the 1st of September, 1873, and the father passed away at the home of his son, John Scott, November 30, 1889. Both the Brysons and Scotts were representatives of old Scotch families and for generations were all church members and good Christian people.

John S. Bryson was twenty years of age when he came with the family to Allamakee county and amid pioneer conditions then prevailing he spent his early manhood, assisting in clearing, improving and developing a new farm and beginning a career in this state which, always intimately connected with the interests of this section, has been one of the greatest individual forces in its upbuilding. Working together, he and his brother each secured good farms, the subject of this review acquiring one hundred and sixty acres on section 17, where his widow and children now reside. Upon this property he carried on the work of improvement for many years, developing it from a raw tract into a productive farm, and he continued to reside upon it until his death, which occurred on the 1st of July, 1905. Each year of his life witnessed his increasing success, for he understood farming in principle and detail and worked earnestly and steadfastly in the cultivation of his holdings, prosperity steadily attending his well directed labors. He became known as one of the prosperous and substantial farmers of the county but he was not interested in wealth as an end in itself. He was more especially interested in the development of his township, where he built the first mill and aided in the establishment of other equally necessary institutions, and his cooperation could always be counted upon to further projects and movements for community advancement. Until 1894 he made all the reports to the Iowa Agricultural Society and for the agricultural department at Washington from the time it was organized until 1900. For twenty years he helped settle estates as guardian, trustee, administrator and executor, accomplishing a great deal of important work and bringing to a final settlement over twenty-six large estates. He was never known to take advantage of the interests of his fellowmen in any business transaction and he had great respect and sympathy for those in distress or trouble.

A man of excellent moral character, Mr. Bryson was an earnest worker in the cause of temperance and, having taken the pledge himself when he was twelve years of age, faithfully kept it until his death. He remained almost continu-

ously upon his farm but in 1892 made a trip to the Pacific coast, visiting relatives there and returning in the following year by way of Winnipeg, Canada. Before his death he published a book of one hundred and seventy-five pages containing the history of the Bryson, Scott and allied families, spending many years and no small amount of money in collecting the material for the volume, which was widely circulated among his friends and relatives. For a man of limited education and no other experience in that kind of work this was a very able effort and is highly prized by those who own a copy as a valuable contribution to Allamakee county's history.

On the 11th of January, 1865, Mr. Bryson married Miss Tilda C. Rema, who came to this county with her parents in 1851, and they reared a family.

Mr. Bryson was an active religious worker, helping to organize the Sabbath school in Paint Creek township and acting as superintendent and class leader for a number of years. He gave his political allegiance to the republican party and was an unsuccessful candidate for the state legislature, consenting to make the race merely to help the ticket, knowing that the democratic majority was too large to overcome. However, he held various other positions of trust and responsibility, never seeking to evade the obligations of citizenship, and serving with credit and distinction as township clerk and secretary of the school board. He was public-spirited and loyal in all matters of citizenship, taking a deep interest in the advancement and progress of the section to which he came as a pioneer, and thus it was that in his passing Allamakee county lost one of its most representative and valued citizens.

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#### K. T. GRONNA.

K. T. Gronna is one of Allamakee county's most progressive and successful native sons and is operating the farm in Paint Creek township upon which he was born on the 23d of March, 1857. He is a son of Thomas and Emeline (Thoen) Anderson, natives of Norway. The father as a young man crossed the Atlantic to America and settled in Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1846, residing there until 1850, when he came to Allamakee county among the pioneers in this part of Iowa. On section 12, Paint Creek township, he bought one hundred and sixty acres of wild land and built upon it a log shanty, in which he resided for some years, later replacing this by a more modern home. Through the years success steadily attended his well directed labors and he became a prosperous and substantial farmer, owning four hundred and forty acres of excellent land, upon which he died when he was ninety-one years of age. He was a staunch republican in his political beliefs and a member of the Lutheran church, to which his wife also adhered. In their family were seven children: Andrew, of Paint Creek township; Betsy, who died at the age of twenty; Christian, who passed away in Minnesota leaving a large family; Sarah, who died at the age of twenty; Caroline, the wife of P. S. Narum, postmaster of Waukon, Iowa; Maria, who married John Anderson, of Canada; and K. T., of this review. Since the death of their father all the sons have changed their family name, assuming that of Gronna, under which they are now known.

K. T. Gronna acquired his education in the district schools of his native township and in Luther College at Decorah, Iowa. Upon the death of his father he inherited two hundred and thirty-three acres of the estate, including the homestead, and upon this he has since engaged in farming and dairying, his business ability and his knowledge of the best agricultural methods making both branches of his business important and profitable. Upon the farm he has erected a fine set of buildings and made other substantial improvements and the property is today worthy of comparison with the best in this section of the state. Mr. Gronna gives a great deal of his time to his stock-raising interests and for many years raised full blood Holstein cattle but now confines his attention to the breeding of a fine grade of shorthorns. His business interests are capably and carefully conducted and have brought him a gratifying measure of success, placing him among the township's most substantial and representative agriculturists.

Mr. Gronna married Miss Ellen Anderson, a native of Winneshiek county and a daughter of Anon and Caroline Anderson. Mr. and Mrs. Gronna have two children. The eldest, Thomas A. Ferdinand, spent five years in Luther College in Decorah, and afterward enrolled in the Iowa State Agricultural College at Ames. He now assists his father upon the farm. Amy spent three years in a ladies' seminary at Red Wing, Minnesota, and is now at home.

Mr. Gronna is a member of the Lutheran church. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is prominent and active in public affairs, believing that official service is one of the duties of a good citizen. For thirty years he acted as treasurer of his school district, has been road supervisor and is now serving his third term as township trustee. In the community where he was born and where his entire life has been spent he is held in high regard, his genuine personal worth, his loyalty in citizenship and his many excellent qualities of character having gained for him the respect and esteem of all who know him.

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#### DELORMA F. SAWYER.

The name of Sawyer has been well known and highly honored in Franklin township since pioneer times and its present representative, Delorma F. Sawyer, owns and operates the homestead which his father took up as a government claim in 1852. He is one of the most progressive and prosperous farmers in this part of Allamakee county and has also for the past twenty-five years controlled important sawmilling interests here, his success coming as a natural result of his ability, energy and sound business judgment. He was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, on the 29th of August, 1852, and is a son of Cuyler Cornelius and Elizabeth (Wartenbe) Sawyer, natives of Ohio, the former born in 1822 and the latter about 1832. Cuyler C. Sawyer emigrated to Ohio when he was about twelve years of age and learned the blacksmith's trade under his father, working for him for several years and finally turning his attention to general farming. He married in Williams county, Ohio, and on October 15, 1850, went with his wife to Wisconsin, coming from there in the fall of 1852 to Hardin, Clayton





MR. AND MRS. DEBORAH F. SAWYER



county, Iowa. He subsequently took up the tract of government land, whereon his son now resides, the old government deed signed by the president being still a highly valued family possession. The father moved on to his holdings in 1853 and began the improvement of his land, building a crude log cabin, sixteen by twenty feet in dimensions. Throughout the years which followed he steadily carried on the work of development, making his farm productive, profitable and well equipped and becoming widely known as a progressive and substantial agriculturist. He died upon the homestead November 4, 1883, and in his passing Allamakee county lost one of her pioneer settlers and a valued and representative citizen. His wife has also passed away, her death occurring April 2, 1896. In their family were five children, the subject of this review being the eldest. Two of these children died in infancy.

Delorma F. Sawyer attended district school No. 4, Franklin township, and also studied in the public schools of Hardin. Later he spent four and a half months in a school at Estherville, Emmet county, and was for two terms at Cherry Valley. After laying aside his books he continued to assist his father with the work of the homestead, becoming before he had attained his majority a practical and able agriculturist. At twenty-one he went to the western part of Iowa and entered government land, adding to his holdings one hundred and twenty acres which he purchased and remaining in that part of the state for four and a half years, during which period he clerked in a hotel for some time and also had charge of a mail and stage route. In addition to this he served as book-keeper in a grist and sawmill and when not thus employed operated the mill in the interest of his employers. After four and a half years he returned to Franklin township and eventually traded the land which he had acquired in the west for property in this part of the county. After his return he engaged in general farming, assuming the management of the family homestead, and in connection with this he operated a threshing machine. In 1887 he formed a partnership with George Clark and they engaged in sawmilling on Yellow river for two years, Mr. Sawyer afterward continuing at this line of business in Franklin township. For the past quarter of a century he has operated a sawmill and a silo filler and in connection with this carries on the work of improving and cultivating his farm, the neat and attractive appearance of which indicates his ability along agricultural lines. He is a member of the Farmers Shipping Association of Luana and is connected with the Cooperative Creamery Company, besides being a stockholder in the Northeastern Iowa Farmers Cooperative Telephone Company, and is widely recognized as a discriminating, able and resourceful business man, who carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

On the 14th of April, 1887, Mr. Sawyer was united in marriage to Miss Helen Russell, born in St. Lawrence county, New York, August 31, 1866. She is a daughter of Wallace and Dora (Hutchins) Russell, natives of Vermont. They resided in New York for a number of years, the father conducting a large starch factory there, but in 1871 moved to Iowa, where Wallace Russell turned his attention to farming. He also worked at the carpenter's and painter's trades, continuing in these lines of work until his death, which occurred in 1888. His wife survived him many years, dying in 1910. The father had been prominent and active in public affairs for many years, serving as justice of the peace and in various other local offices of trust and responsibility. Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer

became the parents of seven children: Hazel Annetta, who was born February 10, 1889, and who is now a nurse in the Finley Hospital at Dubuque; Dora E., who was born February 18, 1891, and who is attending school at Epworth, Iowa; Homer D., whose birth occurred October 16, 1892; Charles Cornelius, born March 18, 1895; Lyle Russell, born July 8, 1897; Paul Millard, born August 12, 1901; and Donald Watson, born March 21, 1905.

Mr. Sawyer gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has done able and effective work as school director. He takes an intelligent interest in the development and growth of the section where he has resided since pioneer times and has made substantial contributions to its agricultural and business progress, his name standing as a synonym for integrity and honesty and his record being a credit to a name that has long been an honored one in this community.

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#### JOHN W. HARTLEY.

Since receiving his honorable discharge from service in the Civil war John W. Hartley has given practically all of his attention to the development and improvement of his fine farm in Allamakee county and his energy, industry and well directed labors have brought him success and an honored place among the county's progressive and able agriculturists. He was born in England in 1844 and four years later came with his parents to America, the family settling in New York state, where they remained for a short time, and then removed to Greene county, Ohio. They later went to Wisconsin and after spending four years in Columbia county, that state, came to Allamakee county, Iowa, where in 1853 the father took up three hundred and twenty acres of government land in Union City township. This property he cleared, developed and improved and upon it he made his home until 1866, when he disposed of his holdings and purchased another farm in the same locality. This also he later sold and bought the farm whereon the subject of this review now resides. He continued to carry forward the work of cultivation for a number of years, but in 1875 retired from active life and made his home near Lansing, where in 1876 his wife passed away. About twenty years later the father removed to English Bench, Allamakee county, and there resided with his daughter and son-in-law until his death, which occurred on the 3d of October, 1907. He and his wife had a large family of children, seven of whom grew to maturity and six still survive.

John W. Hartley was nine years of age when his parents settled in Allamakee county and here he grew to manhood, acquiring his education in the district schools except one year at Evansville, Indiana, and spending a great deal of his time assisting with the work of the homestead. He served in the Union army during the Civil war as a member of Company F, Sixth Iowa Volunteer Cavalry, and in 1866, following his discharge, returned to Allamakee county and turned his attention to farming, an occupation which he has followed with credit and success since that time. He now owns nine hundred and fifty acres of fine land, located nine miles southwest of New Albin, and in his careful development of this property has proven himself an able and practical farmer,

the excellent condition of his land evidencing his many years of well directed labor. He gives a great deal of his time to his stock-raising interests, feeding practically all of the products of his farm to his fine herds of polled Angus cattle, his horses, sheep and hogs. He is known as a successful breeder and dealer and his animals command high prices in the local and Chicago markets, this branch of his interests being an important and remunerative one.

Mr. Hartley has been twice married. In 1868 he wedded Miss Sarah G. Ratcliffe, a native of Wheeling, West Virginia, who died on the 20th of March, 1889, leaving nine children: Joseph and Benjamin, of Union City township; Charlotte H., the wife of A. L. McClintock, of Rossville, Iowa; Mary, who resides in Chicago, Illinois; John L., of Deer Park, Washington; Helen S., a trained nurse in Ottawa, Illinois; S. Frank, who lives at home; James T., of Twin Falls, Idaho; and Sarah G., the wife of Charley J. Burkey, who resides near Los Angeles, California. In 1891 Mr. Hartley was again married, his second union being with Miss Nora Pierce, a native of Iowa township, Allamakee county, and a daughter of Philip I. Pierce, who resides in South Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Hartley have four children, George P., Sidney R., Alice M., and Lewis P., all of whom live at home. The family are members of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Hartley gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has rendered the township excellent service in many important official positions and was besides for six years county supervisor. In the course of his long residence in Allamakee county his personal worth and his excellent qualities have become widely known and have drawn to him many stanch and loyal friends. His business record also is a creditable and worthy one, for his labors have been valuable as factors in general advancement and his life has been in all its relations upright, straightforward and honorable.

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### CHRISTIAN WINTRICK.

Christian Wintrick, identified with agricultural and stock-raising interests in Allamakee county, is one of those whom Switzerland has contributed to the citizenship of Iowa. He was born in the land of the Alps on the 26th of April, 1876, a son of Christian and Magdalena (Dramman) Wintrick, who were also born in that country, the father on the 17th of March, 1838, and the mother January 23, 1840. They came to the United States about the year 1880, making their way direct to Iowa, where the family located on a rented farm near Elgin. That remained their place of residence for about eight years, after which they came to Franklin township, Allamakee county, the father here purchasing the farm which continues to be their home. Here he gave his attention to agricultural pursuits for a time but is now living practically retired, enjoying a well earned rest.

Christian Wintrick, the third in order of birth in a family of six children, had not yet reached his fifth year when brought by his parents to this country, so the greater part of his life has been passed in Iowa. He attended school at Cherry valley and also at Elgin, while he received thorough training along agri-

cultural lines under the direction of his father on the home farm. At an early age he began assisting in the work and as his years and strength increased his duties became more important and arduous, making his training along agricultural lines thorough and comprehensive. He remained at home, operating his father's farm, until 1909, when, desiring to own a farm he purchased one hundred and ninety-three and a half acres on section 18, Franklin township, which continues to be his home. He engages in general farming and also gives considerable attention to stock-raising, being the owner of some high-grade cattle, horses and hogs. He is meeting with excellent results in his agricultural pursuits, his success being due to intelligently directed efforts, unflagging enterprise and progressive methods. He has other interests as well, being a stockholder in the Luana Creamery Company.

On the 24th of March, 1910, Mr. Wintrick was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hammon, who was born in Clayton county, Iowa, on the 5th of June, 1888, a daughter of Henry and Augusta (Wittenburger) Hammon, natives of Germany. Her father at one time engaged in farming, but is now living retired, making his home in Franklin township. In his family were ten children of whom Mrs. Wintrick is the ninth in order of birth. By her marriage she has become the mother of one child, Augusta Freda, who was born January 8, 1911.

Mr. Wintrick gives his political allegiance to the republican party and for three terms served as constable. His entire attention, however, is given to his farming interests, the careful supervision of which has ranked him among the prosperous agriculturists of his section.

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#### A. T. GRONNA.

A. T. Gronna, closely associated with agricultural interests of Paint Creek township as the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres, was born upon the property a portion of which he now operates on the 1st of May, 1851. He is a son of Thomas and Emeline (Thoen) Anderson, natives of Norway and pioneers of Allamakee county, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work.

A. T. Gronna acquired his education in the district schools of Paint Creek township and when not engaged with his books assisted with the work of the homestead, becoming a practical agriculturist before he was of age. When he was twenty-seven he bought from his father two hundred acres of land and he has made his home upon this property since that time, standing today in the front ranks of progressive farmers. Upon the land he has made substantial improvements, erecting a fine barn and outbuildings and in 1883 a modern stone dwelling, each year witnessing his increased prosperity. The buildings are all substantial and adequate, the machinery of the modern, labor-saving type and the entire place reflects the owner's many years of care and labor.

Mr. Gronna married Miss Olena Smeby, of this county, a daughter of Hans and Helen Smeby. She passed away in 1905, leaving two children. Theodore was educated in the district schools of Paint Creek township, in Luther College in Decorah and at the State Agricultural College at Ames, and he has also a

diploma from the Wisconsin Agricultural College. He is now at home assisting his father with the work of the farm. The other child born to Mr. and Mrs. Gronna is a daughter, Helen.

Mr. Gronna is a member of the Lutheran church and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He has been honored by his fellow citizens by election to various important public offices, having served as secretary of the school board and as township clerk for many years. He is numbered among Allamakee county's most representative and progressive native sons and his influence has been a tangible force for good in the community where his entire life has been spent.

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### O. H. MONSERUD.

O. H. Monserud, a prosperous and progressive farmer of Taylor township, owning in association with his wife three hundred and sixty acres of fine land on sections 7 and 8, was born here June 6, 1854, his parents being Ole and Sophia Hanson, natives of Norway. They came to America in 1851 and settled as pioneers in Allamakee county, where the father died in August, 1854. The mother afterward married Peter O. Monserud and the subject of this review took his stepfather's name.

O. H. Monserud was educated in the district schools of Taylor township and in Decorah College, and after laying aside his books he clerked for four years in a store operated by Nielander & Company and others at Lansing. Afterward he turned his attention to farming, buying one hundred and thirty acres of land from his father-in-law, Nils Bottolson. To this he has since added some of his wife's property and they own together three hundred and sixty acres of choice land on sections 7 and 8, Taylor township. This tract is well improved, provided with a beautiful brick residence, barns and outbuildings and the necessary labor-saving machinery. Mr. Monserud also owns one hundred and sixty acres in South Dakota and gives practically all of his time and attention to his agricultural pursuits, winning that success which always follows earnest and persistent labor.

In 1876 Mr. Monserud was united in marriage to Miss Mather Bottolson and they have become the parents of seven children: Nils Oliver, who is president of the bank at Humboldt, South Dakota, and a member of the state highway commission of South Dakota; Minnie, the deceased wife of J. M. Boardman; Joseph, who has passed away; Alfred M., who is married and lives in Chicago, where he is a fireman on the Chicago & Alton Railroad; Martha C., Walter H., and William, who live at home. Some time after the death of Mr. Bottolson Mr. and Mrs. Monserud moved from their home to that of Mrs. Monserud's widowed mother and here they now reside.

Mr. Monserud gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is interested in the cause of education, having been for thirty-two years a member of the school board. He was postmaster at Eldergson for seven years, an officer in the Scandinavian Mutual Insurance Company for thirty-five years, and for

ten years president of the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company at Water-ville, Iowa. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran church and are people of exemplary character, commanding and holding the respect and confidence of their neighbors and friends, among whom they have resided for many years.

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#### NILS BOTTOLSON.

Upon the roll of Allamakee county's honored dead appears the name of Nils Bottolson, who was numbered among the best known pioneers in Taylor township and a man who in promoting his individual interests made many substantial contributions to the general growth and development. He was born in Nordrehang presteggeld-benefice-Ringerige, Norway, June 22, 1826, and is a son of Bottolf and Martha. He grew to manhood in his native country and there acquired his education, crossing the Atlantic at the age of twenty-four years. He made the journey with his parents and his sister Karen, who later became Mrs. Knute Steen, and the party embarked at Drammen, Norway, May 30, 1850, on a sailing vessel. They arrived at New York city seven weeks later and went by canal and steamboat to Milwaukee and by post horses to Beloit, Wisconsin.

In the fall of the same year Nils Bottolson came on foot to Allamakee county, Iowa, where he settled in pioneer times, sharing with the other early settlers the privations and hardships incident to life in the wilderness. He remained an honored and respected resident of this locality until his death and bore a worthy and honorable part in the work of upbuilding, facing the stern and hard conditions of his life with confidence and courage and steadily carrying forward the work of improving and developing his farm. He joined Ole Larson in the purchase of a breaking team of four yoke of oxen and with this broke the tenacious blue joint sod and prepared his land for cultivation. His efforts were finally crowned with success and with the passing years he prospered materially, adding to his holdings from time to time and becoming the owner of an extensive acreage, his land lying on section 7, Taylor township. Upon this property he passed away July 23, 1912, at the age of eighty-six years, and his death deprived the township of a worthy, valuable and useful citizen as well as an honored pioneer.

On the 7th of November, 1856, Mr. Bottolson was united in marriage to Miss Maren Lovise Larson-Sjellebek, and they became the parents of a daughter, Mrs. O. H. Monserud. Mrs. Bottolson survives her husband and is well and favorably known in Taylor township, where her many excellent qualities of mind and character have gained for her an extensive circle of friends.

In the early days of his settlement in Allamakee county Mr. Bottolson became affiliated with the democratic party, and the Allamakee Journal, espousing also the doctrines of that organization, was for more than thirty years his news medium. He was a Lutheran in religious belief and during his active years regularly attended the divine services in the United Lutheran church of



Center township, never vacillating in religious or political matters. A biographer writing of him at the time of his death says:

"I have never heard my early friend and comrade speak an ill word of any person nor have I heard a word spoken derogatory to his moral worth. He was possessed of a God-given boon, a genial and equable temperament and never allowed himself to be ruffled by adverse fate. He held himself aloof from base and profane language but instead spoke kindly words and had a pleasing way of expressing himself. In his dealings with his fellowmen he was scrupulously honest and upright and his word proved better than gold as it did not tarnish. He was a kind and desirable neighbor, always ready when called on for aid. He was of a robust and healthy physique and endurance in labor, never evincing signs of fatigue in creating wealth that other generations may enjoy comforts and advantages that the early settlers had not in their ceaseless toil and drudgery. He preferred the company and relationship of laborers and mingled principally with those who 'ate their bread by the sweat of their brow;' was a benefactor to the needy in giving employment to them on his extensive land possessions and none ever left his doors penniless or hungry.

"The remembrance of his life of usefulness and many good deeds while incarnate—his honest features were met by us all—will live longer in the hearts of the Paint Creek prairie's people than monuments of chiseled granite or molded bronze, for he was truly a good man and a good man is better and more desirable than a great man—in this life as well as the next."

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#### OLE O. STORLA.

Ole O. Storla is carrying on general farming upon two hundred and twenty-eight acres of land on section 11, Paint Creek township, constituting the farm upon which he was born on the 25th of September, 1866. He is a son of one of Allamakee county's most honored and successful pioneers, his father, Ole Storla, having come to America from Norway and settled in this part of Iowa in 1850. With practically his entire capital he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Paint Creek township, developing this from a raw tract into a modern and productive farm and making his home thereon until his death, the years bringing him substantial prosperity as a reward for his unremitting industry and practical labor. He was married in Wisconsin, to Miss Thora Lee, who was born in Norway and came to America when she was a young woman. Five children were born to them: Louis, who died at Moorhead, Minnesota, where he served as county auditor; Severt, who passed away at Hot Springs, Arkansas; Christe, the widow of Rev. Moses; Thore, who died in 1912 at Decorah; and Ole O., of this review.

The last named was reared under the parental roof and has never left the homestead, assisting with its cultivation in his childhood and thereafter assuming entire control. He owns two hundred and twenty-eight acres lying on section 11, Paint Creek township, and upon it carries on general farming and stock-raising, being numbered today among the most successful and prominent agriculturists of his locality.

Mr. Storla married Miss Julia Paulson, a daughter of Peter Paulson, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. To their union have been born seven children, Olvin, Sophia, Thora, Paulina, Olga, Helen and Clarence. Mr. Storla is a member of the Lutheran church and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. A man whose life has always been in keeping with high standards, he justly deserves the full measure of confidence and respect now entertained for him by all who know him.

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#### BENJAMIN HARTLEY.

Benjamin Hartley, who since 1903 has owned and operated the Mount Hope farm, located eleven miles southwest of New Albin, is one of Allamakee county's native sons, his birth having occurred in Union City township in 1870. His father, John W. Hartley, was born in England, and when he was four years of age was brought to America by his parents, the family landing in New York in 1848, and after a short period moving to Wisconsin. They moved to Allamakee county, Iowa, in 1853, and here the father assisted with the work of the homestead until the outbreak of the Civil war, when he enlisted in the Union army, serving with credit and ability for one year, and at the end of that time receiving his honorable discharge. After he was mustered out he returned to Iowa and purchased land in Union City township, later selling his first tract and buying again in the same section. In 1868 he married Miss Sarah G. Ratcliffe, a native of Wheeling, West Virginia, and they began their wedded life on this farm, where they remained until 1881. In that year the father sold his holdings in Union City township and bought land in French Creek township, whereon he has resided since that time, gradually adding to his holdings until he now owns nearly one thousand acres of well improved and highly cultivated land. He has survived his wife for many years, her death having occurred in 1889. They became the parents of the following children: Joseph, of Union City township; Benjamin, of this review; Charlotte H., the wife of A. L. McClintock, of Rossville, Iowa; Mary, who lives in Chicago, Illinois; J. Leonard, who is engaged in lumbering in the state of Washington; Helen S., who is superintendent and head nurse in the Tuberculosis Tent Colony in Ottawa, Illinois; Frank, who lives in Allamakee county; Thomas, of Idaho; and Sarah, the wife of Charles Berkey, of California.

Benjamin Hartley acquired his education in the public schools of Allamakee county, and graduated in 1895 from the commercial department of the Nora Springs Seminary of Floyd county, Iowa. From his early childhood he assisted with the work of the homestead, thus becoming, before he reached manhood, a practical and able agriculturist. He remained at home until he was thirty years of age, and then rented land in Union City township, which he operated for three years. At the end of that time he bought the Mount Hope farm, located about eleven miles southwest of New Albin, and upon this he has since resided, being today considered one of the most progressive and substantial farmers of this vicinity. He owns three hundred and twenty acres of land and upon it carries on diversi-



BENJAMIN HARTLEY



fied farming, raising grain and breeding and selling high-grade stock, both branches of his activities being well managed and profitable.

In 1900 Mr. Hartley married Miss Carrie F. Bulman, a native of Union City township, and a daughter of Thomas and Phoebe (Stocks) Bulman, who were born in England. Their marriage occurred in that country, and in 1848 they came to America, settling first in New Orleans, Louisiana, for one year. They removed to Evansville, Indiana, where they remained a number of years, but in 1854 they came to Iowa and, settling in Allamakee county, took up government land in Union City township, whereon they continued to reside until the father retired from active life in 1888. They then moved into Waukon, and there the mother died in 1892. Her husband survives her and is still living in Waukon, having reached the age of eighty-five. To their union were born twelve children, of whom Mary, John H., Samuel and Phoebe have passed away. The others are: Alice, the widow of Rev. L. M. Green of Idaho; James T., who is residing on the old homestead in Union City township; Emma J., the wife of Alfred Beardmore of Union City township; Thomas S., who resides in Pawnee, Oklahoma; Carrie F., wife of the subject of this review; Jason C., of Allamakee county; Walter W., an attorney of Chariton, Iowa; and Anna P., the wife of William Rayburn of Portland, Oregon. Mr. and Mrs. Hartley became the parents of three children, the eldest of whom died in infancy. The others are: Allen B., born in 1902, and Cecil G., whose birth occurred in 1904. The family are members of the Presbyterian church, the church building and the school being both located on Mr. Hartley's farm.

Fraternally Mr. Hartley is identified with the Brotherhood of American Yeomen and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. He takes an active and intelligent interest in community affairs and is always ready to do all in his power to promote the general advancement and development, but he is not in any sense an office seeker, although he is serving as justice of the peace at the present time. In his native community he is known and honored as a man of strict business and personal integrity, and by his upright, straightforward and industrious life has added something to the respect and esteem in which the family name has long been held in this part of Iowa.

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#### MARTIN T. JACOBSON.

Martin T. Jacobson, carrying on general farming and stock-raising upon the old Jacobson homestead, on section 13, Paint Creek township, was born upon that farm and in the house which he now occupies, on the 25th of February, 1864. He is a son of Tron Jacobson, of whom more extended mention is made elsewhere in this work. In the acquirement of an education he attended a district school in Paint Creek township and when not engaged with his books aided in the operation of the farm, becoming thus at an early age familiar with the best agricultural methods and mastering every department of farm operation. After the death of his father he inherited the old homestead of one hundred and seventy-three acres and has continued to develop and improve it ever since, adding to his holdings from time to time until he now owns a good farm of

three hundred and seventy-six acres well improved and developed. He carries on general farming and success has steadily attended his well directed efforts, so that he stands today among the substantial and representative farmers of his native township.

Mr. Jacobson married Miss Emma Satring, a native of Paint Creek township and a daughter of Gilbert and Bertha Satring, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson have become the parents of eight children, Albert, Luella, Bertha, Theodore, Oscar, Ruth, Edna and Carleton. Albert, the eldest child, is attending the State Agricultural College at Ames. The family are members of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Jacobson gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has never sought to evade the obligations of citizenship, serving his fellow citizens with credit and ability when called upon to do so. The cause of education has found in him a loyal supporter and he did much to elevate standards and improve educational methods in his twenty years' service as a member of the school board. He is now in his third term as township trustee and his influence, always on the side of right, reform and progress, has for a long time been an important factor in community affairs.

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#### CHARLES FREDERICK KUESTER.

A native of the province of Pomerania, Germany, Charles Frederick Kuester came to America when twenty-one years of age and without assistance, without even knowing the language of the country, set himself to the task of founding a home and has succeeded to a remarkable degree, now owning a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres with all modern improvements, located in Linton township, Allamakee county. He was born December 16, 1861, and is a son of Ferdinand and Albertina (Kuester) Kuester, both of whom were born in the province of Pomerania. In 1882 they crossed the Atlantic to this country and shortly afterward located in Linton township, this county, where the father bought a farm of eighty acres. Here the parents resided until both passed away, the father dying in 1906, and the mother having preceded him in 1893.

Charles F. Kuester is the sixth in a family of eight children, of whom five are now living. He attended school in Germany and when seventeen years of age enlisted in the regular army, in which he served for four years or until he came to America, making his way directly to Iowa with his parents. Here he worked for a time for others and then removed to Missouri, where he was similarly employed for a period of four years. He then returned to this state and bought his present farm in Linton township, renting it, however, to a tenant and moving to Minnesota, where he worked for others until his return, when he married and settled on his land. He went to Minnesota largely for the purpose of acquiring the necessary means toward the successful operation of his farm. He now has one hundred and sixty acres of fertile land upon which he has made all of the improvements and on which he carries on general farming, keeping a considerable amount of livestock. As the years have passed he has attained prosperity and now annually harvests rich crops which bring him a substantial

income. Mr. Kuester is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery Company and also in the Commission Association of that place.

On October 10, 1895, Mr. Kuester married Miss Anna Levenhagen, who was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, March 27, 1878. She is a daughter of John and Albertina (Gibbs) Levenhagen, both of Mecklenburg. They came to America in 1890 and after residing in Cleveland, Ohio, for one year, removed to Franklin township, this county, where the father acquired title to a farm on which the parents still reside. While in Germany, John Levenhagen served in the regular army. In his family were eleven children, of whom Mrs. Kuester is the third in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Kuester became the parents of seven children, of whom two died in infancy. The others are: Elsie Katherina, born November 21, 1896; Adolph Herman, July 29, 1900; Hugo Carl, August 20, 1903; Alma Laura, December 11, 1905; and Melinda Josephine, September 23, 1908.

Mr. Kuester is so entirely engaged in promoting his interests and in looking after his property that he has never found time to associate himself with any organizations either of a social or fraternal nature. He gives all of his time to his farming, which he pursues with incessant energy and industry. An example of his perseverance is given in the fact that he quickly overcame the difficulty of learning a new language. He is entirely a self-made man who without assistance from any source and without friends has made his own labor the basis of his success. Mr. Kuester gives his political adherence to the republican party and served as township trustee and also as school director, discharging his duties in both connections with distinct credit to himself. Both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church at Watson. He has made many friends in this district who esteem him for his pluck and his kindness of heart and such success as has come to him is well merited for Mr. Kuester is one of those sons of Germany who have become a thoroughly patriotic and valuable American citizen.

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#### HENRY A. HENDRICKSON.

The name of Hendrickson is well known and highly honored in Allamakee county, for it has been borne by men active in the agricultural development of this section of Iowa since pioneer times. Its present representative, Henry A. Hendrickson, is one of the most successful and prosperous farmers of Paint Creek township, where he owns and operates the farm of one hundred and seventy-six acres upon which he was born September 8, 1867. He is a son of Aslag Hendrickson, who was born in Ness Hallingdal, Norway, and who, when he was four years of age was brought to America by his parents. The family located first in Rock county, Wisconsin, and in 1850 removed to Allamakee county, Iowa, settling upon the farm where the subject of this review now resides. The grandfather, Hendrick Solverson, built a log house upon the farm and continued to develop and improve the property until 1869, when he moved to Estherville, Iowa, where his death occurred. His wife, who was in her maidenhood Miss Carrie Opheim, returned to the old homestead and there passed away.

Their son Aslag Hendrickson grew to manhood upon his father's farm, inheriting the homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, and upon it he spent the best and most forceful years of his life, building upon it the second log house, which still stands as a part of the present home. He married Elizabeth Seim, a native of Norway, who came to the United States with her parents, Lars and Bertha (Dahle) Seim, both of whom have passed away. Aslag Hendrickson died upon his farm on the 16th of August, 1912, and his wife survives him, making her home with the subject of this review. In their family were nine children: Henry A.; Caroline, who died at the age of eighteen years; Ludvig, a resident of Britt, Iowa; Albert, who makes his home in Waterville; Bertha, a resident of Roundup, Montana; Victoria, deceased; Anton, who makes his home in Canton, South Dakota; Elmer, a resident of the same city; and Mrs. S. V. Glenn, of Lansing, Iowa.

In the acquirement of an education Henry A. Hendrickson attended district school and afterward studied for two years in Augustana College, Canton, South Dakota, supplementing this by a one year's course in Breckenridge College at Decorah, Iowa. Upon the death of his father he came into possession of the old homestead, owning today one hundred and seventy-six acres on section 14, Paint Creek township. This is an excellent and well improved property, reflecting everywhere the owner's careful supervision and practical methods, and upon it Mr. Hendrickson engages in general farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of breeding and raising Poland China hogs, his animals commanding a high price and a ready sale on the local market.

Mr. Hendrickson was married in Allamakee county to Miss Caroline Tysland, a daughter of Andrew and Karen (Frok) Tysland, natives of Norway, who came to the United States in 1865. The father is now a well known blacksmith at Waterville, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Hendrickson became the parents of four children: Esther Claudia, deceased; and Esther Claudia, Abner Alexander and Adeline Victoria, all at home.

Mr. Hendrickson is widely and favorably known in this section of Iowa, where his entire life has been passed, for he is reliable in business and progressive in citizenship and his record is a credit to a name that has been a synonym for integrity and industry since pioneer times.

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#### O. S. HESLA.

Among Allamakee county's most progressive and successful native sons is numbered O. S. Hesla, who on January 24, 1865, was born on the farm which he now operates in Paint Creek township. His father, S. E. Hesla, was born in Gol, Hallingdal, Norway, on the 10th of July, 1825, and as a young man crossed the Atlantic to America, settling in Rock Prairie, Wisconsin, in 1845. Five years later he came to Allamakee county, Iowa, being one of the pioneers in this section of the state, and in Paint Creek township he took up a tract of wild timber land upon which he built a crude log house, which is still standing upon the property, although it has been removed from its original location and replaced by a fine modern frame dwelling. S. E. Hesla also built a substantial



barn upon this property and continued to develop and improve the place until his death, which occurred August 31, 1900, and which deprived Allamakee county of one of its earliest settlers and most representative citizens. He was married on the 10th of May, 1850, in Rock county, Wisconsin, to Miss Ingeborg Gaarder, a native of Norway, who came to America with her parents when she was eleven years of age. She has also passed away. They became the parents of the following children: E. S., who resides in Clay county, South Dakota; Rosina, who lives at home with her brother; Bertha, also at home; Peter, of Clay county, South Dakota; O. S., of this review; Albert, who resides in Maddock, North Dakota; one child who died in infancy; and Mrs. S. O. Liekvold, deceased.

O. S. Hesla acquired his education in the district schools of Paint Creek township and in his childhood aided his father with the work of the homestead, early becoming familiar with the best methods of clearing, improving and developing the farm. When he grew to manhood he naturally turned his attention to the occupation to which he had been reared and after the death of his father came into possession of the family homestead, which he has since operated along modern and practical lines. It comprises one hundred and sixty acres, located on section 10, Paint Creek township, and is a well improved and highly developed property, reflecting everywhere the careful supervision and well directed labors of its owner.

In 1898 Mr. Hesla was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Paulson, a daughter of Peter Paulson, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Hesla passed away on the 16th of May, 1909, leaving one son, Swen.

Mr. Hesla is a member of the Lutheran church and is a man of exemplary moral character. His life has been such as to merit the respect of his fellowmen and by his honesty, upright dealings and unremitting industry he has contributed much toward the agricultural development of a community of which he is a representative citizen and a most worthy native son.

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### I. I. SATRANG.

I. I. Satrang, engaged in general farming and stock-raising on a fine property of two hundred acres on section 11, Paint Creek township, was born upon this farm on the 15th of December, 1877. He is a son of Gulbrand Satrang, a native of Norway, who came to the United States when he was still a young man and worked at various places, including Milwaukee, Chicago and Beloit, Wisconsin, and spending most of his time in the last named city. He there married, in 1855, Miss Birgit Grimsgaard, a native of Norway, and four years afterward they came to Allamakee county, the father buying two hundred acres of land in Paint Creek township. This was very slightly improved, having upon it a small log house, but with characteristic energy Mr. Satrang turned his attention to its further development, making it finally a productive and valuable property. Upon it he lived for many years and there died in 1907 at the age of seventy-six. His wife, who was also seventy-six years of age at the time of her death, passed away in 1912. The father had been for a number of years prominent in local

public affairs, serving in various positions of trust and responsibility, including that of township supervisor and tax collector. In his family were seven children: Thorine, the deceased wife of John Falde; C. O., of Milwaukee; Mrs. M. T. Jacobson, of Paint Creek township; I. I., of this review; Carl, who passed away when he was three years of age; Albert, who died at the age of nine; and C. A., who passed away in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1908.

I. I. Satrang acquired his education in the district schools of Paint Creek township and in Luther College at Decorah. He spent one year in a military academy in Georgia at about the time of the outbreak of the Spanish-American war and was very desirous of enlisting for service in that conflict but was urged by his friends to return home. He did so and here purchased the family homestead, whereon he has since carried on general farming, his property reflecting in its neat and attractive appearance his careful supervision and practical methods. Mr. Satrang is one of Allamakee county's most enterprising and progressive native sons and his record reflects credit upon his ability and public spirit. His worth is widely acknowledged, his enterprising spirit having gained distinction in business and agricultural circles, and his probity is an unquestioned fact in his career.

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#### HALL ROBERTS.

Hall Roberts came to Postville in 1864 and has here made his home continuously since. Forty-nine years of residence make him a pioneer citizen of the town, while intense and intelligently directed activity has made him one of the foremost business men of this section of the state. His efforts have contributed in large measure to the substantial improvement and upbuilding of this section of the country and at the same time have brought him success—success so honorably won and so worthily used that the most envious cannot grudge him his prosperity.

Mr. Roberts came from New England parentage, of the Puritan strain. He was born at Rollinsford, New Hampshire, March 7, 1844, and was the fifth child of Judge Hiram R. and Ruth (Hanson) Roberts, the former born in 1806 and the latter in 1809. The father was a successful New England farmer, who later in life became prominent in business and political affairs, serving for some time as judge of the probate court. He was recognized as one of the leaders of the democratic party in his state and was a candidate for governor on its ticket. He received a majority but not a plurality and the election was decided by the house of representatives, which elected a republican. Of the Baptist church he was a lifelong member and his record as an honorable Christian gentleman, a progressive and public-spirited citizen and a substantial business man gained for him the honor and respect of all who knew him. He passed away in 1876 in the home in which he was born, and was long survived by his wife, who died in 1901, at the remarkable old age of ninety-one years. She was of Quaker parentage.

Hall Roberts spent the days of his boyhood and youth under the parental roof and acquired his education in the common schools. At the age of eighteen

years, however, he left home and, making his way to the middle west, settled first at Hanover, Wisconsin, where he had various experiences as an assistant in a blacksmith shop, as a live-stock buyer and as a general merchant and grain dealer. He carried on general merchandising at Hanover in 1863 and 1864, and in the latter year removed to Postville, Iowa, where he also opened a general store. He was a partner of a Mr. Holton, with whom he had carried on business in Wisconsin. Together they removed their stock to Iowa and for a year and a half the partnership was continued, not only in general merchandising but also in grain buying.

At the end of that time Mr. Roberts purchased his partner's interest and continued the business alone until the spring of 1866. He was known by the farmers as the boy grain buyer, being at that time about twenty years of age. The elevator, however, proved an unprofitable investment and was sold by its builders, Lawler & Reynolds, to the firm of Basset & Huntling, of McGregor, for whom Hall Roberts became manager of the business, conducted under the name of Hall Roberts & Company. In the meantime, or in 1866, his brother, W. S. Roberts, had become successor to Mr. Holton in the store, which was then conducted under the firm style of Roberts Brothers. They remained active in mercantile circles of the city until about 1878, when they sold out to a third brother, F. W. Roberts. They also became factors in financial circles of this part of the state, establishing a private bank, which formed the nucleus of the present Postville State Bank. The brothers continued in the banking business together until 1888, when the partnership was dissolved, W. S. Roberts taking over the banking business, while Hall Roberts continued in the grain elevator and stock business, with which he has been connected for half a century. In the early '70s he purchased the elevator from Basset & Huntling and since that time has been actively connected with the grain and live-stock interests of this part of the state, although in later years his son has relieved him to some extent of the active management and control of the business. Mr. Roberts is one of the directors of the Postville State Bank and is also a stockholder in the Postville Clay Products Company. About thirty years ago he purchased a farm a half mile south of the town and has developed it into a modern dairy farm, known as the Oak Ridge farm. Here he engages in the breeding of Guernsey cattle and now has a herd of high-grade Guernseys, part of which are full bloods. In 1894 he erected a silo and for the past ten years has been a successful grower of alfalfa. In the summer of 1912 he cut seventy-five loads from twelve acres and it is rich enough feed to be used as a substitute for grain and mill feed for the cattle and hogs upon his farm. In addition to his other interests Mr. Roberts owns considerable real estate in Postville, having from time to time made judicious investments in property. Whatever he has undertaken he has carried forward to success and his sound judgment and enterprise, combined with unfaltering industry, having constituted the foundation upon which he has built his prosperity.

On the 23d of April, 1866, Mr. Roberts was united in marriage to Miss Maria O. Easton, who was born in Martinsburg, New York, January 21, 1846, a daughter of Harvey and Maria (Buck) Easton, who were natives of Massachusetts but removed westward to Iowa, becoming residents of Winneshiek county in March, 1859. The father there engaged for some time in farming but afterward removed to Postville, where he lived retired for several years

prior to his death, which occurred in 1878. For two decades he had survived his wife, who passed away in 1858. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have become the parents of four children. Rollie died in infancy. Harvey E., born December 2, 1871, is associated with his father in business. Bessie Ella, born November 22, 1874, is the wife of Dr. O. J. Blessin, a practicing physician of Postville. Ruth, born October 30, 1882, is the wife of H. A. Templeton, manager for the Rogers, Templeton Lumber Company of Great Falls, Montana. The daughter Bessie has one child, Ruth Evelyn Blessin, and Mrs. Templeton has three children, Bessie Roberts, Robert Palmer and Hall Roberts.

During the many years of his residence in Postville Mr. Roberts has shown himself to be an enterprising business man, with a well merited reputation for square and honest dealing. He has always taken an active interest in movements for the uplift and benefit of the community. In politics he is a progressive republican and has served as mayor of Postville. He has always worked against the saloon element and seeks the benefit of the community along all lines of reform, improvement and progress. He took a most active and helpful part in driving the saloons out of Postville in the years 1911 and 1912 and making it a temperance town. In 1876 he united with the Congregational church, of which he has since been an active and helpful member, serving for thirty-four years as superintendent of its Sunday school. He belongs to Brotherly Love Lodge, F. & A. M., of Postville, and also holds membership with the Modern Woodmen and the Legion of Honor. When Mr. Roberts arrived at Postville the railroad had been built only part of the way from the river and the elevator was in process of construction. He has lived to witness almost the entire growth and development of the town and has played a most important part in the promotion of its best interests along the lines of material, social, political, intellectual and moral progress.

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#### JOHN BUNTROCK.

A native of Germany, John Buntrock has again demonstrated through his success that this country offers opportunities to all who are able to grasp them. Having come to Allamakee county in 1870, he purchased, with money that he saved, an eighth section of land and has since increased the boundaries of his farm until it comprises one hundred and fifty-seven and a half acres, all under high cultivation and improved with substantial buildings. Born on September 26, 1843, John Buntrock is a son of Martin and Engel (Storm) Buntrock, who came to the United States in 1866 and established their home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where the father engaged in various tasks. They came to Allamakee county in company with their son John and made their home with him until the death of the mother, when the father again married, later passing away in this county. John Buntrock was the oldest of four children, the others being: August, deceased, who followed merchandising in Waukon, Iowa; Mary, the wife of Henry Fettkater, of French Creek township; and Bertha, who married F. Laabs, of Lansing, Iowa.



JOHN BUNTROCK AND FAMILY



John Buntrock, in the acquirement of his education, attended the excellent schools of the fatherland and at the age of twenty-three came with his parents to the United States. For four years he engaged in various occupations in Milwaukee but in 1870 came to Allamakee county and, having carefully husbanded his resources, bought with his savings eighty acres of land, which is part of the farm he now owns. On the land he found a one-room log shanty which served as his first home, but he subsequently built a comfortable dwelling which he has made his home since. As the years have passed he has put his acres under cultivation, has erected substantial barns and outbuildings and as his means have increased has extended the boundaries of his farm, which now includes one hundred and fifty-seven and a half acres. His success is largely due to his enterprising spirit and his incessant labors, which have found a just reward in his present prosperity.

Mr. Buntrock was united in marriage to Miss Fredericka Deters, now deceased, a native of Germany, by whom he had four children: William, who makes his home in Canada; Ida, the wife of Rev. August Klieber, of Birmingham, Ohio; Emma, who married W. T. Goffe, of Rockefeller, Illinois; and Louis, farming in French Creek township. Mr. Buntrock was again married, his second union being with Matilda Hausmann, also a native of Germany and a daughter of Fred and Minnie (Oloff) Hausmann, early settlers of Allamakee county and both now deceased. Of this union seven sons have been born: Fred, Martin, Herbert, Oscar, Arthur, Melvin and Allen. Mr. and Mrs. Buntrock are members of the German Methodist church, in the work of which they take an active interest. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and served his township at one time as a school director. Although nearly seventy years of age, Mr. Buntrock is still active in the operation of his farm and enjoys the best of health. He is highly respected and esteemed in his community for what he has achieved through his own labors and those qualities of his mind and character which have made possible his success.

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#### NICHOLAS BRAZELL.

No farmer in Allamakee county has attained greater success in agricultural pursuits than Nicholas Brazell, whose holdings aggregate five hundred and three acres and comprises one of the valuable and productive farms of Taylor township. He was born in Canada, May 7, 1853, and is a son of John and Ellen (McManus) Brazell, natives of Ireland. The father was brought to Canada by his parents when he was still a child and was reared in the Dominion, coming to the United States in 1854. After spending one winter in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he came to Allamakee county and was one of the pioneers in this part of Iowa and for some time thereafter a force in agricultural development. In the spring of 1855 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of partly improved land and upon this carried forward the work of cultivation for ten years, erecting substantial outbuildings and beginning the construction of a modern home. This, however, was not yet completed when in 1865 he passed away at the age of sixty-one years. He had survived his wife some time, her

death having occurred when she was forty-two years of age. They were devout members of the Roman Catholic church and well known in Taylor township, where they had resided since pioneer times. In their family were eight children, one of whom died in infancy; Anne, also deceased; Honora, the wife of William Fulcakdy, of Waukon; Bridget, who married J. M. Collins, of the same city; Nicholas, of this review; Mary, who married James Brophy, of Duluth, Minnesota; Helen, who died in childhood; and Lizzie, also deceased.

The parents passed away when most of these children were still very young and when the subject of this review was a small child. The family remained upon the homestead for a number of years, all of the sons assisting in the work of its cultivation. Eventually the land came into possession of Nicholas Brazell, and he has from time to time added to it until he owns today five hundred and three acres on section 8, Taylor township. In the course of years he has made substantial improvements upon this property, erecting a modern barn and the necessary outbuildings, and success has steadily rewarded his practical, progressive methods. He is president of the Farmers Cooperative Creamery at Harper's Ferry and is recognized in business circles as a man of force, sagacity and energy.

In Allamakee county Mr. Brazell was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Hennessey, a daughter of John and Mary (O'Hara) Hennessey, natives of Ireland and early settlers in Taylor township. Mr. and Mrs. Brazell became the parents of seven children: John, who has passed away; William J., who is connected with the Bell Telephone Company of Minneapolis; Dominic, who lives at home; Leo C., and Clement P., also with their parents; Mary R., who is attending St. Mary's School at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin; and Nicholas Raymond, who lives at home. The family are devout members of the Roman Catholic church.

Mr. Brazell gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and has been honored by his fellow citizens by election to various positions of public trust and responsibility, serving for six years as township clerk, for eight years as trustee, and for a long period as a member of the school board. He is interested in anything that pertains to the welfare and development of the section in which he has so long resided, and along business and political lines has been a force in progress, being recognized today as a substantial farmer and a public-spirited, useful citizen.

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#### JACOB DAHL.

In the death of Jacob Dahl, which occurred on his farm in Paint Creek township in 1902, Allamakee county lost not only one of her most highly respected pioneer settlers but also a representative and successful citizen who for almost half a century contributed in substantial measure to the general agricultural development of this part of Iowa. He was born in Stavanger, Norway, in 1824, and spent his childhood and youth in his native country. As a young man he became a sailor and followed the sea for several years, eventually abandoning this and joining his brother and a friend who lived in Orleans county, New



York. In 1854 he came to Allamakee county, Iowa, purchasing the last eighty acres of government land in this locality, and he here developed an excellent farm, success steadily attending his well directed labors. In 1866 he removed to the property upon which his sons now reside, having purchased a fifty-acre tract on section 13, Paint Creek township. Some years later he purchased another fifty acres, making the farm in all one hundred and eighty acres. This was slightly improved, containing a log house and a straw-thatched stable, and Mr. Dahl set himself with characteristic energy to the work of its further development, making it in time one of the finest and most productive properties in his vicinity. He replaced the log cabin by a modern frame dwelling, built a substantial barn and made many other improvements, his practical and well directed efforts through the years being rewarded by a gratifying measure of success.

In Orleans county, New York, Mr. Dahl was united in marriage to Miss Elsie Olson, a native of Skjold, near Stavanger, Norway, who was brought to America by her mother and a grown brother when she was twelve years of age and who passed away in 1887. Nine children were born to their union: Halver, who died in childhood; E. C. Dahl, a carpenter and contractor, who when not engaged at his trade in other sections, makes his home with his brothers; Melvin, who grew to maturity and went to Norway, where he died; Oliver and Charles, who are operating the old homestead; Albert, who is married and lives in Nebraska; Ricka, the wife of Albert Vorseth, of Rosewood, Minnesota; John C., who died in childhood; and one daughter who died at birth. Oliver and Charles Dahl make their home upon their father's farm and are developing and improving it along practical and modern lines, ably carrying forward the work which Jacob Dahl began in pioneer times.

Jacob Dahl died upon his farm in Paint Creek township in 1902 and a life of genuine and unostentatious usefulness was thus brought to a close. His name and memory are yet cherished throughout the community where the best and most forceful years of his life were passed and where his death was mourned as a distinct loss to the county in the ranks of her honored pioneers.

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#### THEODORE C. SCHWARZHOFF.

Two hundred acres of farm land in Waterloo township in a highly improved and flourishing condition give evidence of the successful agricultural ability of Theodore C. Schwarzhoff, one of the representative and enterprising young farmers of Allamakee county. He was born on the farm which is yet his home in 1884, a son of Christian and Helen Schwarzhoff, both natives of Germany. The parents came to the United States in early life, locating in Iowa in the early '50s. The father purchased land in Waterloo township, Allamakee county, upon which he continued to reside and which he operated until his death on the 6th of September, 1898. His widow survived until May 20, 1913. Of their family of eight children seven are yet living, namely: Mary, the wife of Fred Weber, of Allamakee county; Agnes, who married William Duffy, of this county; Anna, the wife of Henry Toft, of this county; Christian J. and Herman, both residing

in Allamakee county; Margaret, who married Clem Schulte, of this county; now deceased, married William Scanlan, a resident of Peoria, Illinois.

Theodore C. Schwarzhoff received his education in the common schools of and Theodore C., of this review. Elizabeth, the fourth in order of birth and his native county and when not thus employed assisted his father in the work of the home farm. He early took up the tasks which usually fall to the lot of the country lad and as the years passed he became thoroughly acquainted with the various details of modern and progressive agriculture. After the death of his father he operated the home farm for his mother until her demise, since which time he has had full charge of the homestead. He carries on general farming and stock-raising, both branches being conducted in a practical way which is proving productive of good results.

Mr. Schwarzhoff was married in 1909 to Miss Mary Schulte, who was born in Allamakee county in 1890, a daughter of John and Hannah Schulte, the former a native of Iowa and the latter of Germany. Her parents were among the early settlers of Allamakee county and were widely known throughout the district in which they made their home. The mother died on the 11th of May, 1901, but the father still survives and lives on a fine farm in Waterloo township. In their family were six children, as follows: John, of Dorchester, Iowa; Mrs. Schwarzhoff; Henry, of Allamakee county; Joseph and Andrew, both at home; and Louis, deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Schwarzhoff have been born two children, Mary H. and Raymond C., the former born in January, 1911, and the latter in February, 1913. Mrs. Schwarzhoff was educated in the schools of Allamakee county, and, like her husband, holds membership in the Catholic church.

Mr. Schwarzhoff is a democrat in politics, giving his staunch support to that party but neither seeking nor caring for public office as the reward for party fealty. Although numbered among the younger generation of agriculturists in Waterloo township, he has already won a substantial degree of prosperity and he is a native son whose record is a credit to Allamakee county.

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#### LARS IVERSON.

Deeply engraven on the pages of the history of Allamakee county is the name of Lars Iverson, who came to this part of Iowa in 1854 and who in the course of a long, honorable and worthy life firmly intrenched himself in the regard, esteem and confidence of the entire community. He was born in the province of Hardanger, Norway, June 16, 1821, and spent his youth and early manhood in his native country. He there married Miss Guro Christoferson, also a native of Norway, born in April, 1819, and with his wife he came to America in 1851. For three years thereafter they made their home in Orleans county, New York, and in 1854 came west to Iowa, locating in Allamakee county in pioneer times. Their first home in this state was in a dugout opposite that occupied by Jacob Dahl and his family, near the present site of the Dahl homestead, and they continued to reside in this crude dwelling for one year, after which they purchased a farm whereon the remainder of their lives was spent.

This land lies on section 13, Paint Creek township, and when it came into Mr. Iverson's possession was entirely unimproved. With characteristic energy he set himself to develop the place, clearing the timber and erecting a log house which has been incorporated into the fine modern dwelling now standing upon the homestead. This little log cabin still remains a happy memory to Mr. Iverson's children and his daughter, Mrs. Espeland, says that although she has now attained the ambition of her earlier years and has a modern and well furnished home, yet she has never seen any house which looked quite so neat as her mother's log cabin after a fresh coat of whitewash. Upon this property in Paint Creek township Mr. Iverson continued to reside for many years, steadily carrying forward the work of improvement and cultivation, success rapidly rewarding his well directed and practical labors. The farm became a valuable and productive property, reflecting everywhere its owner's careful management and constant supervision, and it constitutes today a notable contribution to the agricultural resources of this section of Allamakee county.

Mr. and Mrs. Iverson became the parents of three children: Julia, deceased; Mrs. Dale, of Union county, South Dakota; and Mrs. Espeland, who with her husband resides upon the Iverson homestead. Mr. Iverson was a devout member of the Lutheran church and he gave his political allegiance to the democratic party, serving as school director and as township trustee and on numerous occasions going to Waukon for jury duty. He was never so busy that his township could not call upon him for cooperation in public affairs and any project which he believed beneficial to the community received his earnest endorsement and hearty support. His long residence in this part of the state made him very widely known and his sterling qualities gained him the good-will and confidence of all with whom he was associated in business or social relations. He left to his family the priceless heritage of untarnished name and an example that is well worthy of emulation when, on the 28th of February, 1901, he passed away.

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#### PHILEMON B. LUCE.

Philemon B. Luce owns and cultivates a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Fairview township, known as the old Luce homestead. He is a native of that township and was born on the farm which is now his home, December 28, 1855, a son of Harvey and Mary Ann (Stone) Luce, both of whom were natives of Lamoille county, Vermont. In early life the father worked in the cotton mills of Lowell, Massachusetts, but eventually returned to the state of his nativity and engaged in farming. Deciding to try his fortune in the middle west, in 1853 he came to Allamakee county and made his first purchase of land near Johnsport, in Fairview township. He made his home thereon until 1872, when he purchased the farm which is now owned by the son. This tract, comprising one hundred and sixty acres, was wholly unimproved when it came into his possession. He courageously undertook the task of clearing the land and preparing the soil for cultivation, also fenced his fields, erected buildings, and in due time had a well improved place, which ranked among the better farms of the county. He was truly a "home" man, devoted to his family and his business affairs, and

although urged to accept public office he always refused to do so. He died on the home place in May, 1886, having for a number of years survived his wife, who departed this life in 1873.

Philemon B. Luce acquired his education in the district schools of Fairview township and during the periods of vacation he assisted in the work of the fields, thereby gaining the knowledge that has enabled him to carry on his work in later years. He remained with his father until the latter's death, after which the homestead was sold, but three years thereafter Mr. Luce purchased the farm and has continued to make his home thereon to the present time. The farm of one hundred and sixty acres is located in Fairview township, on the Yellow river, four and a half miles from North McGregor. He here carries on farming and stock-raising and the success that has crowned his efforts is very gratifying.

Mr. Luce was married on the 25th of November, 1884, to Miss Mary Gallagher, who was born in Kentucky, June 24, 1863, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Galagher, who on coming to Iowa in 1867, located in Paint Creek township. The mother passed away in 1872 and the father afterward lived with his children, dying at the home of a son in Nebraska in 1911. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Luce have been born a daughter and two sons: Martha L., who is with her parents; Walter Gordon, who is now employed in a grocery store in North McGregor; and Floyd Hobart, whose birth occurred September 2, 1897.

In politics Mr. Luce is a republican. He is now serving as trustee of Fairview township, having been elected in the fall of 1912. Having spent his entire life in Allamakee county, he is thoroughly familiar with its history and his home has been made dear to him through the association of his youth and early manhood. He is everywhere known as an honest and upright citizen, fully meriting the esteem and respect which is accorded him by all with whom he is brought in contact.

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#### ANDREW SWENSON.

The term progress has ever been the keynote in the life of Andrew Swenson, a farmer of Paint Creek township, whose valuable farm, one of the most attractive in the district, indicates the up-to-date and modern methods of its owner. He is one of Allamakee county's native sons, his birth having occurred in Paint Creek township on the old family homestead of which his present farm is a part, June 29, 1866. His parents, Bennett and Augusta (Thorsen) Swenson, natives of Norway, are mentioned at length on another page of this volume in connection with the sketch of L. B. Swenson.

In the district schools Andrew Swenson acquired a good education, while his father's farm was the training ground upon which he received his knowledge of agriculture. For several years he was in partnership with his brother, L. B. Swenson, in the operation of the homestead, but about ten years ago this relationship was dissolved, the brothers dividing the farm, Andrew Swenson receiving one hundred and forty acres as his share. This place, well improved by his father, has since been greatly enhanced both in value and appearance by

the erection of a beautiful residence and good barns and outbuildings, and today the farm is one of the neatest and most attractive properties in Paint Creek township. Mr. Swenson engages in general farming and the progressive methods which he has followed have made him one of the most prosperous and substantial agriculturists of his section.

Mr. Swenson married Miss Torena Kolsrud, a native of Allamakee county and a daughter of Solve Kolsrud. Mrs. Swenson presides over the beautiful home erected by her husband in a very capable manner and is conceded to be an exceptionally good housekeeper. Both are members of the Lutheran church and occupy a prominent place in the community in which they reside. Mr. Swenson owns an automobile and finds pleasant recreation from his farm labor in motoring. He is one of the most modern and up-to-date farmers in the county and the success which he has attained ranks him among the men of affluence in this district.

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#### J. F. CORRIGAN.

J. F. Corrigan is one of the influential and prosperous residents of Taylor township, Allamakee county, owing five hundred and forty acres of land, which constitutes one of the model farms of this section of Iowa. He was born on the farm of which he is now the owner, February 7, 1860, a son of James and Bridget (Fagan) Corrigan, both of whom were natives of Ireland, the latter born in County Kildare. The father acquired his education in his native land and there remained to the age of seventeen years, when, believing that he might enjoy better business opportunities in the new world, he accordingly set sail for America. Landing in New York, he there sought work and for eight years was employed by the proprietor of a hotel and livery barn. At the end of that time he worked his way farther west and for two years was employed at farm work in Ohio. In the meantime he had married and in 1851 he came with his family to Allamakee county, Iowa, locating on eighty acres of wild land on section 21, Taylor township. On this he built a log house, which is still standing, and he at once set about to clear his land and prepare it for the plow. He lived here in true pioneer style and endured all the hardships incident to the establishment of a home in a new country. As time passed and he prospered in his undertakings he purchased an additional tract of eighty acres, one hundred and sixty acres then being included within the boundaries of his place. Mr. and Mrs. Corrigan reared two sons and two daughters: Thomas, who died in 1873; Mary, the widow of J. J. Fitzgerald, of Harper's Ferry; Katie, who was a Catholic nun, but is now deceased; and J. F., of this review. The father was a democrat and held the offices of township trustee and justice of the peace, while for twenty-seven years he served as secretary of the school board.

J. F. Corrigan was educated in the district school near his father's home. He was early trained to habits of industry and economy, which have proved of great benefit to him in his later life. It was on the home farm that he acquired his knowledge of agricultural pursuits, for he assisted his father in the work of the fields throughout the period of his youth and early manhood, and at

his father's death he inherited the old homestead, to which he has since added, until his possessions now comprise five hundred and forty acres of finely improved land. His land is fertile and each year yields abundant harvests as a reward for the care and labor that Mr. Corrigan has bestowed upon it. He has erected a good house and outbuildings for the shelter of his grain and stock and altogether it is one of the model farms of Taylor township, for he takes a just pride in keeping everything about the place in good repair.

Mr. Corrigan established a home of his own by his marriage in 1891 to Miss Mary Hart, who was born in County Caven, Ireland. They have become the parents of nine children but only seven survive. They are James, Katie, Glenn, Mary, William, Donald and Dorothea. The eldest, Thomas, died in infancy; and John, the eighth in order of birth, is also deceased.

Mr. Corrigan has supported the candidates of the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has served on the school board for twelve years, but otherwise has not held public office. He is a communicant of the Catholic church. He has always been a hard-working man and has enjoyed the best of health, never having been ill a day in his life. He truly deserves the success that is today his, for it has come to him through honest dealing coupled with sound judgment and good business sense.

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#### PAUL E. TOPEL.

The career of Paul E. Topel is another proof of the fact that this rich country supplies opportunities for all who seek them out. A foreign born citizen, Mr. Topel came to America at the age of sixteen practically empty in pocket but rich in determination and fired with the ambition to succeed. Combining German thoroughness with American enterprise, he succeeded and today owns one of the most valuable farms in Post township, Allamakee county, a property comprising one hundred and seventy-five acres of land, improved with fine buildings, having its own water system and its own electric light plant, and in its completeness and modern equipment being a monument to Mr. Topel's thorough methods and his industry and energy. However, while he has given much of his time and attention to the improvement of this splendid farm, he has found time to devote to other causes and is especially prominent in his church, in the upbuilding of which he has taken an interest which has produced moral and intellectual advancement.

Born in Pomerania, Germany, November 7, 1868, his parents were August and Wilhelmina (Kamin) Topel, both natives of that German province. The father was born January 2, 1829, and the mother March 9, 1830. He was a carpenter and contractor by trade and gained a livelihood as a builder, following this occupation from his early manhood until his demise. Both parents spent their entire lives in Germany. The father served the regular term in the army and this was practically the only time that he was absent from his business. Mr. and Mrs. Topel had four children, of whom Paul E. is the youngest.

Growing up under parental care in a systematic German household, Paul E. Topel was early taught by his parents the advantage of honesty, industry and



MR. AND MRS. PAUL E. TOPEL





thrift. These three cardinal characteristics have never left him and have been the foundation upon which his American success rests. When old enough Mr. Topel entered school and received his education in Germany, which country remained his home until he attained the age of sixteen years. To the imagination of a growing lad the opportunities of America loomed large and he decided to emigrate. Crossing the ocean and making his way inland, he went direct to Chicago, where for one year he worked in the stock yards, thence removing to Iowa and engaging as a farm hand. For four years he was so occupied, rendering good service to his employers and saving his earnings. He then married and after that event brought forty acres of land, which forms the nucleus of his present holdings and which he began to clear and cultivate. His labors brought results and as his means increased he added to his place small tracts until he now owns one hundred and seventy-five acres, highly improved with modern buildings which are among the finest in Post township. His land is brought to a high state of cultivation by fertilization and the scientific rotation of crops and its yearly yield is at a maximum. In 1912 Mr. Topel erected a modern barn thirty-six by eighty feet which adds value to his farm and takes care of his increasing live-stock interests. The latest equipment and machinery are installed upon his place which by its appearance proves the thorough and up-to-date methods employed and the resultant prosperity to the owner of the property. Mr. Topel has installed his own water system and also an electric light plant which furnishes not only illumination but power to machinery.

On January 31, 1890, Mr. Topel was united in marriage to Miss Tillie Kamin, who was born in Pomerania, Germany, September 13, 1869, a daughter of Henry and Augusta (Schroeder) Kamin, the former born July 2, 1825, and the latter September 17, 1831, in the same province. The father remained in Germany until he was forty-six years of age, when both he and his wife went to Chicago, Illinois, where they made their home for nine years. They then came to Allamakee county, locating in Post township on a part of Mr. Topel's present farm, where they continued until their deaths, spending their later years in retirement, and making their home with Mr. and Mrs. Topel. The father died July 29, 1909, and the mother, March 28, 1911. In their family were three children, of whom Mrs. Topel is the youngest. Mr. and Mrs. Topel have four children: Rosetta Clara, born February 12, 1891, who is the wife of Fred Hilmer, an agriculturist of Ludlow township; Clara Bessie, born May 27, 1898, who resides at home; Arthur Walter, born August 29, 1899; and Ralph Herman, whose natal day was October 19, 1906.

Politically Mr. Topel reserves an independent judgment, giving his support to the most efficient candidate without regard to party lines. Although he has never aspired to public office, he has consented to accept the position of treasurer of the school board of his district, being guided by his deep interest in the cause of education and administering the affairs under his charge in a highly satisfactory way. He is a member of the Presbyterian church of Frankville and shows his interest in its work by serving as elder for twenty years. He is also prominently connected with Sunday-school work, being a member of the executive committee of the Iowa State Sunday School Association. Fraternally

Mr. Topel is a member of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, being connected with Frankville lodge. Having started out in life with no particular advantages, Mr. Topel has attained to a position which solicits respect and esteem, both of which are given him freely. While he has attained personal prosperity he has been a valuable unit in promoting agricultural development in Allamakee county and has done much toward raising agricultural standards by instituting and following the latest known farming methods. His career must be classed as entirely successful as he has not only gained financial independence but has made many friends and enjoys the confidence of all who know him.

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#### T. B. HERMANSON.

T. B. Hermanson, who died upon his farm on section 2, Paint Creek township, in 1909, was one of the progressive, prosperous and highly respected agriculturists of this district. He was born in Hallingdal, Norway, April 25, 1840, and was a son of Buerden Hermanson, who was also a native of Norway. When the son was but six years old he was brought to America by his parents, who settled first in Rock county, Wisconsin, but in 1850 came to Allamakee county, Iowa, locating on a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Paint Creek township. They were among the earliest settlers in this county and the land of which the father became the owner was wild and undeveloped when it came into his possession. The first home of the family was a dugout which was later supplanted by the pioneer log house, and the family experienced many of the difficulties and hardships incident to frontier life. The parents both passed away on this farm, after which T. B. Hermanson took charge of it, continuing in its operation throughout his remaining years. Systematic and methodical, industrious and enterprising, he applied himself with characteristic zeal to his agricultural pursuits and as the years passed his well directed efforts were resultant of a most gratifying success.

He was married in 1865 to Miss Ragna O. Ellefson, a native of Norway and a daughter of Ole and Ingeborg (Halverson) Ellefson, by whom she was brought to America in early life. Her parents were early settlers of Allamakee county and after a residence of many years here went to South Dakota to visit a daughter, during which visit both passed away. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hermanson were born twelve children, as follows: Rachel, the deceased wife of John Ralsdon; Louis, of Waukon, Iowa; Inger, the wife of G. S. Kolsrud; Ben, residing in Glenburn, North Dakota; Herman, of Maddock, North Dakota; Henry, of Paint Creek township; Halvor; John, deceased; Sophia, who married Leonard Tysland, of South Dakota; Halvor, deceased; Helma, clerk for Spinner Brothers, of Waterville, Iowa; and Tolmine, a nurse, who resides at home.

Mr. Hermanson passed away on the home farm on the 27th of April, 1909, in the faith of the Lutheran church, to which his wife, who still survives, also belongs. He was a republican in politics and a public-spirited citizen who had the interests of the community deeply at heart. His honorable principles and upright life won him many friends in Allamakee county, and with his passing the

district lost one of its most honored and respected residents. His widow still resides on the homestead farm.

Halvor Hermanson, who succeeded his father in the ownership of the farm, was educated in the district schools near his home and also attended business college at Waukon in the pursuit of a commercial course. He now carries on general farming on the home place, which is in excellent condition, having been highly improved and brought under a good state of cultivation. Young and progressive, he is bending his efforts to its further development, and its attractive and well kept appearance is a credit to his well directed labors. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church, and, like his father, he supports the principles and candidates of the republican party, feeling that the platform of that political organization is most conducive to good government. High purposes have ever governed his life and he is proving himself a worthy son of an honored father.

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#### GEORGE E. HANCOCK.

George E. Hancock is numbered among Allamakee county's most progressive and successful agriculturists and his fine farm of three hundred and twenty-five acres on section 1, Franklin township, is a visible evidence of his life of industry and thrift. He was born in Linton township, this county, March 20, 1868, and is a son of Thomas J. and Mary (Shroder) Hancock, natives of Indiana, the former born July 16, 1841, and the latter July 1, 1848. The father came from Indiana to Iowa about the year 1851 and located with his parents near Hardin, where his father entered a small tract of government land. After residing upon it for a short time he sold the property and located on Suttle creek, where he made his home for many years, his residence being known as the Linton Hotel. Afterward the family moved to the farm upon which George E. Hancock resides today and there Thomas J. Hancock continued to live for some time, making his home there until 1893, when he retired from active life and removed into Rossville, where he now resides. In early times he used to drive the stage from McGregor to Waukon, leaving his farm in charge of his sons. At the beginning of the Civil war he enlisted in Company A, Sixteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, Sixteenth Battalion, and served for three years with credit and distinction. He was shot through the left shoulder in battle and was taken to the hospital but five days afterward rode over two hundred miles on a box car. His wound was not dressed for more than twenty-four hours after he received it and it was only his unusually strong constitution which saved his life. Returning from the war, he worked in the employ of others for two years and then took up his residence on a rented farm, afterward buying the property, upon which the greater part of his active life was spent. He is today one of the respected and honored residents of Rossville and although not an officeseeker, takes a commendable interest in public affairs.

George E. Hancock was reared at home and acquired a very limited education by attending for two terms district school No. 9, in Bear Hollow. At twenty-one he began working as a farm hand, grubbing up stumps, but he con-

tinued to reside with his parents until his marriage. At that time he purchased land on section 1, Franklin township, and to this he has since added, owning today three hundred and twenty-five acres all under a high state of cultivation. Upon this property Mr. Hancock has made modern and substantial improvements and here he engages in general farming and stock-raising, specializing in the breeding of shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and pure bred Shropshire sheep. He also keeps high-grade horses and he has made his stock-raising a valuable source of income to him.

On the 30th of November, 1893, Mr. Hancock was united in marriage to Miss Laura M. Stull, who was born in Jefferson township, near Rossville, a daughter of William T. and Mary (Rowan) Stull, natives of Fayette county, Pennsylvania, the former born August 30, 1819, and the latter May 17, 1830. They came from that state to Iowa in the spring of 1852 and located first just south of Rossville, in Paint Creek township, taking up government land. This they sold after a number of years and located on a farm southwest of Rossville, in Jefferson township, upon which both passed away, the father dying August 20, 1901, and the mother February 10, 1889. During the Civil war William T. Stull served as a member of Company I, Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteers, and saw a great deal of active service, but was never wounded nor confined in a hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Hancock have become the parents of five children: Charles Irving, who was born October 14, 1894; Mary S., born August 17, 1896; Iva Aleta, born August 8, 1898; Harry Harold, born September 7, 1900; and Dorothy M., born September 20, 1905.

Mr. Hancock is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and is a stockholder in the Monona Farmers Shipping Association. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he has rendered his township excellent service as a director of the school board. He is truly a self-made man and one whose labors have been effective forces in his own prosperity and in the advancement of community interests. He is today one of the substantial and representative citizens of Franklin township and his upright and honorable life has commanded the respect and confidence of all who have come in contact with him.

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#### GEORGE THOMPSON.

George Thompson, the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and ninety-two acres on section 18, Paint Creek township, is a wide-awake and progressive young man who has won gratifying success in his labors as an agriculturist. During the past year, however, he has leased his land and now devotes his attention to the care of the telephone line, of which he was one of the promoters. His birth occurred on the farm where he resides, his natal day being April 25, 1868.

His father, Thomas Guttornson, was a native of Hallingdal, Norway, and there wedded Miss Mary Nelson, likewise born in that country. In 1852 they emigrated to the United States and made their way to Allamakee county, Iowa. Mr. Guttornson here purchasing the tract of one hundred and ninety-two acres

which is now in possession of his son George. The land was wild and demanded much arduous labor before it was ready for the plow. Mr. Guttornson erected a log house on the property and subsequently built a frame dwelling which is still standing and in use. Here he devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits throughout the remainder of his life, passing away about 1895, at the age of sixty years. The period of his residence in this county covered more than four decades and he was well known and highly esteemed as one of its pioneer settlers and representative farmers. His wife was also fifty years of age when called to her final rest. They had four children, as follows: Margaret, the wife of E. H. Sando, of Paint Creek township; Bertha, who gave her hand in marriage to C. O. Leikvold, of Paint Creek township; George, of this review; and Nels, who is deceased.

George Thompson attended the district schools in the acquirement of his early education and later pursued a course of study in the Upper Iowa University at Fayette. After putting aside his text-books he was engaged in the drug business at Nashua, Iowa, for two years, on the expiration of which period he returned to the home farm, subsequently coming into possession of the property. The place comprises one hundred and ninety-two acres of rich and productive land, and many substantial improvements enhance its value and attractiveness. Mr. Thompson was busily engaged in general agricultural pursuits until a year ago, when he leased his land and has since given his attention to the care of the telephone line, of which he was one of the promoters. He has made a study of telephones for a number of years and possesses expert knowledge in that direction, now conducting a shop on his farm and being employed by the month to keep the telephone line in repair.

As a companion and helpmate on the journey of life Mr. Thompson chose Miss Lena Hendrickson, a daughter of Solva Hendrickson, who was one of the early settlers of this region and passed away in the winter of 1912-13. Our subject and his wife have one child, Carl Odin. In politics Mr. Thompson is a staunch republican, exercising his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of that party. Both he and his wife are devoted members of the West Paint Creek church. Industry and progress seem to be the salient features in his career and have been potent elements in the acquirement of a success which, however, speaks not only in terms of material gain but in the regard and high esteem of his fellowmen.

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#### WILLIAM E. DULL.

William E. Dull owns and operates two hundred acres of land located on the line between Clayton and Allamakee counties, three miles from Monona, and the success which has attended his efforts in its cultivation places him among the most able and substantial agriculturists of Franklin township. He was born in the locality where he now resides November 11, 1867, and is a son of Simon B. and Eva (Miller) Dull, the former born in Virginia, May 20, 1834, and the latter in Pennsylvania, February 23, 1838. The father came from his native state to Iowa in pioneer times and, locating in Franklin township, Allamakee

county, purchased government land, which he improved and developed for a number of years. He later moved to a farm in the extreme eastern part of that township, which he cleared, developed and improved, residing upon it until the early '80s, when he sold out and purchased land in Clayton county, near Monona. He and his wife now make their home upon that property. He is a veteran of the Civil war, having served for two years as a private in an Iowa regiment, seeing a great deal of active service and being confined for some time in a hospital.

William E. Dull is the fifth in a family of eleven children. He acquired his education in the Walnut Grove district school situated on the county line and at the age of twenty went to Brown county, Nebraska, where he purchased land, operating it for one year thereafter. At the end of that time he became connected with the Burlington railroad and after eighteen months in that position became an overseer in a nursery in Nebraska, serving for two years. Upon the expiration of that period he returned to Iowa and purchased two hundred acres on section 34, Franklin township, the land lying on the county line between Clayton and Allamakee counties. This was at that time an entirely unimproved tract, but with characteristic energy Mr. Dull set about the work of developing it and he has here evolved a model and productive farm, equipped with substantial buildings and reflecting everywhere his careful supervision and competent management.

Mr. Dull has been twice married. He wedded first, in 1887, Miss Lucy L. Wymore, who was born in Mahaska county, Iowa, near Rose Hill, October 4, 1871, a daughter of Robert and Sarah (Griffith) Wymore. Her parents, who were natives of Indiana, went as early settlers to Mahaska county, Iowa, where the father engaged in farming. He later removed to Nebraska on account of failing health and settled in Wymore, that state, where his death occurred about the year 1888. His wife now makes her home in California. Mrs. Lucy L. Dull passed away August 15, 1911, leaving ten children: Elsie, born March 23, 1888, who is the wife of Alfred Ferguson, a farmer of Clayton county; Grace, born November 8, 1890, who married Herbert Ferguson, also a farmer of Clayton county; Ross, whose birth occurred May 10, 1894; Edna, born in December, 1896; Page and Dave, twins, whose birth occurred March 23, 1898; Lucy, born in 1902; William and Winifred, twins, who were born March 13, 1907; and Albert Arthur, born in March, 1910.

Mr. Dull was married on the 23d of January, 1913, to Mrs. Rebecca (Shilson) Monty, who was born in Minnesota, near Winona, January 18, 1870, a daughter of Christian and Rosetta (Pomeroy) Shilson, the former a native of Germany, born about 1827, and the latter of Ohio, born May 3, 1847. The father, who spent his entire active life in farming, became a resident of Minnesota and there died in 1870. From that state he enlisted as a private in the Union army and served throughout the entire Civil war. After his death his widow married Thomas May and now resides in Minneapolis. Mrs. Dull had three children by her first marriage. Mabel, born February 23, 1891, is the wife of Henry Frye, who is engaged in the ice business in Postville. Orpha, whose birth occurred December 8, 1895, married Adolph Williams, in the automobile business in Hayward, Wisconsin. Leon, born July 17, 1897, makes his home with the subject of this review.

Mr. Dull is a regular attendant at the Methodist church. He is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery Company and in the Shipping Association of that city, where his ability is widely recognized. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and keeps well informed on questions and issues of the day, although he has no desire for political preferment. His energy, business ability and enterprising spirit have resulted in the attainment of a gratifying measure of success and he holds the respect and high regard of all who are in any way associated with him.

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### MATHIAS JOHNSON.

Mathias Johnson, a successful and progressive agriculturist of Allamakee county, is the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 18, Paint Creek township. His birth occurred in Norway, on the 12th of November, 1855, his parents being John Rasmus and Helena Troneson, likewise natives of that country, where the father passed away. The mother subsequently emigrated to the United States and passed away in this county, at the home of her son Mathias. She had six children, as follows: Benedict, who resides with his brother Robert in Jefferson township, Allamakee county; Mathias, of this review; Tolif, living in Waukon, Iowa; Robert, an agriculturist of Jefferson township; Ingeborg, the wife of John Geving, of Jefferson township; and Mrs. Hannah Vold, a resident of Waukon, Iowa.

Mathias Johnson crossed the Atlantic to the United States when a young man of nineteen years and here attended school for two winter seasons in order to gain a practical knowledge of the English language. Securing employment as a farm hand in this county, he worked out by the month until his experience and capital justified the purchase of a farm of his own and he came into possession of a tract of one hundred and sixty acres on section 18, Paint Creek township, which he has operated continuously and successfully since. It was the old Halverson place and was but poorly improved. As the years have gone by Mr. Johnson has brought his fields under a high state of cultivation, and the many improvements on the property include a handsome residence, a substantial barn and good outbuildings. One of the oldest houses in Paint Creek township, once a store, still stands on his farm. The old McGregor road, over which goods were hauled from McGregor to supply this store, is still visible but has been long abandoned.

In Allamakee county Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Anna B. Geving, who was born in Norway in 1857, a daughter of Benjamin and Agnes Geving. The father is deceased, but the mother still survives and makes her home with a son in Jefferson township. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have nine children, as follows: Ida, who is the wife of Jens Lund, of Makee township; Bertha, the wife of Herman Olsen, of Jefferson township; John, who follows farming in Paint Creek township; Albert, an agriculturist of Jefferson township, who wedded Miss Anna Larson; Melvin, at home; Bernhart, who resides with his brother John; Martina, who keeps house for her brother John; and Nora and Selma, both of whom are still under the parental roof. The family home

is neat and attractive both inside and out, the mother and daughters being excellent housekeepers and well versed in the domestic arts.

In politics Mr. Johnson is a staunch republican, supporting the men and measures of that party at the polls. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the West Paint Creek Norwegian church, to which his wife and children also belong. He has never regretted his determination to establish his home in the United States, for here he has found the opportunities which he sought and in their wise utilization has gained a place among the substantial agriculturists and esteemed citizens of his community. The period of his residence in Allamakee county covers about four decades and his acquaintance here is extensive.

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#### PAT MOORE.

Pat Moore, one of the progressive and successful farmers of Allamakee county, owning three hundred and thirty-seven acres on sections 28 and 27, Iowa township, was born in New York state in 1855, and is a son of Martin and Julia Moore. The parents, who were natives of Ireland, came to America in the late '40s, making the journey before their marriage, the father settling in Canada and the mother in New York. In the latter state their marriage occurred and they made their home there for a short period, coming in 1855 to Iowa and settling in Iowa township, Allamakee county. Martin Moore preempted here one hundred and sixty acres of land, to which he later added from time to time, finally accumulating a valuable property, which he operated and developed until his death in 1912. He had survived his wife one year. To their union were born eight children, of whom the subject of this review is the second in order of birth.

Pat Moore acquired a limited education in the public schools of Allamakee county, laying aside his books at the age of sixteen in order to begin his independent career. For a number of years thereafter he worked as a farm laborer, but when he was twenty-three years of age purchased land in Lansing township, upon which he resided for twenty-three years, becoming well known in the community as an upright and honorable business man and a successful farmer. At the end of that time he sold his holdings to his sons and purchased in Iowa township three hundred and thirty-seven acres, which he now operates. Two hundred and seventy acres are under cultivation, and upon this land he has steadily carried forward the work of development, owning today one of the finest farms in this vicinity as a result of his careful labor and practical methods.

Mr. Moore married, in 1879, Miss Mary E. O'Brien, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Michael and Catharine (Hogan) O'Brien. The eldest of three children, Mrs. Moore acquired her education in Allamakee county, and after completing it taught for seven years in the schools of this locality. Mr. and Mrs. Moore have six children: John G., who was born in 1880, and who is now residing on the homestead; Cornelius E., also on the homestead in Lansing township; M. W., Celia T. and Catherine, all of whom live at home; and





MR. AND MRS. PAT MOORE



Leonard F., a graduate of the grammar school. The family are devout members of the Roman Catholic church.

Mr. Moore gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, but is independent in his views. He has served as township trustee and in other local offices and is a public-spirited and progressive citizen, although never an office seeker. Having resided in Allamakee county since his childhood, he is interested in all that pertains to the substantial improvement and development of the community and is generally regarded as a worthy and loyal citizen and a progressive and practical farmer.

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### MARTIN HALVORSEN.

Martin Halvorsen is the owner of a well improved tract of one hundred and eight acres on section 23, Makee township, which is devoted to farming, dairying and stock-raising. He is classed with the pioneers of Allamakee county, for his residence here dates from June 24, 1857. He is a native of Norway, the date of his birth being August 13, 1844. His father, Halver Hansen, was born in Norway, June 14, 1809, and made his home in that country until 1857, when he emigrated to the new world with his family. He at once established his home on a farm in Makee township, and here gave his time and attention to the improvement and cultivation of his fields throughout a long period. He passed the century mark in life, having reached the age of one hundred and one years and eight months, when called to his last rest on the 6th of March, 1910. He had survived his wife for ten years, her death having occurred in 1900. In their family were four sons and one daughter, but two of the sons have passed away. Those who survive are: Martin, of this review; Hans, who makes his home in South Dakota; and Martha, the wife of Andrew P. W. Vaslin, also of South Dakota.

Martin Halvorsen was a lad of thirteen years at the time the family emigrated to the new world. At an early age he began to assist in the work of developing the farm and he also worked as a farm laborer for others at various times until he reached the age of twenty-two years. During this time he had little opportunity for attending school, but spent his leisure hours at home in the evenings in study, so that he is almost wholly self-educated. He remained with his father until he was twenty-six years of age, at which time he was married. He then established his home on a farm which he purchased in Makee township. On this there were some improvements, but Mr. Halvorsen further improved the tract and there made his home for twenty years. He then disposed of that land and invested his money in his present place of one hundred and eight acres, situated on section 23, Makee township, which he purchased of his father. The land was only partially cleared and there was a small house on the place. Mr. Halvorsen at once set to work to further improve the land and he has also erected a substantial and modern house with a basement, and has built a barn with basement. He now has seventy acres under cultivation, while the remainder is devoted to pasture. In addition to raising grain he follows dairying and raises

good grades of live stock. He is likewise a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company at Waukon.

It was in 1867 that Mr. Halvorsen was married to Miss Lena Johnson, of Waldon, and they lived happily together until they were separated by the death of the wife in 1907. A son and daughter were born of this union, but the latter, Isabella Caroline, died at the age of seventeen years. The son, H. M. Halvorsen, assists his father in carrying on the home farm. He was married in 1907 and has three children, Marcus L., Martha Adelia and Herbert Hillman.

In his political belief Mr. Halvorsen is a republican, while his religious faith is that of the Norwegian Evangelical church, of which he is a devout member. For years he has been identified with the school board, having served as district clerk, while for the past two years he has been treasurer of the district. He was likewise township trustee for six years. Mr. Halvorsen has led an active and industrious life. Since coming to the new world he has practically cleared and improved two farms and his present valuable place is the reward of his labors. He is well known not only in the township which has long been his home but throughout the county as well and he is everywhere spoken of in terms of high praise and commendation.

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#### FRANK RUSSELL.

Frank Russell is one of the wide-awake, energetic and progressive merchants of Allamakee county, conducting a store at Forest Mills. He is one of the county's native sons, his birth having occurred at Harden on the 25th of January, 1880. His parents are James and Mary A. (French) Russell. The father came to this county in 1870 from Waukesha county, Wisconsin, and followed the occupation of farming. In the family were six children, four sons and two daughters, of whom Frank Russell is the second in order of birth.

Being a life-long resident of Allamakee county, Frank Russell has a wide acquaintance in that section in which he has always lived. He attended the Cherry Valley school during the period of his boyhood and youth, and his experiences were such as usually fall to the lot of the farmer's son who devotes his time between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. After putting aside his text-books he continued to follow farming until 1911, when he turned his attention to commercial pursuits, purchasing the store that was formerly the property of his father-in-law, Albert D. Bender, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. He now has a well appointed establishment, carrying a carefully selected line of goods of modern manufacture. In connection with his commercial interests he is engaged in the contracting business with Albert D. Bender on road and bridge work. Whatever he undertakes he carries forward to successful accomplishment, for he is determined and energetic and his persistency of purpose is winning him substantial reward.

On the 16th of September, 1901, Mr. Russell was united in marriage to Miss Edith M. Bender, also a native of Allamakee county and a pupil in the country

schools through the period of her girlhood. Mr. and Mrs. Russell have two children, Clarence and Lawrence.

Mr. Russell is a young man of recognized moral courage, endowed by nature with strong intellectual force. He recognizes the opportunities which are before him and makes good use of them as the years go by, realizing also that success is, as it were, a tree that will grow in no other soil than that of industry, perseverance and honesty. During the course of his boyhood and active business career he has formed a wide acquaintance and warm regard is entertained for him by many friends.

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### G. A. GILBERTSON.

A prominent representative of the Norwegian race in Allamakee county and owner of a valuable farm of two hundred acres improved with splendid buildings, G. A. Gilbertson is one of the foremost citizens of Paint Creek township and one of its most prosperous and progressive agriculturists. He was born in Nordre Land, Norway, January 16, 1848, a son of Osten Gilbertson, also a native of Norway, who emigrated to America in 1853. For two years the father worked in the pineries of Wisconsin, having a hard struggle to make a living as he came to this country empty in pocket, even owing his passage money. In 1855 he drove an ox team and covered wagon to Allamakee county and, having husbanded his savings while working in Wisconsin, was enabled to buy one hundred and sixty acres of wild land. He endured many hardships and difficulties and during his first summer lived in his covered wagon and a rail pen. He then built a small log house and as he cleared his land and brought his acres under cultivation gradually acquired the means which enabled him to supplant this primitive structure with a more substantial brick residence, which still stands today. The father died about four years ago on this farm, to the cultivation of which he had given his unwearied labor, the mother having passed away about fifteen or sixteen years before that time. Osten Gilbertson was married when he left his native land, having contracted a union there with Miss Isabelle Hanson, and to them two children were born in their native land: G. A., of this review; and Martin, who died at the age of twenty years. A sister of our subject, Isabelle, born in Allamakee county, is now Mrs. J. P. Bakke, a resident of Center township.

G. A. Gilbertson was reared under the parental roof and amid the primitive conditions of pioneer life learned endurance and the value of industry and honesty. His education was but limited and, such as it was, received in the district schools of the neighborhood, but he has since acquired much valuable knowledge in the school of life. He remained with his parents, assisting his father in the work of the farm and learning the value of thorough methods, the proper processes of cultivation and the details of stock-raising. He later came into possession of the old homestead, to which he has since added forty acres, his farm now comprising two hundred acres. What buildings were on the place he has greatly improved since taking charge and his property presents a pleasing aspect of prosperity. He follows general farming, giving attention to grain

raising and live stock. As the years have passed he has become recognized as one of the most substantial men of his district and his labors have not only brought him prosperity but have been a factor in raising the agricultural standards in Allamakee county.

Mr. Gilbertson was married to Miss Isabelle Gilbertson, a native of Norway and a daughter of Andrew and Caroline Gilbertson, who came to Allamakee county about 1865. They were farming people of Makee township, where the father died several years ago. The mother subsequently made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Gilbertson of this review and passed away upon their farm in 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbertson have seven children, Melia, Ida, Augusta, Oscar, Carl, George and Marcus. Of these George is married and follows agricultural pursuits in Paint Creek township.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbertson are members of the Lutheran church, in the work of which they take an active and helpful interest. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has held official positions such as township trustee, in which capacity he served for one term, and has also done efficient work as a member of the school board. Although nearing his sixty-sixth birthday, Mr. Gilbertson is still actively looking after his varied interests and occupies himself with the operation of his farm. He is highly respected and esteemed in his township, not only for what he has achieved but also on account of his high qualities of mind and character which have made possible his success.

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#### E. M. BUSNESS.

E. M. Busness is a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Allamakee county. He was born in Paint Creek township, October 9, 1870, a son of Ole O. and Martha (Djonne) Busness, both of whom were natives of the province of Hardanger, Norway. The family home was established in Allamakee county in 1859, and here the father engaged in farming throughout his active business career and passed away here in 1908, when he lacked but a few days of having reached the eightieth anniversary of his birth. The mother departed this life in the same year. In their family were seven children, as follows: Olena, a native of Norway and now the wife of Harold Hanson, of Paint Creek township; Julia, who was also born in Norway and is now the wife of O. N. Hegg, of Lansing, this county; Caroline, who was born in Allamakee county and is the wife of Bernt Michelson, of Clear Lake, South Dakota; H. J., who is engaged in farming in Paint Creek township; Nels, who resides in Fort Dodge, Iowa; Mrs. J. M. Anderson, also of Paint Creek township; and E. M., of this review.

E. M. Busness acquired his education in the district school near his home and during the periods of vacation he was trained to the work of the farm. He remained under the parental roof until he had reached the age of twenty years, when he spent two years in Pipestone, Minnesota. He subsequently returned to Allamakee county, working for two years for his brother on the old homestead. He then farmed for himself, renting land for several years, but about six years ago, in partnership with his brother-in-law, O. N. Hegg, of Lansing,

he purchased one hundred and forty acres of well improved land on section 13, Paint Creek township, which was known as the old Peter Pederson farm. Here he has since been engaged in general farming and is meeting with well deserved success in his undertakings.

Mr. Business was married in this county April 15, 1895, the lady of his choice being Miss Matilda Anderson, a daughter of Martin Anderson, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Business was born in Jefferson township, this county, and by her marriage has become the mother of six children, Alice, Esther, Elmer, Clarence, Gladys and Lester.

Mr. Business had always given his political support to the republican party and he and his family are members of the East Paint Creek Synod church. He is an honest and industrious man and fully merits the esteem which is accorded him by his neighbors and friends.

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#### MICHAEL CLARK.

Michael Clark has been a resident of Allamakee county since 1853 and is numbered among the oldest men in this part of Iowa, being among the very earliest settlers. He has witnessed practically the entire growth of the county, for few settlements had been made within its borders at the time of his arrival, and all the evidences of frontier life were to be seen, while the hardships and trials incident to pioneer existence were to be met. Mr. Clark was born September 22, 1819, and has therefore almost reached the ninety-fourth milestone on life's journey. His career has been characterized by unflinching determination and well directed labor, and his fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres is the visible evidence of his lifelong industry and thrift.

Michael Clark is a native of County Monahon, Ireland, and was born in the same year which witnessed the birth of Queen Victoria and in 1844 he crossed the Atlantic to America, settling first in Canada, where he remained for four years. At the end of that time he removed to Livingston county, New York, and from there to Allamakee county, Iowa, in 1853. For several years he engaged in getting out wood to supply to steamers on the Mississippi river, and he lived during that time at Johnsonport. Soon after his arrival here he bought one hundred and sixty acres of wild land on section 29, Taylor township, and several years later located on the property, where he has since continued to reside, bearing an active and honorable part in the work of upbuilding which has transformed this part of the state from a frontier wilderness into a prosperous and growing county. With characteristic energy he began developing his farm, clearing the timber and erecting upon it substantial buildings. He has today a well improved property, which is under the management of his son, and which in its neat and attractive appearance indicates the many years of careful supervision which the owner has bestowed upon it.

Mr. Clark has been twice married. In Canada he married Miss Mary Brady and by her had two children, one of whom, Mrs. Mary Murril, resides in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Mr. Clark's second wife was in her maidenhood

Miss Bridget Marn, and she passed away February 15, 1902, leaving four children: Eva, the wife of John Hart, of Waterville, Iowa; John, who operates his father's farm; Anna, who lives at home; and Nell, the wife of Amos Damon, of Harper's Ferry, Iowa.

Mr. Clark is a member of the Roman Catholic church and guides his honorable and upright life by the principles in which he believes. He has been at all times interested in the welfare of the county and has given active cooperation to many movements for the public good. Living in Allamakee county for fifty years, he is one of the best known citizens of his locality, being widely recognized as a man of tried integrity and worth, of business enterprise and unflinching diligence.

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#### FRED BEUTLER.

Fred Beutler owns and operates a fine farm of eighty acres in Fairview township and is classed among the progressive farmers and public-spirited citizens of his locality. He was born in Berne, Switzerland, August 2, 1852, and is a son of John and Susanna (Gemppelar) Beutler, the former a native of Buchholterberg and the latter of Wimmis. The father engaged in farming in his native country, working in the employ of others, and he and his wife never came to America.

Fred Beutler acquired his education in the public schools of Switzerland and at the age of seventeen years began earning his own livelihood, working during two summers as a farm hand in the employ of his uncle. He afterward obtained a position in an embroidery factory and retained that until 1874, when he purchased his father's farm, which he operated for some years, also working on a telegraph line. In May, 1884, he crossed the Atlantic to America and settled first in Monroe, Wisconsin, where he spent seven years as a cheese-maker. From there he removed to Dubuque, Iowa, and obtained a position in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, retaining it two years and purchasing in the meantime a house and lot in Waukon Junction. When he sold this he purchased an eighty acre farm in Fairview township, this county, and upon this property he still resides, giving practically all of his attention to its improvement and development with the result that it is today a valuable place equipped with substantial buildings and labor-saving machinery. Mr. Beutler engages in general farming and has also important stock-raising interests. In addition to his own farm he also operates a tract of land adjoining which belongs to his son.

Mr. Beutler has been twice married. He was married first in October, 1874, to Miss Anna Egger, who was also born in Berne, Switzerland, June 10, 1851, and to their union six children were born: John F., who resides in Wyoming, where he is engaged in farming; Anna, the wife of Charles Carney, a farmer residing at Waukon Junction; Bertha, who married John Atall, who is engaged in clam fishing and in work at the blacksmith's trade at Waukon Junction; Alfred, who follows the trade of a bridge carpenter and also engages in clam fishing on an island near Waukon Junction; Rosa, who married Charles Albright, a farmer in Fairview township; and Emma, the wife of Alexander Overlee, who



is employed in a mill in Waukon. Mrs. Beutler passed away February 24, 1903, and on the 5th of April three years later Mr. Beutler was again married, his second wife being Mrs. Emily Reed, widow of George Reed and a daughter of George Gentz. She was born in McGregor, Iowa, July 26, 1865, and her first husband was a native of Galena, Illinois, and a representative of a very prominent family. Mr. Reed's father was a close friend of General Grant, having been his neighbor and quartermaster under him during the Civil war. Having met with financial reverses he left home and took up his residence upon a farm near Cresco, Iowa, but not understanding practical agriculture met with difficulties and was obliged to dispose of his holdings. Some time later, when Grant became president of the United States, Mr. Reed's father wrote him a letter explaining the situation and was appointed to a position in the postoffice in Chicago, where he made his home until his death. Mr. Reed's mother died at an early age and the father afterward married again. Mr. Reed continued to make his home in Chicago until he was about eighteen years of age. He wished to enlist in the Union army but was prevented by his father's objections and became a railroad worker, being employed as newsboy on a train running from Chicago to North McGregor. He later secured a position in the yards as switchman and rose from that office to be yardmaster at McGregor, whence he was transferred to Calmar and then to Sanborn. He afterward returned to North McGregor, where he was killed while making a coupling on March 12, 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Reed were the parents of two children: Melitta, who married Alfred Beutler, a son of the subject of this review by his first wife; and Crystal, who lives at home and engages in teaching. Both are graduates of the McGregor high school; Crystal a member of the class of 1909, and Melitta, of the class of 1908. The former taught for three years in the district schools of Clayton county and since that time has been connected with the schools of Allamakee county. Mr. and Mrs. Beutler are the parents of a son, George Frederick Walter, born May 1, 1908.

Mr. Beutler attends the Presbyterian church and in general votes the republican ticket although he casts an independent ballot when he feels that the best interests of the community require such action. For the vast majority of people the term good citizenship does not mean the faithful performance of official duty but rather industry and reliability in business with a spirit more or less active in measures which are calculated to uphold the social and political status of the community. Mr. Beutler is generously endowed with all the qualifications which the term good citizenship implies and he holds therefore the respect and high esteem of his neighbors and friends.

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#### GUSTAV CARL STRELOW.

Among the successful young agriculturists of Allamakee county is Gustav Carl Strelow, a native of Germany, who now owns a valuable farm of one hundred and fifty-six acres in Linton township. He was born in Hinter Pommern, Germany, January 24, 1870, a son of August and Augusta Strelow, both natives of the same province. The father was born in April, 1832, and the mother

March 7, 1839. August Strelow passed away in 1899 but the mother survives and now makes her home in Berlin, the capital of the empire.

Gustav C. Strelow acquired his education in Germany, beginning his independent career at the age of seventeen as a day laborer, and he was thus engaged until he came to America in 1891. Before leaving his native country, however, he served his regular term in the army. Coming directly to Allamakee county, Iowa, he located in Franklin township, where for one year he worked by the day, and then bought a farm, going in debt for the entire property, comprising forty acres. He resided thereon three years, giving his whole attention to the cultivation of his fields, and then sold his holdings and bought eighty acres in the same township. After ten years he was enabled to add another forty acres thereto but later sold an equal amount and still owns eighty acres of this farm. In 1907 he bought his present property, comprising a fraction over one hundred and fifty-six acres. He engages in general farming, giving considerable attention to stock-raising, and has made many valuable improvements and has erected substantial and suitable buildings. The prosperity that has come to him is the result of his judicious investments and his incessant and well applied labor. Mr. Strelow is connected with the Monona Creamery Company and also is a stockholder in the Shipping Association at that place.

The marriage of Mr. Strelow to Miss Bertha Folska took place on the 10th of June, 1893. She also is a native of Hinter Pommern, where her birth occurred on August 2, 1870, her parents being Albert and Mine (Buda) Folska, natives of the same province. The father was born June 24, 1842, and the mother November 27, 1849. The former served his term in the regular army and has subsequently worked along various lines in the employ of others until his death in 1890. Afterward the mother came to this country and she now lives in Monona. Mr. and Mrs. Strelow are the parents of four children: Otto, born March 13, 1895; Frederick, March 18, 1897; Frank, October 4, 1899; and Paul, January 31, 1912.

Mr. and Mrs. Strelow are members of the Lutheran church but at present attend the Methodist Episcopal church at Volney. He gives his allegiance to the republican party but has never aspired to public office. He is deeply interested in all that pertains to advancement and growth and is closely allied with the agricultural development of this section, having largely contributed thereto through his labors. He enjoys the highest respect of all who know him and who appreciate the fact that he has made his way from the bottom of the ladder to a position of prosperity and honor.

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#### JAMES PATRICK CONWAY.

James Patrick Conway was born at Portage, Wyoming county, New York, on January 3, 1861, within sling shot range of the then highest railroad bridge in the world, which spanned the Genesee river near the first of its triple precipices, which tumble over three falls, the first ninety feet, the second sixty feet, and the third one hundred feet. The wooden bridge was two hundred and thirty-four feet high above the first cataract and is described in volume 4, on page



JAMES P. CONWAY



328, *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Though young when last the sound of the rushing waters echoed in his ears, he still loves the sound of dashing waters and the wildest rushing of the waves, undoubtedly inherited from the surroundings of his birthplace. In October, 1862, he moved with his parents to Meadville, Pennsylvania, and in September, 1864, to Lansing, Iowa, where his father, Neal Cornelius Conway, and his mother, Ellen Conway (whose maiden name was not changed by marriage) lived the remainder of their lives. Both of his parents were born near Bangor, County Mayo, Ireland, his father on May 1, 1810, and his mother on September 29, 1821. When famine and pestilence swept Ireland in 1847, the landlord's iron-clad leases to secure the crop payment of each tenant in a barony, who was compelled to guarantee the payment of all the tenants in the barony, robbed his grandmother, or mother's mother, then a widow with twelve children, out of a snug fortune to pay the rents, not against any of her holdings but that of her neighbors. The tailoring trade being out of commission, his father purchased tickets for the family to America. They went to Liverpool and for weeks waited for the vessel to be put in readiness for the voyage. In the meantime his mother's mother became afflicted with typhoid and had to remain and run through the siege of twenty odd days. The vessel when ready left port for Halifax. His mother and her two children remained to take care of her mother. Two pennies were all that was left; these she invested and reinvested and on her return to her mother's home had a few pounds of meal and twenty-one pennies. Two years later she and a number of relatives left for America by way of New Orleans to see a brother who was then located there. They were thirteen weeks and three days at sea, during which time they encountered a three days severe wind and thunder storm before the Christmas holidays. The captain, officers and crew, except one man, abandoned the ship and took refuge in its hold. The upper deck and masts were swept into the sea. Still this man, who was the dethroned captain of the vessel, the *Argo*, and lost his job by reason of running his vessel on its former trip too fast to America, stuck to the helm and begged his "sixty brave sailors" to come to his aid, and the sound of his voice through the hatchway rang in the ears of all his hearers until the date of their death. Mrs. Mary Ryder, wife of P. F. Ryder, recorder of Allamakee county, Iowa, in the '60s, never forgot the sound of his voice although she was but a little child when she heard it. No sailor responded. On Christmas evening this brave soul dropped dead at the helm, and when the storm abated the cowardly captain and his crew sneaked from under the berths and heaved him overboard as a sacrifice to the mad Atlantic. The vessel then in mid ocean had been driven below the equator, and after some repairs slowly sailed northward, landing at Jamaica, Cuba, and finally reached New Orleans at a time when the scourge of cholera was then raging. On reaching the home of their brother they found that he had died the night before of cholera and was then being buried. The cholera struck the Conways and their relatives and out of forty-seven only six survived. These after many trials and hardships reached their relatives and enjoyed long and useful lives. His father and mother celebrated their golden wedding anniversary October 28, 1889, when all the family assembled—their last meeting. They would have celebrated their sixtieth anniversary but for the illness of his father. His father died December 8, 1899, at the age of eighty-nine years. His mother died March 6, 1905, at the age of eighty-four years. They

raised a family of twelve children, five of whom survived them. A daughter, Mrs. Ryder, who thereafter with her two sons moved to a claim near Chinook, Montana, was murdered in daylight by being shot through a window in her home by a vagabond trapper on May 8, 1912. Another daughter is Mrs. Ellen Marvin, of Zumbrota, Minnesota. J. W. Conway is editor of the *Champion*, of Norton, Kansas. D. M. Conway is of the same place and J. P. Conway, of Lansing, Iowa.

J. P. Conway attributes his education to his mother, who taught him his letters from their old stove, No. 8, manufactured by George Francis Filly, of St. Louis, Missouri, which practically contained all the letters of the alphabet. During the winter months he attended the rural school of his district and in summer operated the farm, and later attended Professor Laurens Seminary at Waukon, Iowa, and at the age of seventeen commenced teaching school at Barber's Mills, Minnesota. In the winter thereafter he continued teaching at the Four Mile House, Eitzen, Minnesota; Van Cooley, Village Creek, Lansing, Calhoun, and as principal of the New Albin schools until 1891, when he entered the law department of the University of the State of Wisconsin at Madison, where he graduated in June, 1893, as Bachelor of Laws. The latter part of June, 1893, after visiting the World's Fair at Chicago, he arrived home and before he could salute his parents was employed and engaged in a law suit at the city hall, and he says from that moment he has had plenty of legal work to do. He was city solicitor for eight years, and at the last city election on March 31, 1913, was without opposition elected mayor of the city of Lansing, Iowa. When the Peoples State Bank was organized in 1911 he could have had any office he desired, but would not accept anything except that of director. He has been a lifelong democrat, tolerant in his views with the good of every party, and tells the good deeds and acts which they and their leaders have done, and scathes with scorn and derision the evils which some have inflicted upon the people. He says he has no political ambitions, but he has told a few of his close friends that when his financial condition will permit him and he has the time to spare, that no office from the president down will be too great or small for him to fill if he can do any good for the people and his country. Jim was born and raised a Catholic. He tells us that he was baptized "three times." Only one counted, of course, and which one he does not remember. When born, Dr. Ray, then a post-graduate, from Paris, France, pronounced him dead and Mrs. Rattican—the untrained nurse—a good old neighbor—was on duty. While the mother lay unconscious after the twelve-pounder, the nurse assisted by the father went through the formalities of baptizing. When the mother aroused and felt for the child—not finding it she wanted to know what had become of it. On looking over the foot of the bed she spied the white garments around the child whom they told her was dead. She sprang from her bed, took the infant from its shrouds—told the doctor it was not dead—blew in its ears and mouth, attempting respiration, rubbed and bathed it in liquor, and in about one-half hour the first pulse was noticed by a quiver of the lips and opening of the mouth. His mother baptized him, and after that Father Dolan baptized him. All three are now dead, and Jim says that the three stuck and did not wash off.

J. P. Conway was married to Ellen McCafferty, at Lansing, on May 20, 1890. She was the youngest daughter of Anthony and Mary McCafferty, (whose maiden

name was not changed by her marriage) both born in County Donegal, Ireland, who for many years lived at the "Four Mile House," where many a weary traveler found rest, refreshment and shelter in the early '60s, when grain was hauled to Lansing from Decorah, Waukon, Prosper, Spring Grove and Caledonia. Her mother died May 27, 1882, and her father died May 27, 1886, leaving four daughters: Mrs. Conway; Miss Rosa McCafferty; Mrs. Eunice Fleming, now of Laurel, Nebraska; and Mary McCafferty, now Sister Seraphia, of La Crosse, Wisconsin; and one son, Anthony J. McCafferty, who died while mayor of the city of Lansing, on September 2, 1909.

Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Conway, a daughter on August 4, 1891, who, after a few months of life passed out through the veil of eternity to join the numberless in the Great Beyond; and a son, William James, who was born October 25, 1896.

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#### PETER G. HAGEN.

Peter G. Hagen, carrying on general farming on the old Hagen homestead on sections 8 and 9, Paint Creek township, whereon he has resided since his childhood, was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1854. He is a son of Gilbert and Agnette (Coldor) Hagen, natives of Norway, where their marriage occurred. In 1854 they came to the United States and after spending a short time in Chicago came west to Iowa, settling in Lansing, Allamakee county. For three years thereafter the father worked as a farm laborer in that vicinity and at the end of that time bought forty acres of land on the east side of Paint Creek township, which he developed and improved for three or four years. Eventually he purchased the farm upon which his son now resides, buying first one hundred and sixty acres of wild land, to which he added from time to time until the farm reached its present proportions. The first house was built of logs and is still standing, although in 1883 a modern stone dwelling was erected. When the father bought the homestead he was very poor, not having enough money to pay for having the papers made out, but with characteristic energy he applied himself to the work of its development and at his death, which occurred when he was fifty-six years of age, was a man of prominence and importance in this region. He was a member of the Lutheran church and a staunch republican in his political beliefs and in his passing Allamakee county lost one of the most deservedly successful of her pioneer citizens.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Hagen were the parents of ten children: Martha, the wife of T. Leikvold, of Paint Creek township; Peter G., of this review; Christina, who married Otto Sorenson, of Paint Creek township; Hannah, now Mrs. John Fosson, of the same township; Halver, who is engaged in farming in Makee township; Lena, who married L. A. Wellman, of Monona, Clayton county; Edward, who spent nine years in the army and who is now a resident of Paint Creek township; Otto, a railroad clerk in Livingston, Montana; Albert, a farmer in this township; and Melvin, who is a clerk in the Agricultural Department, resides in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Peter G. Hagen was still an infant when his parents settled upon the Hagen homestead and he has never left this property, which he has today in an excellent condition. After his father's death he purchased the interests of the other heirs and is now the proprietor of two hundred and forty acres of land on sections 8 and 9, upon which he carries on general farming, his success coming as a natural result of his practical and unremitting labors.

On the 18th of June, 1881, Mr. Hagen was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Paulson, a daughter of Peter Paulson, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. To this union were born six children: Gilman; Selma; Eddie; Martha; Luella; and Edward, who has passed away.

Mr. Hagen gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is a member of the Lutheran church. He rendered the township excellent service for many years as a member of the school board and is now doing creditable and able work as township trustee. He is interested in everything that pertains to the welfare and growth of the section where practically his entire life has been spent and by his labors in the operation of his fine farm has made substantial contributions to its agricultural development.

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#### FERDINAND KUESTER.

A native of Pomerania, Germany, Ferdinand Kuester came to this country about thirty-five years ago and now has for many years resided on his valuable farm of one hundred and thirty-three acres in Linton township, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation. He was born in 1858 and is a son of Ferdinand and Albertina (Kuester) Kuester, both natives of Pomerania. A brother, Charles Frederick, also resides in Linton township. The parents came to this township in 1882 and here bought a farm upon which they resided until their deaths, the mother passing away in 1893 and the father in 1906.

Ferdinand Kuester attended the schools of the fatherland but when twenty years of age gave vent to his desire to cross the ocean. He came to America, making his way to Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand for about eight years. He then resided with his father for some time, the latter having arrived in this county four years after the arrival of our subject. At the end of that time he purchased his father's farm and has resided thereon ever since. He now operates one hundred and thirty-three acres, all of which is under a high state of cultivation, returning to Mr. Kuester a gratifying annual income.

On November 29, 1900, Mr. Kuester was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Schlitter, who was born in the province of Pomerania, Germany. To this union were born five children: Emma, whose natal day was December 3, 1901; Clara, born June 3, 1903; Ida, December 29, 1905; Ruben, September 13, 1908; and Mary, October 9, 1911. The stepfather of Mrs. Kuester is August Schlitter, who was born in Pomerania, Germany, November 23, 1847. He married the mother of Mrs. Kuester, Minnie Timenich, who passed away in 1879.

Mr. Kuester is a member of the Lutheran church at Watson. Politically he is a republican, staunchly upholding the principles and candidates of that party. Although he is interested in all matters of public questions he has never aspired



to office, preferring to devote his whole time to his private interests. He enjoys in a large measure the esteem and regard of his neighbors for what he has accomplished and those qualities of his mind and character which have made possible his success.

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#### H. O. MOE.

H. O. Moe, who died upon his farm in Paint Creek township on the 5th of January, 1903, after many years of active connection with agricultural interests of this vicinity, was born in Norway, September 4, 1852, and spent his early life in his native country. He emigrated to America when he was seventeen years of age and came immediately to Allamakee county, Iowa. On his arrival here he had only eight cents and his first employment was on the railroad but he later obtained work as a farm laborer. By the exercise of economy and frugality he gradually accumulated enough money to purchase land and he bought one hundred and sixty acres on section 12, Paint Creek township. With characteristic energy he set about improving and developing this property and in the course of time his well directed labors were rewarded by success, the farm becoming a productive and valuable property. For many years Mr. Moe continued to develop his land, and his death, which occurred January 5, 1903, brought to a close a career of genuine usefulness and one which had an important effect upon the agricultural advancement of this county.

Mr. Moe married Miss Sophia Larson, who was born in Allamakee county, a daughter of Ole Larson. Mr. and Mrs. Moe became the parents of six children, Oscar Arnold, Simon Herbert, Clemons Elias, Olvin Julius, Alice and Hattie, all of whom live at home. Mrs. Moe survives her husband and she and her sons operate the homestead. They are well known throughout Paint Creek township, where they have long resided, and they hold the respect and esteem of all who come in contact with them.

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#### J. M. ANDERSON.

J. M. Anderson, one of the most progressive, energetic and successful farmers of Paint Creek township, is operating on section 4 one hundred and twenty acres of the farm upon which he has resided since he was three years of age. He was born in Jefferson township, Allamakee county, on the 24th of November, 1866, and is a son of Martin Anderson, who was born in Nordre Land, Norway, on the 11th of January, 1836, and as a young man came to the United States, settling in Allamakee county, Iowa, June 24, 1857. He was entirely penniless and still owed the money for his passage across the ocean, but with characteristic energy he set himself to improve and develop the tract of sixty acres of wild land in Jefferson township which he took up. There he made his home for seven years, after which, in 1869, he moved to a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 4, Paint Creek township, to which he later added eighty acres

adjoining and another eighty acres in Center township. This property he made in the course of years one of the finest in this part of Iowa and upon it he made his home for many years. He wedded Miss Anna Christoferson, who was born in Norway, September 29, 1837, and died September 3, 1898. In their family were eleven children: Mrs. H. J. Busness, of Paint Creek township; Christina, deceased; Mrs. S. T. Rickensrud, of Fosston, Minnesota; Albert M., of Paint Creek township; J. M., of this review; Anton, who has passed away; Olaf, of Center township; Mrs. Edward Busness, also of Paint Creek township; Nellie, who is a nurse in a hospital at La Crosse, Wisconsin; Laura, of Sioux City, Iowa; and Mrs. E. T. Rickensrud, of Jefferson township. After the death of his first wife Martin Anderson sold his land to his sons and took a trip to Norway, where he was again married. He and his wife now reside in Allamakee county, in a house on the farm belonging to his son Olaf.

J. M. Anderson was three years of age when his parents moved to Paint Creek township and upon the homestead he grew to manhood, aiding in its operation and acquiring his education in the district schools. When he began his independent career he already understood farming in principle and detail, having been reared to that occupation, and he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of the old homestead, which he has since cultivated and developed. Upon this property he has made substantial improvements, erecting barns and outbuildings, all modern and in good repair, and installing the necessary labor-saving machinery to facilitate the work of the fields. He has met with excellent success in his farming and stock-raising, both branches of his business proving under his able management important and profitable.

Mr. Anderson married Miss Martha E. Busness on the 8th of April, 1896, a native of Allamakee county and a daughter of Ole and Martha Busness, now deceased, who came as early settlers to Paint Creek township. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have six children, Leonard, Alfred, Edna, Eveline, Leonora and Rudolph.

Mr. Anderson is a member of the Lutheran church and gives his political allegiance to the republican party, serving at present as school director. His life has been such as to merit the respect of the people among whom it has been to a great extent passed, and by his honesty, uprightness and industry he has contributed much toward the upbuilding of the community of which he is a representative citizen.

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#### ENGBRET ASLESON.

Engbret Asleson, a successful farmer residing on two hundred and seventy acres of well improved land on section 26, Paint Creek township, is a native of Hallingdal, Norway, born in December, 1843. His boyhood days were spent in his native land and he there remained until 1869, when he emigrated to the United States, sailing from Christiania, Norway, and arriving in New York city after a voyage of ten days. Almost immediately afterward he came to Waterville, Allamakee county, Iowa, being at that time a poor man and still in debt for his passage money to America. With characteristic energy he secured employment upon a farm and spent a number of years thereafter at the hard

labor of grubbing up stumps, earning in this way an honorable living for himself and family. In 1873, having accumulated a small sum of money, he purchased eighty acres of wild land in Paint Creek township and turned his attention to its improvement and cultivation. Success has rewarded his untiring industry and his well directed efforts through the years and he today owns two hundred and seventy acres of valuable land on section 26. The farm is equipped with an excellent set of buildings and is neat and attractive in appearance, being a visible evidence of Mr. Asleson's life of industry and thrift. He engages in general farming and has also a profitable dairy and, his business interests being all carefully and capably managed, have become important and profitable.

Mr. Asleson was married in Norway, to Martha Knutson, and to him and his wife have been born four children, Julia, Albert, Knut and Gena. The family are devout members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Since taking out his naturalization papers Mr. Asleson has voted the straight republican ticket and has cooperated heartily in all movements for the progress and welfare of this section. His standing in business and agricultural circles is high and well merited and he is, moreover, known as a progressive and public-spirited citizen.

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#### C. T. CHRISTIANSON.

An entire lifetime, covering a period of six decades, passed upon the same farm has made C. T. Christianson widely known throughout Paint Creek township, where he is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was born on his present home farm on the 20th of June, 1853, a son of Thyge Christianson, who was born in Gol, Hallingdal, Norway, August 20, 1824. As a young man the father came to America in 1848 and located first in the Norwegian settlement in Rock county, Wisconsin, where he remained for two years. He worked as a farm laborer during that period and was able to save sufficient money with which to buy a yoke of oxen and a wagon. With this outfit he drove across the country to Allamakee county, Iowa, arriving in this state when it was still a frontier district. He purchased a wild tract of land, which is now the home of his son, and in those early days experienced all of the hardships and privations of pioneer life. His first investment made him owner of eighty acres of land in Paint Creek township, to the cultivation of which he at once directed his attention. His first home there was a log house which he erected and which subsequently was replaced by the frame structure now occupied by our subject. As time passed and he prospered, he added to his original purchase, at one time adding eighty acres and subsequently a tract of one hundred and twenty acres. Thus he became the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres which was the visible evidence of a life of activity and enterprise. His was an excellent record for he started out in business life a poor man and worked his way upward until he ranked among the substantial and prosperous agriculturists of his section. He died on that farm on the 25th of August, 1909. He had married, in Allamakee county, Miss Ingeborg Larson Lien, who was born in Norway on the 1st of April, 1826, and died July 14, 1912, at the home of our subject. They became the parents of seven children, as follows: C. T.,

of this review; Isabel, deceased; L. T., a resident of Center township who is mentioned on another page of this work; Ole, who died at the age of twenty-five years; Mary, who is also deceased; Albert, who passed away at the age of twenty years; and one who died in infancy.

Spending his boyhood days amid pioneer environment, C. T. Christianson grew up with this district and during the period of more than sixty years in which he has been a resident of Allamakee county has witnessed many of the changes which have marked the general advancement and growth of the commonwealth. He was reared to farm life and upon attaining his majority he wisely chose that occupation as his life work. On the death of his father he inherited one hundred and sixty acres of the home farm, and to the cultivation of this tract he is now giving his attention. It is well improved and thereon Mr. Christianson carries on general farming, his careful methods and well directed efforts meeting with gratifying success.

Mr. Christianson married Rica A. Peterson, the ceremony taking place in Allamakee, her native county. She is a daughter of Knut and Reddina Peterson and by her marriage has become the mother of four sons, Theo, Albert, Ingwald and Cornelius, all yet at home.

The parents are members of the Lutheran church, while Mr. Christianson gives his political support to the republican party. He is public-spirited in his citizenship but has never had desire for public office, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his agricultural pursuits. The long period of his residence in this district has given him a large acquaintance, and the fact that many of his best friends are those who have known him from childhood is an indication that he possesses those qualities which win and hold friendship and command respect and esteem.

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#### OLE MOE.

Ole Moe, carrying on general farming and stock-raising upon a fine property of three hundred and five acres on section 12, Franklin township, is numbered among the able and progressive young agriculturists of this vicinity. He was born near Lardahl, Norway, on the 1st of April, 1881, and is a son of Jens and Anna (Harrum) Moe, also natives of that country, the former born June 9, 1850, and the latter October 17, 1847. In early life the father worked in the employ of others in Norway but after coming to America in the spring of 1882 he became a landowner, operating an excellent farm near Madison, Wisconsin, where he settled. In the spring of 1897 he went to Calmar, Iowa, and bought land in the vicinity of that city, removing from there in the spring of 1904, to Franklin township, this county, and locating on the farm where the subject of this review now resides. He died here, December 21, 1912, and his wife survives him.

Ole Moe is the fifth in a family of nine children. He acquired his education in the public schools of Morrisonville, Wisconsin, and when he was eighteen years of age began his independent career, working at bridge construction for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. He was also for more than four

years connected with the Great Northern system and after he severed his connection with that corporation turned his attention to carpentering, working at that trade in central Iowa and Dakota for about eighteen months. At the end of that time he made a permanent location in this state, settling in Allamakee county. Here he followed his trade for a short time, but afterward turned his attention to farming. He purchased three hundred and five acres of valuable land on section 12, Franklin township, and upon this property is carrying on general farming and stock-raising, specializing in the breeding of full blooded Poland China hogs, high-grade cattle and Shropshire sheep, his stock interests being important and continually growing. He is interested in the Monona Creamery Company and in the Shipping Association of that city and in business circles is recognized as a farsighted, able and progressive man.

On the 14th of August, 1911, Mr. Moe was united in marriage to Miss Clara Johnson, who was born in Lycurgus, this county, January 10, 1894. She is a daughter of Christ and Caroline (Klsted) Johnson, natives of Norway, who came to Allamakee county at an early day, the father purchasing land near Waukon and becoming an extensive landowner and a progressive farmer. The mother passed away in the spring of 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Moe have one daughter, Viola, who was born October 6, 1912.

Mr. Moe is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party, serving at present as school director. He is a member of the Baptist church. During the period of his residence in Allamakee county he has gained a place among the substantial farmers and valued citizens of his locality, commanding the respect and confidence of all who have private or business relations with him.

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### HANS TILLERAAS.

Hans Tilleraas, one of the progressive and successful agriculturists of Allamakee county, owning one hundred and eighty acres of fine land in Waterloo township, is a native of Norway, born in 1860, and a son of Isaac and Olava Tilleraas, the former of whom passed away in 1875. His wife survives him and still resides in her native country. To them were born six children, three of whom are still living: Hans, of this review; Ole, who resides in Hanover township, Allamakee county; and Isaac, a resident of Norway.

Hans Tilleraas was reared in his native country and acquired his education there. In 1883 he crossed the Atlantic to America and in the same year settled in Waterloo township, Allamakee county, where he has since resided. In 1894 he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, constituting a portion of his present farm. To this he has since added, increasing the dimensions of his farm to one hundred and eighty acres, one hundred of which are under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Tilleraas follows the most practical and progressive methods in the development of his property and it is today valuable and productive, reflecting everywhere his years of careful supervision. He owns in addition one hundred and sixty acres of land in the Panhandle of Texas and this property is bringing him a gratifying annual income.

Mr. Tilleraas was married in 1885 to Miss Caroline Juleson, a native of Norway, who when she was a child of six was brought to America by her parents. The mother died in 1882 and is survived by her husband, who makes his home in Waterloo township. Mr. and Mrs. Tilleraas became the parents of five children: Julius, who has passed away; Olaf, who was born in 1890; John, whose birth occurred in 1893; Julia, born in 1895; and Carl, born in 1897. Mrs. Tilleraas died in 1900.

Mr. Tilleraas is a member of the Lutheran church and gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He has always been active and progressive in matters of citizenship and has been honored by his fellow citizens by election to various important local offices, now serving his third term as township trustee. Since starting out in life for himself he has given evidence of possessing the perseverance and foresight as well as the executive ability essential to success in any occupation and he has today reached a position of prominence among the representative and substantial agriculturists of his township.

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#### H. J. BUSINESS.

H. J. Business is a prosperous farmer of Paint Creek township whose successful life merits exceptional praise owing to the fact that when he was still a child he was obliged to earn his own livelihood. He possesses the elements of success and by industry, thrift and economy worked his way upward to prosperity until he is today one of the successful and enterprising farmers of Allamakee county.

He was born in Paint Creek township, March 25, 1863, and is a son of Ole Olson, a native of the province of Hardanger, Norway, born in 1828. Upon coming to America the father found so many by the name of Olson that he adopted the name of Ole O. Business, that being the title of the farm on which the family had lived in the old country. The father married Martha Djonne a native also of Hardanger, Norway, and they came to Allamakee county in 1859. The father purchased forty acres of wild land on section 13, Paint Creek township, and upon it built a log house in which he resided until 1864, when he removed to the farm where the subject of this review now resides. This also was entirely unimproved and covered with a dense growth of brush and heavy timber. The father cleared his one hundred and sixty acres and from the timber cut down built another log house, a portion of which still stands, although it has been moved from its original location, weather-boarded and plastered. Substantial additions have also been made to the original dwelling. Upon this property Ole Business continued to reside for many years, dying in 1908, when he was within a week of his eightieth birthday. His wife passed away in the same year. To them were born seven children: Olena, a native of Norway and now the wife of Harold Hanson, of Paint Creek township; Julia, who was also born in Norway and who married O. N. Hegg, of Lansing; Caroline, who was born in Allamakee county and who married Bernt Michelson, of Clear Lake, South Dakota; H. J., of this review; Nels, whose home is in Fort

Dodge, Iowa; and Mrs. J. M. Anderson and Edward, both of whom reside in Paint Creek township.

As the oldest son H. J. Business was obliged to lay aside his books at a very early age and to assume the entire control of the homestead in Paint Creek township, his father having become crippled with rheumatism. With the energy, self-reliance and independence which are still prominent qualities in his character he set himself to his task and throughout the period of his boyhood and early youth was practically the entire support of the family. Eventually he purchased the homestead, which he now operates and which he has made one of the finest agricultural properties in this vicinity. It comprises one hundred and eighty-eight acres and is well improved with barns and outbuildings and reflects everywhere the owner's many years of careful supervision and practical labor.

Mr. Business married Miss Caroline Anderson, a daughter of Martin Anderson, of whom more extended mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Business have seven children, Otinus, Martha, Mabel, Emma, Nora, Holger and Carl.

Mr. Business is a member of the Lutheran church and politically gives his allegiance to the republican party, serving in a creditable and able way as school director. His career offers many excellent examples of the value of industry, self-reliance and perseverance in achieving success, for his prosperity is entirely the result of his own labor, enterprise and good management. He is an upright man, interested in everything that pertains to the development and welfare of his native county, and he has gained the confidence and respect of his neighbors both as a prosperous farmer and as a public-spirited citizen.

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#### L. B. SWENSON.

L. B. Swenson is cultivating and developing a part of the farm upon which he was born on section 11, Paint Creek township, Allamakee county, and is ranked among the progressive, substantial and representative agriculturists of his district. He was born August 14, 1859, and, as the name indicates, comes of Norwegian parentage. He is the son of Bennett Swenson, who was born in Hemsedal, Norway, on the 25th of December, 1824, and in 1845 emigrated to the United States, settling on Rock Prairie, Rock county, Wisconsin. Several years later, in 1850, he went to California by way of the New York and Cape Horn route, going from San Francisco up the river to Sacramento, where he engaged in mining for a time. In 1853 he returned to Wisconsin by way of the isthmus of Panama and by rail from New York. In the following year he came to Allamakee county, Iowa, settling on one hundred and sixty acres on sections 10 and 11, Paint Creek township. When it came into his possession the land was but slightly improved, he having been the third owner since it had been taken up from the government. In October, 1854, he was married to Miss Augusta Thorsen, who was born in Norway and passed away on the homestead farm on the 29th of September, 1875. There Mr. Swenson also spent his remaining days. They were faithful members of the Lutheran church and were the parents of six children, as follows: Swen Bennettson, deceased; Thorsten Swen-

son, a resident of Polk county, Minnesota; L. B., of this review; Julia, the wife of Eric Hemrie, of Crookston, Minnesota; Andrew, of Paint Creek township; and Isabel, who married William Ralsdon, of Waterville, Iowa.

Amid the wholesome environment of farm life L. B. Swenson was reared to manhood and in early life attended the district school in the acquirement of an education. His practical training, too, was broad and thorough, received under the direction of his father, after whose death he and his brother Andrew operated the old homestead in partnership for several years. Subsequently, however, they divided the farm, L. B. Swenson now being the owner of one hundred and thirty-five acres on section 11, Paint Creek township, equipped with substantial buildings erected by his father. He carries on general farming, in which he has been most successful, and everything about his place is indicative of the supervision of a practical and progressive owner. To his place he has given the name of the Maple Spring Trout Farm.

Mr. Swenson married Bertha Seando, who was born in Allamakee county, a daughter of Forkel Seando, and unto them have been born six children, Irene, Bernice, Stella, Myrtle, Isabelle and Bernard, but the last named died at the age of two years.

Agricultural pursuits have fully occupied the time and attention of Mr. Swenson, who has never sought nor desired to enter public life in any way, although he is deeply interested in the welfare of the section in which he resides and supports all those projects which affect the general growth and development of the county. A residence on the same farm of more than half a century has gained him a wide acquaintance throughout the township, and he is held in high esteem by all with whom he has been brought in contact.

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#### FRED HERMAN FETT.

Fred Herman Fett, engaged in general farming and stock-raising upon one hundred and fifteen acres of fine land on sections 14 and 15, Linton township, is one of the many sturdy, industrious and energetic citizens whom Germany has given to America. His birth occurred in the province of Hinter Pommern, September 14, 1863, his parents being Frederick and Henrietta (Schroeder) Fett, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work.

Fred H. Fett acquired his education in the public schools of his native province and in Germany worked at farm labor in the employ of others until 1884, when he came to America. Upon his arrival in this country he could not speak a word of English, but this difficulty as well as many others he soon overcame, becoming a prosperous and successful man. He settled immediately in Linton township, Allamakee county, Iowa, and for six years thereafter worked for Charles Rengenhausen as a farm laborer. He was afterward in the employ of other farmers in this county, but after his marriage he purchased land, buying from his brother Charles one hundred and fifteen acres on sections 14 and 15, Linton township. Upon this he has since resided and here he carries on general farming and stock-raising, meeting with that success which always rewards earnest, well directed and persistent labor.



On the 18th of February, 1892, Mr. Fett was united in marriage to Miss Emma Schlitter, who was born in Linton township, December 16, 1869, a daughter of Adolph Schlitter, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Fett have become the parents of four children: Alfred Walter, who was born September 14, 1892; Clara Henrietta, born August 11, 1895; Lily Emma, June 2, 1897; and Adeline Esther Elizabeth, March 27, 1901. Mrs. Fett has proved a worthy helpmate to her husband, assisting him through the hardships and discouragements of his early career and aiding him in the accomplishment of his present success.

Mr. Fett is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery and the Farmers Telephone Company of Luana and Monona. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has served as constable and as a member of the school board, a position which he now occupies. His religious views are in accord with the doctrines of the Evangelical Lutheran church. He is known as a public-spirited and progressive citizen, in business affairs is found always capable, energetic and farsighted, and he commands and holds the respect and warm regard of all who are associated with him.

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#### ABSALOM CALVIN AMES.

Well directed ambition and a spirit of enterprise and progress dominating all the activities of his career have brought Absalom Calvin Ames prominence and success and a place among the substantial and representative farmers of Allamakee county. He owns three hundred and twenty acres of valuable land on section 22, Franklin township, and he gives practically all of his attention to the development and improvement of this property, reaping the reward of his labors in its increasing productiveness and added value.

He was born in Morgan county, Ohio, August 11, 1857, and is a son of Erastus Haskins and Plesy Jane (Davis) Ames, also natives of Ohio, the former born January 26, 1834, and the latter January 25, 1839. The father went to Wisconsin in 1859 and located in Crawford county, two miles south of Retreat, where he made his home for a number of years, later removing to Delavan, where he now lives retired. He is a veteran of the Civil war, having served for one year as a private in a Wisconsin regiment. He saw a great deal of active service and became familiar with life in the army hospitals, having been confined in one of them by a serious illness.

Absalom Calvin Ames is the oldest in a family of ten children. He acquired his education in a district school at Rush Creek, Crawford county, Wisconsin, and remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age. At that time he rented land in Crawford county and after two years purchased the property, whereon he resided for nineteen years thereafter. At the end of that time he sold his farm, purchasing another, upon which he made his home for two years. In October, 1903, he came to Iowa and bought the farm on section 22, Franklin township, where he has since resided. His holdings comprise three hundred and twenty acres of valuable land and the farm is highly developed and well improved in every particular, Mr. Ames' practical and progressive methods having been

attended with excellent results. He conducts the property as a general stock and dairy farm and keeps large herds of high-grade cattle and good grades of hogs and horses. He is a stockholder in the Luana Creamery Company and the Luana Shipping Association and in business circles is known as a farsighted and discriminating business man, whose sagacity is far-reaching and whose integrity is beyond reproach.

On the 31st of August, 1879, Mr. Ames was united in marriage to Miss May S. Scheid, a native of Crawford county, Wisconsin, born March 13, 1863. She is a daughter of Charles and Louisa (Sallander) Scheid, natives of Germany, born on the banks of the River Rhine, the former October 23, 1834, and the latter in March, 1839. In early life they crossed the Atlantic to America, the father going directly to Wisconsin, where he first rented land in Vernon county and later purchased property in Sterling township, that county, continuing upon this property until his death, which occurred January 25, 1899. His wife survives him and still resides upon the homestead. The father was a veteran of the Civil war, having served in that conflict as a member of the same regiment with which Erastus H. Ames was connected.

Mr. and Mrs. Ames have become the parents of thirteen children: Plesy Jane, who was born July 6, 1880, and died October 4, 1881; May Louisa, born March 12, 1882, who is the wife of Herbert Jones, residing near Delavan, Wisconsin; Charles William, born March 20, 1884, who married Bertha Rohn, of Springfield, Wisconsin; Floyd Ray, born October 13, 1886, who wedded Laura Roderick and is engaged in farming in this county; Amos Harrison, whose birth occurred on the 4th of March, 1889; Veranus Eldridge, born April 16, 1891, who married Miss Minnie Barr and resides in this county; Theresa Martha, whose birth occurred July 14, 1893; Iva Etta, born September 26, 1895; Austin Davis, January 26, 1898; Miles Calvin, March 20, 1901; Alice Effie, May 30, 1904; Orrin Lester, January 6, 1907; and Agnes Elizabeth, January 18, 1909.

Mr. Ames is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and is a republican in his political beliefs, taking active interest in community affairs but never seeking public office. He is entirely responsible for his own success, for it has been founded upon his sound judgment, his ability and untiring energy—qualities which have gained him a place among the substantial farmers and valued citizens of Franklin township.

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#### LEVI DEREMORE.

A history of the agricultural interests of Allamakee county would be incomplete and unsatisfactory were there failure to make mention of the career of Levi Deremore, who for many years has carried on general farming and stock-raising upon a fine property of two hundred and fifty-seven acres on section 12, Franklin township. He needs no introduction to the readers of this volume for his name has been a respected one in this part of Iowa since pioneer times and his father was for many years one of the greatest individual forces in the financial, agricultural and general business development of this locality.

Levi Deremore was born in Village Creek, Lafayette township, October 11, 1858, and is a son of Abraham and Julia (Deal) Deremore, the former born in Cumberland, Maryland, October 14, 1814, and the latter in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, March 9, 1825. In early life the father worked in the employ of others and when he left Maryland went to Pennsylvania, where for a number of years he taught school. Being unusually well educated, he became also a singing and writing teacher and followed these occupations until he went to Wisconsin. After living for one year in Monroe, that state, he removed to Allamakee county, Iowa, and about the year 1851 settled on a farm seven miles west of Lansing, his property being in the midst of a dense wilderness. He traded his forty-acre farm at Monroe for one of one hundred and sixty acres and one year later exchanged the latter farm for a half interest in the Allamakee mill at Village Creek, this being the first mill in this county. Three years later the father traded his interest in it for a farm three miles from Waukon, a property known as the Clemm farm, and for twenty-two years thereafter he continued to develop and improve that place, becoming known as a prosperous, practical and able agriculturist. At the end of that period he became connected with the Upper Village Creek mill, but at the end of one year removed to Waukon, where he lived retired until his death, which occurred in 1897. In that city he became active and prominent in business and financial circles, rising to the position of president of the State Bank at Waukon and also president of the Allamakee Fire Insurance Company, of which he was one of the originators. In addition he was a director and half owner of the Guttenburg State Bank and was interested in the Sioux City Bank of Sioux City, being recognized throughout this part of Iowa as a discriminating financier and a farsighted and resourceful business man. He was honored by his fellow citizens by election to various positions of trust and responsibility, serving on the school board and as road supervisor for many years.

Levi Deremore was the eighth in a family of eleven children. He acquired his education in a district school just east of Waukon and he remained with his parents until he was twenty years of age. At that time he began operating his father's farm and continued at this occupation for three years thereafter, going at the end of that time to Village Creek, where he worked in a gristmill in the employ of his brother for six years. He then removed to Lansing, where he engaged in teaming and sawmilling for twelve years, going from there to Waukon. At the end of ten months spent in that city he again turned his attention to general farming, buying two hundred and fifty-seven acres of fine land on section 12, Franklin township. Upon this property he engages in farming and stock-raising and both branches of his business have proven important and profitable under his able management. He is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery Company and in the Farmers Shipping Association and his ability and energy are recognized and respected in business circles.

On the 7th of November, 1883, Mr. Deremore was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Schmeiden, who was born at Thompson Corner, Center township, September 30, 1863. She is a daughter of Harmon and Carolina (Martin) Schmeiden, natives of Germany, where in early life the father was a miller. Her parents came to America and settled in Center township, Allamakee county, at an early date, Harmon Schmeiden engaging in farming in this locality until

his death. Mr. and Mrs. Deremore have become the parents of three children: Rose Carolina, who was born September 6, 1884, and married Henry Meis, a farmer near Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Canada; Emma, who was born November 22, 1886, and married Arthur Lint; and Arthur, born August 6, 1890.

Mr. Deremore is connected fraternally with the Modern Woodmen of America and he gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He is an earnest supporter of the cause of education, doing much in the interests of the public schools during his term of service on the school board. He is a substantial and practical farmer, an able and farsighted business man, a progressive and public-spirited citizen, and his record is an added credit to an honored and worthy name.

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### ULRICH WILLIAM ROOD.

Ulrich William Rood, a worthy native son of Allamakee county, is the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and thirty-three acres on section 6, Paint Creek township, and enjoys an enviable reputation as a progressive agriculturist and enterprising citizen of his community. The farm which is now in his possession has remained his home from his birth to the present time, his natal day being March 31, 1870.

His father, Peter Rood, was born in Norway, on the 31st of August, 1816, and emigrated to the United States in 1853, when thirty-seven years of age. He located first in Rock county, Wisconsin, but later in the same year came to Allamakee county, Iowa, purchasing one hundred and thirty-three acres of unimproved land in Paint Creek and Jefferson townships. He first erected a log cabin, which was subsequently replaced by a stone house that is still standing. As the years passed by he brought his fields under a high state of cultivation and improved his property to a considerable extent, successfully carrying on general agricultural pursuits until called to his final rest on the 15th of September, 1890. On the 21st of October, 1861, in this county, he wedded Miss Nicholena Christoferson Jensvold, whose birth occurred in Nordre Land, Norway, on the 20th of July, 1825, and who emigrated to the United States in young womanhood, being employed as a domestic in Stillwater and St. Paul, Minnesota. She survived her husband for a number of years, passing away on the home farm on the 15th of February, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Rood assisted in the organization of the Lutheran church and remained consistent members thereof during their lives. Their children were four in number, as follows: Emma Charlotta, who was born on the 9th of August, 1863, and passed away November 10, 1890; Gilbert C., whose birth occurred on the 11th of March, 1866, and who died June 22, 1890; Ida Henricka, at home; and Ulrich William, of this review.

The last named attended the district schools in the acquirement of an education and early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist as he assisted his father in the work of the home farm. Eventually he came into possession of the property and has been actively engaged in its cultivation during his entire business career. He is an up-to-date and progressive agriculturist and his efforts have been attended with excellent results.

In addition to the production of cereals best adapted to soil and climate he has raised full blooded shorthorn cattle for several years past.

As a companion and helpmate on the journey of life Mr. Rood chose Miss Nicholena Leikvold, a daughter of Ole and Margaret (Roe) Leikvold, who were early settlers of Paint Creek township. The father is deceased but the mother is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Rood have five children, namely: Paul G., Ova C., Martha N., Eddie H. and Norman H. One child, Martha C., passed away at the age of five years.

Mr. Rood is a republican in his political views and is widely recognized as a loyal and public-spirited citizen whose aid and cooperation can be counted upon to further any movement or measure instituted to promote the general welfare. He was instrumental in the organization of the telephone company and worked for two years to bring it about. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church and he and his family are devoted members thereof. Genial and kindly in nature, he fully appreciates his obligations to his fellowmen, and his honorable principles and upright manhood have won for him the high regard, confidence and goodwill of all with whom he has come in contact.

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#### JULIUS J. NAGEL.

One of the finest farms in Allamakee county is that owned and operated by Julius J. Nagel. It comprises two hundred acres lying on section 2, Franklin township, and is strictly modern and up-to-date in buildings and equipment. This is a large and valuable tract of land which Mr. Nagel has acquired through his own exertions and it is today a monument to his ability and energy. He was born in Garnavillo, Clayton county, on the 1st of October, 1858, a son of Charley and Mary (Meyer) Hittle. When Julius was about three years of age his father died and his mother married Fred Nagel, a widower with three children, who adopted Julius in the family, giving him his name. Both stepfather and mother were natives of Germany, the former born in Frankfort or vicinity, in 1822, and the latter in the grand duchy of Mecklenburg in the same year. In early life the stepfather was a journeyman shoemaker, following that occupation until he came to America, settling first in Chicago, where he conducted a shoe store on the corner of State and Randolph streets. Later he moved to Iowa and in Clermont, this state, engaged in the same business, in which, however, he continued only a short time thereafter. His health failing, he purchased land and in the year 1874 or 1875 turned his attention to farming in Clayton county. For seven years he lived upon his property, located four miles south of Postville, but at the end of that time moved to Franklin township, Allamakee county, where he continued to operate an excellent farm until 1900, when he turned over his interests to his son and retired from active life. He moved into Waukon and made his home with his daughter, dying in February, 1911. He had survived his wife many years, her death having occurred in 1891.

Julius J. Nagel acquired his education in the public schools of Clermont and in the district schools of Chester, just south of Postville. He accompanied his father to Allamakee county and here enrolled in school district No. 4, Franklin

township. During his youth he assisted with the operation of the farm. Upon attaining his majority he secured employment as a farm laborer and thereafter for three years continued thus, at the end of that time renting a farm. This property he developed for about three years and was finally able to purchase land of his own, buying a small tract near Hardin. In connection with its cultivation he engaged at this time in hauling cream but at the end of three years disposed of this business and also the property which he had purchased and came to the farm whereon he now resides. He has two hundred acres of valuable land and is today one of the extensive property owners in this part of the county. He makes a specialty of polled Angus cattle and Poland China hogs and breeds also a first-class grade of horses. He is a good judge of live stock and as he understands the details of his business thoroughly he receives the best prices for his stock.

In April, 1882, Mr. Nagel married Miss Clara Dunning, who was born in Franklin township, February 9, 1864, a daughter of Frank and Caroline (Nobles) Dunning. In early life the father was a sailor on the Great Lakes but he abandoned this occupation eventually and came as a pioneer to Allamakee county, residing in Franklin township when it was still a frontier district. His death occurred on February 7, 1907. His wife survives him and makes her home near Waukon upon a farm just adjoining the city limits. Mr. and Mrs. Nagel have become the parents of nine children: Gusta, who married Benjamin Wiethorn, a prominent landowner and automobile dealer of Monona; Addie, who is the wife of R. DeGraw, a farmer residing one mile northwest of Monona; Frank, of whom a sketch appears elsewhere in this work; Roy, who was born April 22, 1892, and resides at home; Elba, who was born June 12, 1894; Belle, whose birth occurred May 19, 1896; Mary, born May 30, 1898; Daisy, born April 25, 1901; and Velma, born February 27, 1903.

Mr. Nagel is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America of Rossville, and is a stockholder in the Monona Creamery Company, his ability being widely recognized in business circles. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party but is not active as an office seeker, preferring to devote his entire time to his personal affairs which, being capably conducted, have brought him a gratifying measure of success.

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#### JENS ESPELAND.

Jens Espeland, carrying on general farming and stock-raising upon one hundred and sixty-six acres of fine land on section 13, Paint Creek township, is a native of Norway, born in the province of Hardanger, on the 13th of November, 1859, his parents being Nels Larson and Christine Espeland. He spent his early life in his native country, acquiring his education there, and at the age of seventeen he crossed the Atlantic to America, coming immediately to Allamakee county, where for a time he worked as a farm laborer. In June, 1884, he married Ida Iverson and took up his residence on the Iverson homestead, which he still owns and operates. His holdings comprise one hundred and sixty-six acres, all in a high state of cultivation, and upon this fine property he carries on gen-

eral farming and stock-raising, both branches becoming under his able management important and profitable. In the course of years he has made many substantial improvements upon his place, has erected the necessary buildings and installed the needed machinery, and the farm is today one of the finest and best equipped in this section of the state.

Mr. and Mrs. Espeland became the parents of four children. Julia is teaching two languages at Wild Rice Orphans Home in Twin Valley, South Dakota. She is a graduate of the Lutheran Normal School at Sioux Falls. Christopher attended Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, for three years and afterward spent one year at the Lutheran Normal College at Sioux Falls. Elsie is also a graduate of the Lutheran Normal College, having received her diploma with the class of 1913. Leo is attending district school. Mr. and Mrs. Espeland are people of the highest respectability, enjoying in large measure the friendship of those with whom they have been brought in contact, and a life of well directed activity has gained for Mr. Espeland a creditable place in business circles.





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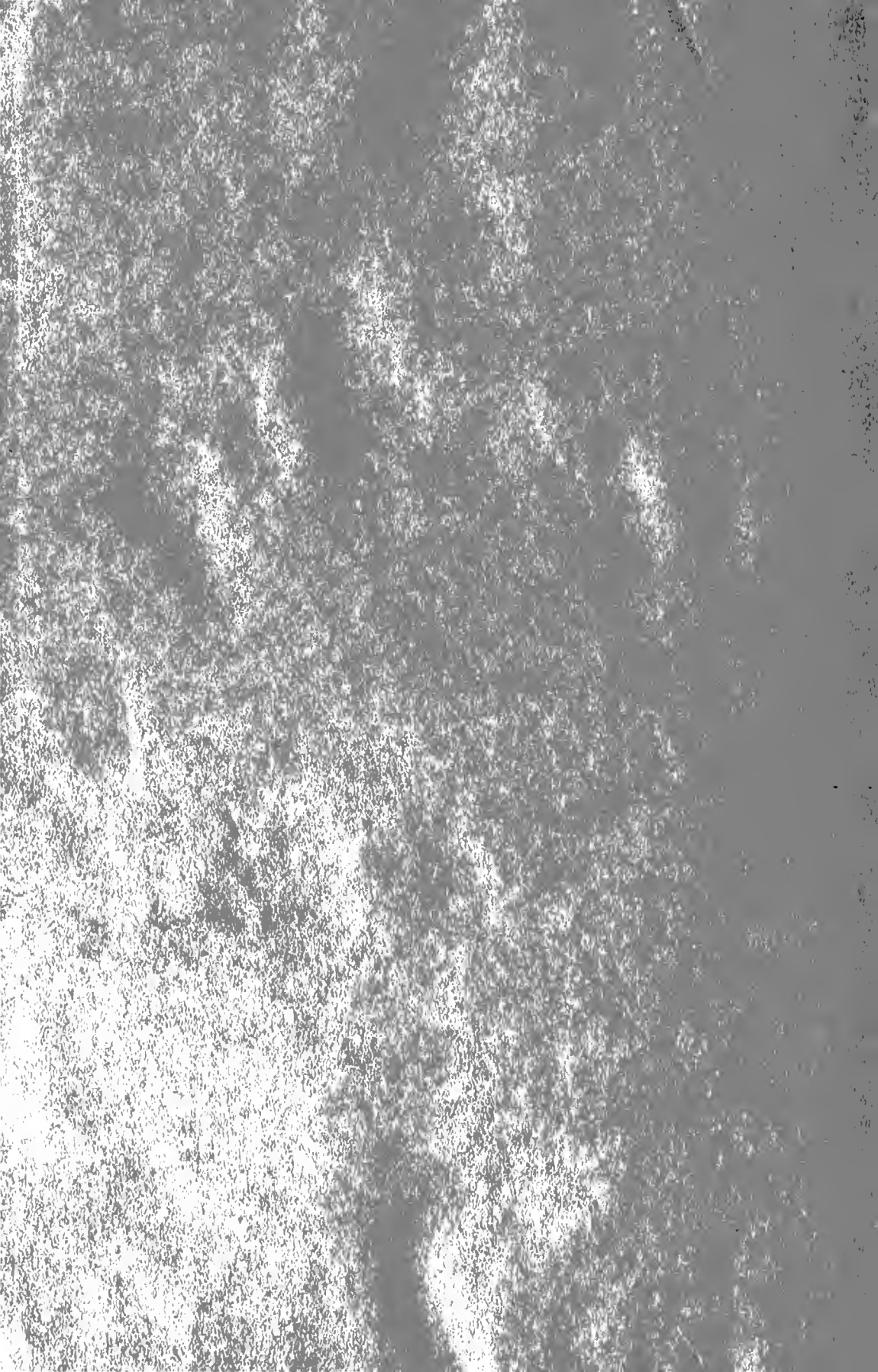
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