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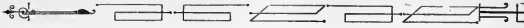












PORTRAIT AND  
BIOGRAPHICAL



RECORD

—OF—

LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS,

CONTAINING

Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens,

Together with Biographies of all the

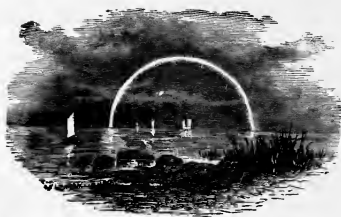
Governors of the State, and of the Presidents

OF THE UNITED STATES.

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CHICAGO:  
BIOGRAPHICAL PUBLISHING CO.

1892.



PORTRAITS  
AND  
BIOGRAPHIES

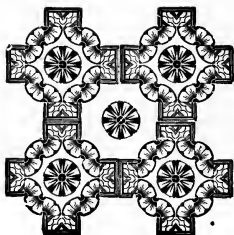
OF THE  
GOVERNORS OF ILLINOIS,

AND OF THE

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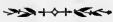
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UNITED STATES.





# PREFACE.



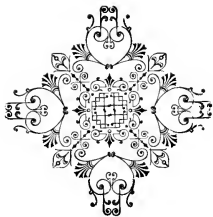
THE greatest of English historians, MACAULAY, and one of the most brilliant writers of the present century, has said: "The history of a country is best told in a record of the lives of its people." In conformity with this idea the PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL ALBUM of this county has been prepared. Instead of going to musty records, and taking therefrom dry statistical matter that can be appreciated by but few, our corps of writers have gone to the people, the men and women who have, by their enterprise and industry, brought the county to rank second to none among those comprising this great and noble State, and from their lips have the story of their life struggles. No more interesting or instructive matter could be presented to an intelligent public. In this volume will be found a record of many whose lives are worthy the imitation of coming generations. It tells how some, commencing life in poverty, by industry and economy have accumulated wealth. It tells how others, with limited advantages for securing an education, have become learned men and women, with an influence extending throughout the length and breadth of the land. It tells of men who have risen from the lower walks of life to eminence as statesmen, and whose names have become famous. It tells of those in every walk in life who have striven to succeed, and records how that success has usually crowned their efforts. It tells also of many, very many, who, not seeking the applause of the world, have pursued "the even tenor of their way," content to have it said of them as Christ said of the woman performing a deed of mercy—"they have done what they could." It tells how that many in the pride and strength of young manhood left the plow and the anvil, the lawyer's office and the counting-room, left every trade and profession, and at their country's call went forth valiantly "to do or die," and how through their efforts the Union was restored and peace once more reigned in the land. In the life of every man and of every woman is a lesson that should not be lost upon those who follow after.

Coming generations will appreciate this volume and preserve it as a sacred treasure, from the fact that it contains so much that would never find its way into public records, and which would otherwise be inaccessible. Great care has been taken in the compilation of the work and every opportunity possible given to those represented to insure correctness in what has been written, and the publishers flatter themselves that they give to their readers a work with few errors of consequence. In addition to the biographical sketches, portraits of a number of representative citizens are given.

The faces of some, and biographical sketches of many, will be missed in this volume. For this the publishers are not to blame. Not having a proper conception of the work, some refused to give the information necessary to compile a sketch, while others were indifferent. Occasionally some member of the family would oppose the enterprise, and on account of such opposition the support of the interested one would be withheld. In a few instances men could never be found, though repeated calls were made at their residence or place of business.

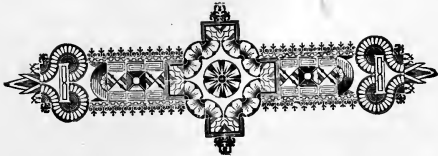
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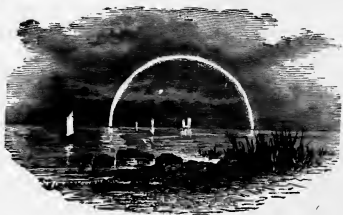
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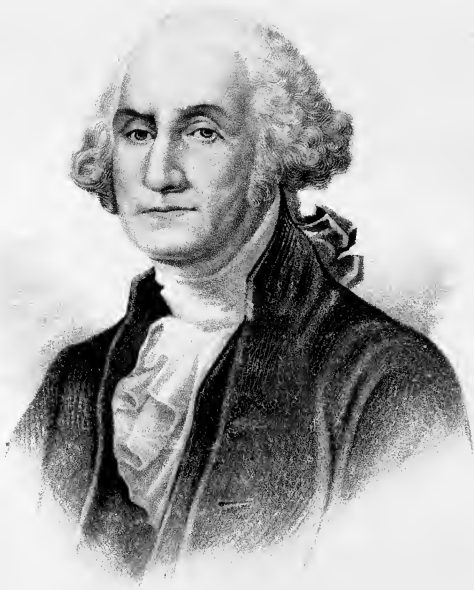


PRESIDENTS.






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*George Washington*



# GEORGE WASHINGTON.



HE Father of our Country was born in Westmorland Co., Va., Feb. 22, 1732. His parents were Augustine and Mary (Ball) Washington. The family to which he belonged has not been satisfactorily traced in England. His great-grandfather, John Washington, emigrated to Virginia about 1657, and became a prosperous planter. He had two sons, Lawrence and John. The former married Mildred Warner and had three children, John, Augustine and Mildred. Augustine, the father of George, first married Jane Butler, who bore him four children, two of whom, Lawrence and Augustine, reached maturity. Of six children by his second marriage, George was the eldest, the others being Betty, Samuel, John Augustine, Charles and Mildred.

Augustine Washington, the father of George, died in 1743, leaving a large landed property. To his eldest son, Lawrence, he bequeathed an estate on the Patomac, afterwards known as Mount Vernon, and to George he left the parental residence. George received only such education as the neighborhood schools afforded, save for a short time after he left school, when he received private instruction in mathematics. His spelling was rather defective.

Remarkable stories are told of his great physical strength and development at an early age. He was an acknowledged leader among his companions, and was early noted for that nobleness of character, fairness and veracity which characterized his whole life.

When George was 14 years old he had a desire to go to sea, and a midshipman's warrant was secured for him but through the opposition of his mother the idea was abandoned. Two years later he was appointed surveyor to the immense estate of Lord Fairfax. In this business he spent three years in a rough frontier life, gaining experience which afterwards proved very essential to him. In 1751, though only 19 years of age, he was appointed adjutant with the rank of major in the Virginia militia, then being trained for active service against the French and Indians. Soon after this he sailed to the West Indies with his brother Lawrence, who went there to restore his health. They soon returned, and in the summer of 1752 Lawrence died, leaving a large fortune to an infant daughter who did not long survive him. On her demise the estate of Mount Vernon was given to George.

Upon the arrival of Robert Dinwiddie, as Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia, in 1752, the militia was reorganized, and the province divided into four military districts, of which the northern was assigned to Washington as adjutant general. Shortly after this a very perilous mission was assigned him and accepted, which others had refused. This was to proceed to the French post near Lake Erie in North-western Pennsylvania. The distance to be traversed was between 500 and 600 miles. Winter was at hand, and the journey was to be made without military escort, through a territory occupied by Indians. The

p was a perilous one, and several times he came near losing his life, yet he returned in safety and furnished full and useful report of his expedition. A regiment of 300 men was raised in Virginia and put in command of Col. Joshua Fry, and Major Washington was commissioned lieutenant-colonel. Active war was then begun against the French and Indians, in which Washington took a most important part. In the memorable event of July 9, 1755, known as Braddock's defeat, Washington was almost the only officer of distinction who escaped from the calamities of the day with life and honor. The other aids of Braddock were disabled early in the action, and Washington alone was left in that capacity on the field. In a letter to his brother he says: "I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, yet I escaped unhurt, though death was leveling my companions on every side." An Indian sharpshooter said he was not born to be killed by a bullet, for he had taken great aim at him seventeen times, and failed to hit him.

After having been five years in the military service, and vainly sought promotion in the royal army, he took advantage of the fall of Fort Duquesne and the pulsion of the French from the valley of the Ohio, to resign his commission. Soon after he entered the legislature, where, although not a leader, he took an active and important part. January 17, 1759, he married Mrs. Martha (Dandridge) Custis, the wealthy widow of John Parke Custis.

When the British Parliament had closed the port of Boston, the cry went up throughout the provinces at "The cause of Boston is the cause of us all." It was then, at the suggestion of Virginia, that a Congress of all the colonies was called to meet at Philadelphia, Sept. 5, 1774, to secure their common liberties, in as peaceably as possible. To this Congress Col. Washington was sent as a delegate. On May 10, 1775, the Congress re-assembled, when the hostile intentions of England were plainly apparent. The battles of Concord and Lexington had been fought. Among the first acts of this Congress was the election of a commander-in-chief of the colonial forces. This high and responsible office was conferred upon Washington, who was still a member of the Congress. He accepted on June 19, but upon the express condition that he receive no salary. He would keep an exact account of his expenses and expect Congress to pay them and nothing more. It is not the object of this sketch to trace the military acts of Washington, to whom the fortunes and liberties of the people of this country were so long confided. The war was conducted by him under every possible disadvantage, and while his forces often met with reverses, yet he overcame every obstacle, and after seven years of heroic devotion and matchless skill he gained liberty for the greatest portion of earth. On Dec. 23, 1783, Washington, in his parting address of surpassing beauty, resigned his

commission as commander-in-chief of the army to the Continental Congress sitting at Annapolis. He retired immediately to Mount Vernon and resumed his occupation as a farmer and planter, shunning all connection with public life.

In February, 1789, Washington was unanimously elected President. In his presidential career he was subject to the peculiar trials incidental to a new government; trials from lack of confidence on the part of other governments; trials from want of harmony between the different sections of our own country; trials from the impoverished condition of the country, owing to the war and want of credit; trials from the beginnings of party strife. He was no partisan. His clear judgment could discern the golden mean; and while perhaps this alone kept our government from sinking at the very outset, it left him exposed to attacks from both sides, which were often bitter and very annoying.

At the expiration of his first term he was unanimously re-elected. At the end of this term many were anxious that he be re-elected, but he absolutely refused a third nomination. On the fourth of March, 1797, at the expiration of his second term as President, he returned to his home, hoping to pass there his few remaining years free from the annoyances of public life. Later in the year, however, his repose seemed likely to be interrupted by war with France. At the prospect of such a war he was again urged to take command of the armies. He chose his subordinate officers and left to them the charge of matters in the field, which he superintended from his home. In accepting the command he made the reservation that he was not to be in the field until it was necessary. In the midst of these preparations his life was suddenly cut off. December 12, he took a severe cold from a ride in the rain, which, settling in his throat, produced inflammation, and terminated fatally on the night of the fourteenth. On the eighteenth his body was borne with military honors to its final resting place, and interred in the family vault at Mount Vernon.

Of the character of Washington it is impossible to speak but in terms of the highest respect and admiration. The more we see of the operations of our government, and the more deeply we feel the difficulty of uniting all opinions in a common interest, the more highly we must estimate the force of his talent and character, which have been able to challenge the reverence of all parties, and principles, and nations, and to win a fame as extended as the limits of the globe, and which we cannot but believe will be as lasting as the existence of man.

The person of Washington was unusually tan, erect and well proportioned. His muscular strength was great. His features were of a beautiful symmetry. He commanded respect without any appearance of haughtiness, and ever serious without being dull.



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*John Adams*



# JOHN ADAMS.



JOHN ADAMS, the second President and the first Vice-President of the United States, was born in Braintree (now Quincy), Mass., and about ten miles from Boston, Oct. 19, 1735. His great-grandfather, Henry Adams, emigrated from England about 1640, with a family of eight sons, and settled at Braintree. The parents of John were John and Susannah (Boylston) Adams. His father was a farmer of limited means, to which he added the business of shoemaking. He gave his eldest son, John, a classical education at Harvard College. John

graduated in 1755, and at once took charge of the school in Worcester, Mass. This he found but a 'school of affliction,' from which he endeavored to gain relief by devoting himself, in addition, to the study of law. For this purpose he placed himself under the tuition of the only lawyer in the town. He had thought seriously of the clerical profession but seems to have been turned from this by what he termed "the frightful engines of ecclesiastical councils, of diabolical malice, and Calvinistic good nature," of the operations of which he had been a witness in his native town. He was well fitted for the legal profession, possessing a clear, sonorous voice, being ready and fluent of speech, and having quick perceptive powers. He gradually gained practice, and in 1764 married Abigail Smith, a daughter of a minister, and a lady of superior intelligence. Shortly after his marriage, (1765), the attempt of Parliamentary taxation turned him from law to politics. He took initial steps toward holding a town meeting, and the resolu-

tions he offered on the subject became very popular throughout the Province, and were adopted word for word by over forty different towns. He moved to Boston in 1768, and became one of the most courageous and prominent advocates of the popular cause, and was chosen a member of the General Court (the Legislature) in 1770.

Mr. Adams was chosen one of the first delegates from Massachusetts to the first Continental Congress, which met in 1774. Here he distinguished himself by his capacity for business and for debate, and advocated the movement for independence against the majority of the members. In May, 1776, he moved and carried a resolution in Congress that the Colonies should assume the duties of self-government. He was a prominent member of the committee of five appointed June 11, to prepare a declaration of independence. This article was drawn by Jefferson, but on Adams devolved the task of battling it through Congress in a three days debate.

On the day after the Declaration of Independence was passed, while his soul was yet warm with the glow of excited feeling, he wrote a letter to his wife which, as we read it now, seems to have been dictated by the spirit of prophecy. "Yesterday," he says, "the greatest question was decided that ever was debated in America; and greater, perhaps, never was or will be decided among men. A resolution was passed without one dissenting colony, 'that these United States are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states.' The day is passed. The fourth of July, 1776, will be a memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe it will be celebrated by succeeding generations, as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to Almighty God. It ought to be solemnized with pomp, show-

games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of the continent to the other, from this time forward for ever. You will think me transported with enthusiasm, but I am not. I am well aware of the toil, and blood and treasure, that it will cost to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these States; yet, through all the gloom, I can see the rays of light and glory. I can see that the end is worth more than all the means; and that posterity will triumph, although you and I may rue, which I hope we shall not."

In November, 1777, Mr. Adams was appointed a delegate to France and to co-operate with Benjamin Franklin and Arthur Lee, who were then in Paris, in the endeavor to obtain assistance in arms and money from the French Government. This was a severe trial to his patriotism, as it separated him from his home, compelled him to cross the ocean in winter, and exposed him to great peril of capture by the British cruisers, who were seeking him. He left France June 17, 1779. In September of the same year he was again chosen to go to Paris, and there hold himself in readiness to negotiate a treaty of peace and of commerce with Great Britain, as soon as the British Cabinet might be found willing to listen to such proposals. He sailed for France in November, from there he went to Holland, where he negotiated important loans and formed important commercial treaties.

Finally a treaty of peace with England was signed Jan. 21, 1783. The re-action from the excitement, toil and anxiety through which Mr. Adams had passed threw him into a fever. After suffering from a continued fever and becoming feeble and emaciated he was advised to go to England to drink the waters of Bath. While in England, still drooping and desponding, he received dispatches from his own government urging the necessity of his going to Amsterdam to negotiate another loan. It was winter, his health was delicate, yet he immediately set out, and through storm, on sea, on horseback and foot, he made the trip.

February 24, 1785, Congress appointed Mr. Adams envoy to the Court of St. James. Here he met face to face the King of England, who had so long regarded him as a traitor. As England did not condescend to appoint a minister to the United States, and as Mr. Adams felt that he was accomplishing but little, he sought permission to return to his own country, where he arrived in June, 1788.

When Washington was first chosen President, John Adams, rendered illustrious by his signal services at home and abroad, was chosen Vice President. Again at the second election of Washington as President, Adams was chosen Vice President. In 1796, Washington retired from public life, and Mr. Adams was elected President, though not without much opposition. Serving in this office four years, he was succeeded by Mr. Jefferson; his opponent in politics.

While Mr. Adams was Vice President the great

French Revolution shook the continent of Europe, and it was upon this point which he was at issue with the majority of his countrymen led by Mr. Jefferson. Mr. Adams felt no sympathy with the French people in their struggle, for he had no confidence in their power of self-government, and he utterly abhorred the class of atheist philosophers who he claimed caused it. On the other hand Jefferson's sympathies were strongly enlisted in behalf of the French people. Hence originated the alienation between these distinguished men, and two powerful parties were thus soon organized, Adams at the head of the one whose sympathies were with England and Jefferson led the other in sympathy with France.

The world has seldom seen a spectacle of more moral beauty and grandeur, than was presented by the old age of Mr. Adams. The violence of party feeling had died away, and he had begun to receive that just appreciation which, to most men, is not accorded till after death. No one could look upon his venerable form, and think of what he had done and suffered, and how he had given up all the prime and strength of his life to the public good, without the deepest emotion of gratitude and respect. It was his peculiar good fortune to witness the complete success of the institution which he had been so active in creating and supporting. In 1824, his cup of happiness was filled to the brim, by seeing his son elevated to the highest station in the gift of the people.

The fourth of July, 1826, which completed the half century since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, arrived, and there were but three of the signers of that immortal instrument left upon the earth to hail its morning light. And, as it is well known, on that day two of these finished their earthly pilgrimage, a coincidence so remarkable as to seem miraculous. For a few days before Mr. Adams had been rapidly failing, and on the morning of the fourth he found himself too weak to rise from his bed. On being requested to name a toast for the customary celebration of the day, he exclaimed "INDEPENDENCE FOREVER." When the day was ushered in, by the ringing of bells and the firing of cannons, he was asked by one of his attendants if he knew what day it was? He replied, "O yes; it is the glorious fourth of July—God bless it—God bless you all." In the course of the day he said, "It is a great and glorious day." The last words he uttered were, "Jefferson survives." But he had, at one o'clock, resigned his spirit into the hands of his God.

The personal appearance and manners of Mr. Adams were not particularly prepossessing. His face, as his portrait manifests, was intellectual and expressive, but his figure was low and ungraceful, and his manners were frequently abrupt and uncourteous. He had neither the lofty dignity of Washington, nor the engaging elegance and gracefulness which marked the manners and address of Jefferson.

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*Th. Jefferson.*



# THOMAS JEFFERSON.



**THOMAS JEFFERSON** was born April 2, 1743, at Shadwell, Albermarle county, Va. His parents were Peter and Jane (Randolph) Jefferson, the former a native of Wales, and the latter born in London. To them were born six daughters and two sons, of whom Thomas was the elder. When 14 years of age his father died. He received a most liberal education, having been kept diligently at school from the time he was five years of age. In 1760 he entered William

and Mary College. Williamsburg was then the seat of the Colonial Court, and it was the obode of fashion and splendor. Young Jefferson, who was then 17 years old, lived somewhat expensively, keeping fine horses, and much caressed by gay society, yet he was earnestly devoted to his studies, and irreproachable in his morals. It is strange, however, under such influences, that he was not ruined. In the second year of his college course, moved by some unexplained inward impulse, he discarded his horses, society, and even his favorite violin, to which he had previously given much time. He often devoted fifteen hours a day to hard study, allowing himself for exercise only a run in the evening twilight of a mile out of the city and back again. He thus attained very high intellectual culture, alike excellence in philosophy and the languages. The most difficult Latin and Greek authors he read with facility. A more finished scholar has seldom gone forth from college halls; and

there was not to be found, perhaps, in all Virginia, a more pureminded, upright, gentlemanly young man.

Immediately upon leaving college he began the study of law. For the short time he continued in the practice of his profession he rose rapidly and distinguished himself by his energy and acuteness as a lawyer. But the times called for greater action. The policy of England had awakened the spirit of resistance of the American Colonies, and the enlarged views which Jefferson had ever entertained, soon led him into active political life. In 1769 he was chosen a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses. In 1772 he married Mrs. Martha Skelton, a very beautiful, wealthy and highly accomplished young widow.

Upon Mr. Jefferson's large estate at Shadwell, there was a majestic swell of land, called Monticello, which commanded a prospect of wonderful extent and beauty. This spot Mr. Jefferson selected for his new home; and here he reared a mansion of modest yet elegant architecture, which, next to Mount Vernon became the most distinguished resort in our land.

In 1775 he was sent to the Colonial Congress, where, though a silent member, his abilities as a writer and a reasoner soon become known, and he was placed upon a number of important committees, and was chairman of the one appointed for the drawing up of a declaration of independence. This committee consisted of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston. Jefferson, as chairman; was appointed to draw up the paper. Franklin and Adams suggested a few verbal changes before it was submitted to Congress. On June 28, a few slight changes were made in it by Congress, and it was passed and signed July 4, 1776. What must have been the feelings of that

an—what the emotions that swelled his breast—no was charged with the preparation of that Declaration, which, while it made known the wrongs of America, was also to publish her to the world, free, sovereign and independent. It is one of the most remarkable papers ever written; and did no other effort the mind of its author exist, that alone would be sufficient to stamp his name with immortality.

In 1779 Mr. Jefferson was elected successor to Patrick Henry, as Governor of Virginia. At one time the British officer, Tarleton, sent a secret expedition to Monticello, to capture the Governor. Scarcely five minutes elapsed after the hurried escape of Mr. Jefferson and his family, ere his mansion was in possession of the British troops. His wife's health, never very good, was much injured by this excitement, and in the summer of 1782 she died.

Mr. Jefferson was elected to Congress in 1783. Two years later he was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to France. Returning to the United States in September, 1789, he became Secretary of State in Washington's cabinet. This position he resigned in 1793. In 1797, he was chosen Vice President, and four years later was elected President over John Adams, with Aaron Burr as Vice President. In 1804 he was re-elected with wonderful unanimity, and George Clinton, Vice President.

The early part of Mr. Jefferson's second administration was disturbed by an event which threatened the tranquility and peace of the Union; this was the conspiracy of Aaron Burr. Defeated in the late election for the Vice Presidency, and led on by an unprincipled ambition, this extraordinary man formed the plan of a military expedition into the Spanish territories on our southwestern frontier, for the purpose of forming there a new republic. This has been generally supposed as a mere pretext; and although it has not been generally known what his real plans were, there is no doubt that they were of a far more dangerous character.

In 1809, at the expiration of the second term for which Mr. Jefferson had been elected, he determined to retire from political life. For a period of nearly twenty years, he had been continually before the public, and all that time had been employed in offices of the greatest trust and responsibility. Having thus devoted the best part of his life to the service of his country, he now felt desirous of that rest which his declining years required, and upon the organization of the new administration, in March, 1809, he bid farewell forever to public life, and retired to Monticello.

Mr. Jefferson was profuse in his hospitality. Whole families came in their coaches with their horses, — fathers and mothers, boys and girls, babies and nurses, — and remained three and even six months. The life at Monticello, for years, resembled that at a fashionable watering-place.

The fourth of July, 1826, being the fiftieth anniversary

of the Declaration of American Independence, great preparations were made in every part of the Union for its celebration, as the nation's jubilee, and the citizens of Washington, to add to the solemnity of the occasion, invited Mr. Jefferson, as the framer, and one of the few surviving signers of the Declaration, to participate in their festivities. But an illness, which had been of several weeks duration, and had been continually increasing, compelled him to decline the invitation.

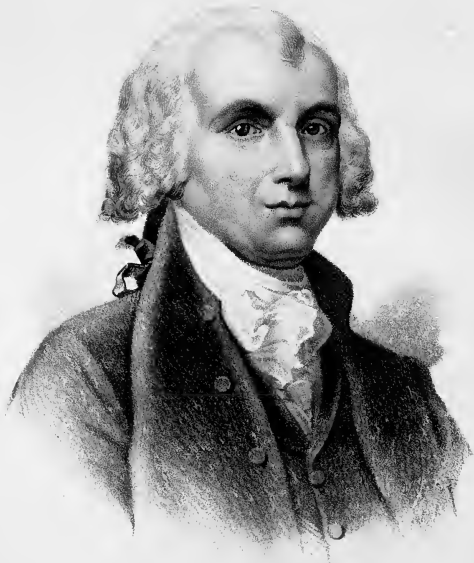
On the second of July, the disease under which he was laboring left him, but in such a reduced state that his medical attendants, entertained no hope of his recovery. From this time he was perfectly sensible that his last hour was at hand. On the next day, which was Monday, he asked of those around him, the day of the month, and on being told it was the third of July, he expressed the earnest wish that he might be permitted to breathe the air of the fiftieth anniversary. His prayer was heard—that day, whose dawn was hailed with such rapture through our land, burst upon his eyes, and then they were closed forever. And what a noble consummation of a noble life! To die on that day,—the birthday of a nation,—the day which his own name and his own act had rendered glorious; to die amidst the rejoicings and festivities of a whole nation, who looked up to him, as the author, under God, of their greatest blessings, was all that was wanting to fill up the record his life.

Almost at the same hour of his death, the kindred spirit of the venerable Adams, as if to bear him company, left the scene of his earthly honors. Hand in hand they had stood forth, the champions of freedom; hand in hand, during the dark and desperate struggle of the Revolution, they had cheered and animated their desponding countrymen; for half a century they had labored together for the good of the country; and now hand in hand they depart. In their lives they had been united in the same great cause of liberty, and in their deaths they were not divided.

In person Mr. Jefferson was tall and thin, rather above six feet in height, but well formed; his eyes were light, his hair originally red, in after life became white and silvery; his complexion was fair, his forehead broad, and his whole countenance intelligent and thoughtful. He possessed great fortitude of mind as well as personal courage; and his command of temper was such that his oldest and most intimate friends never recollected to have seen him in a passion. His manners, though dignified, were simple and unaffected, and his hospitality was so unbounded that all found at his house a ready welcome. In conversation he was fluent, eloquent and enthusiastic; and his language was remarkably pure and correct. He was a finished classical scholar, and in his writings is discernable the care with which he formed his style upon the best models of antiquity.



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*James Madison*



## JAMES MADISON.

**J**AMES MADISON, "Father of the Constitution," and fourth President of the United States, was born March 16, 1757, and died at his home in Virginia, June 28, 1836. The name of

James Madison is inseparably connected with most of the important events in that heroic period of our country during which the foundations of this great republic were laid. He was the last of the founders of the Constitution of the United States to be called to his eternal reward.

The Madison family were among the early emigrants to the New World, landing upon the shores of the Chesapeake but 15 years after the settlement of Jamestown. The father of James Madison was an opulent planter, residing upon a very fine estate called "Montpelier," Orange Co., Va. The mansion was situated in the midst of scenery highly picturesque and romantic, on the west side of South-west Mountain, at the foot of

Blue Ridge. It was but 25 miles from the home of Jefferson at Monticello. The closest personal and political attachment existed between these illustrious men, from their early youth until death.

The early education of Mr. Madison was conducted mostly at home under a private tutor. At the age of 18 he was sent to Princeton College, in New Jersey. Here he applied himself to study with the most im-

prudent zeal; allowing himself, for months, but three hours' sleep out of the 24. His health thus became so seriously impaired that he never recovered any vigor of constitution. He graduated in 1771, with a feeble body, with a character of utmost purity, and with a mind highly disciplined and richly stored with learning which embellished and gave proficiency to his subsequent career.

Returning to Virginia, he commenced the study of law and a course of extensive and systematic reading. This educational course, the spirit of the times in which he lived, and the society with which he associated, all combined to inspire him with a strong love of liberty, and to train him for his life-work of a statesman. Being naturally of a religious turn of mind, and his frail health leading him to think that his life was not to be long, he directed especial attention to theological studies. Endowed with a mind singularly free from passion and prejudice, and with almost unequalled powers of reasoning, he weighed all the arguments for and against revealed religion, until his faith became so established as never to be shaken.

In the spring of 1776, when 26 years of age, he was elected a member of the Virginia Convention, to frame the constitution of the State. The next year (1777), he was a candidate for the General Assembly. He refused to treat the whisky-loving voters, and consequently lost his election; but those who had witnessed the talent, energy and public spirit of the modest young man, enlisted themselves in his behalf, and he was appointed to the Executive Council.

Both Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson were Governors of Virginia while Mr. Madison remained member of the Council; and their appreciation of his

Intellectual, social and moral worth, contributed not little to his subsequent eminence. In the year 1780, he was elected a member of the Continental Congress. Here he met the most illustrious men in our land, and he was immediately assigned to one of the most conspicuous positions among them.

For three years Mr. Madison continued in Congress, one of its most active and influential members. In the year 1784, his term having expired, he was elected a member of the Virginia Legislature.

No man felt more deeply than Mr. Madison the utter inefficiency of the old confederacy, with no national government, with no power to form treaties which would be binding, or to enforce law. There was not any State more prominent than Virginia in the declaration, that an efficient national government must be formed. In January, 1786, Mr. Madison carried a resolution through the General Assembly of Virginia, inviting the other States to appoint commissioners to meet in convention at Annapolis to discuss this subject. Five States only were represented. The convention, however, issued another call, drawn up by Mr. Madison, urging all the States to send their delegates to Philadelphia, in May, 1787, to draft a Constitution for the United States, to take the place of that Confederate League. The delegates met at the time appointed. Every State but Rhode Island was represented. George Washington was chosen president of the convention; and the present Constitution of the United States was then and there formed. There was, perhaps, no mind and no pen more active in framing this immortal document than the mind and the pen of James Madison.

The Constitution, adopted by a vote 81 to 79, was to be presented to the several States for acceptance. But grave solicitude was felt. Should it be rejected, there should be left but a conglomeration of independent States, with but little power at home and little respect abroad. Mr. Madison was selected by the convention to draw up an address to the people of the United States, expounding the principles of the Constitution, and urging its adoption. There was great opposition to it at first, but it at length triumphed over all, and went into effect in 1789.

Mr. Madison was elected to the House of Representatives in the first Congress, and soon became the avowed leader of the Republican party. While in New York attending Congress, he met Mrs. Todd, a young widow of remarkable power of fascination, whom he married. She was in person and character unusually, and probably no lady has thus far occupied so prominent a position in the very peculiar society which has constituted our republican court as Mrs. Madison.

Mr. Madison served as Secretary of State under Jefferson, and at the close of his administration was chosen President. At this time the encroachments of England had brought us to the verge of war.

British orders in council destroyed our commerce, and our flag was exposed to constant insult. Mr. Madison was a man of peace. Scholarly in his taste, retiring in his disposition, war had no charms for him. But the meekest spirit can be roused. It makes one's blood boil, even now, to think of an American ship brought to, upon the ocean, by the guns of an English cruiser. A young lieutenant steps on board and orders the crew to be paraded before him. With great nonchalance he selects any number whom he may please to designate as British subjects; orders them down the ship's side into his boat; and places them on the gun-deck of his man-of-war, to fight, by compulsion, the battles of England. This right of search and imprisonment, no efforts of our Government could induce the British cabinet to relinquish.

On the 18th of June, 1812, President Madison gave his approval to an act of Congress declaring war against Great Britain. Notwithstanding the bitter hostility of the Federal party to the war, the country in general approved; and Mr. Madison, on the 4th of March, 1813, was re-elected by a large majority, and entered upon his second term of office. This is not the place to describe the various adventures of this war on the land and on the water. Our infantry then laid the foundations of its renown in grappling with the most formidable power which ever swept the seas. The contest commenced in earnest by the appearance of a British fleet, early in February, 1813, in Chesapeake Bay, declaring nearly the whole coast of the United States under blockade.

The Emperor of Russia offered his services as mediator. America accepted; England refused. A British force of five thousand men landed on the banks of the Patuxet River, near its entrance into Chesapeake Bay, and marched rapidly, by way of Bladensburg, upon Washington.

The straggling little city of Washington was thrown into consternation. The cannon of the brief conflict at Bladensburg echoed through the streets of the metropolis. The whole population fled from the city. The President, leaving Mrs. Madison in the White House, with her carriage drawn up at the door to await his speedy return, hurried to meet the officers in a council of war. He met our troops utterly routed, and he could not go back without danger of being captured. But few hours elapsed ere the Presidential Mansion, the Capitol, and all the public buildings in Washington were in flames.

The war closed after two years of fighting, and on Feb. 13, 1815, the treaty of peace was signed at Ghent.

On the 4th of March, 1817, his second term of office expired, and he resigned the Presidential chair to his friend, James Monroe. He retired to his beautiful home at Montpelier, and there passed the remainder of his days. On June 28, 1836, then at the age of 85 years, he fell asleep in death. Mrs. Madison died July 12, 1849.

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James Monroe



## JAMES MONROE.

**J**AMES MONROË, the fifth President of The United States, was born in Westmoreland Co., Va., April 28, 1758. His early life was passed at the place of nativity. His ancestors had for many years resided in the province in which he was born. When, at 17 years of age, in the process of completing his education at William and Mary College, the Colonial Congress assembled at Philadelphia to deliberate upon the unjust and manifold oppressions of Great Britain, declared the separation of the Colonies, and promulgated the Declaration of Independence.

Had he been born ten years before it is highly probable that he would have been one of the signers of that celebrated instrument. At this time he left school and enlisted among the patriots.

He joined the army when everything looked hopeless and gloomy. The number of deserters increased from day to day. The invading armies came pouring in; and the tories not only favored the cause of the mother country, but disheartened the new recruits, who were sufficiently terrified at the prospect of contending with an enemy whom they had been taught to deem invincible. To such brave spirits as James Monroe, who went right onward, undismayed through difficulty and danger, the United States owe their political emancipation. The young cadet joined the ranks, and espoused the cause of his injured country, with a firm determination to live or die with her strife

for liberty. Firmly yet sadly he shared in the melancholy retreat from Harleam Heights and White Plains, and accompanied the dispirited army as it fled before its foes through New Jersey. In four months after the Declaration of Independence, the patriots had been beaten in seven battles. At the battle of Trenton he led the vanguard, and, in the act of charging upon the enemy he received a wound in the left shoulder.

As a reward for his bravery, Mr. Monroe was promoted a captain of infantry; and, having recovered from his wound, he rejoined the army. He, however, receded from the line of promotion, by becoming an officer in the staff of Lord Sterling. During the campaigns of 1777 and 1778, in the actions of Brandy wine, Germantown and Monmouth, he continued aid-de-camp; but becoming desirous to regain his position in the army; he exerted himself to collect a regiment for the Virginia line. This scheme failed owing to the exhausted condition of the State. Upon this failure he entered the office of Mr. Jefferson, at that period Governor, and pursued, with considerable ardor, the study of common law. He did not, however, entirely lay aside the knapsack for the green bag; but on the invasions of the enemy, served as a volunteer, during the two years of his legal pursuits.

In 1782, he was elected from King George county, a member of the Legislature of Virginia, and by that body he was elevated to a seat in the Executive Council. He was thus honored with the confidence of his fellow citizens at 23 years of age; and having at this early period displayed some of that ability and aptitude for legislation, which were afterwards employed with unremitting energy for the public good,

he was in the succeeding year chosen a member of the Congress of the United States.

Deeply as Mr. Monroe felt the imperfections of the old Confederacy, he was opposed to the new Constitution, thinking, with many others of the Republican party, that it gave too much power to the Central Government, and not enough to the individual States. Still he retained the esteem of his friends who were its warm supporters, and who, notwithstanding his opposition secured its adoption. In 1789, he became a member of the United States Senate; which office he held for four years. Every month the line of distinction between the two great parties which divided the nation, the Federal and the Republican, was growing more distinct. The two prominent ideas which now separated them were, that the Republican party was in sympathy with France, and also in favor of such a strict construction of the Constitution as to give the Central Government as little power, and the State Governments as much power, as the Constitution would warrant. The Federalists sympathized with England, and were in favor of a liberal construction of the Constitution, which would give as much power to the Central Government as that document could possibly authorize.

The leading Federalists and Republicans were alike noble men, consecrating all their energies to the good of the nation. Two more honest men or more pure patriots than John Adams the Federalist, and James Monroe the Republican, never breathed. In building up this majestic nation, which is destined to eclipse all Grecian and Assyrian greatness, the combination of their antagonism was needed to create the right equilibrium. And yet each in his day was denounced as almost a demon.

Washington was then President. England had espoused the cause of the Bourbons against the principles of the French Revolution. All Europe was drawn into the conflict. We were feeble and far away. Washington issued a proclamation of neutrality between these contending powers. France had helped us in the struggle for our liberties. All the despotisms of Europe were now combined to prevent the French from escaping from a tyranny a thousand-fold worse than that which we had endured. Col. Monroe, more magnanimous than prudent, was anxious that, at whatever hazard, we should help our old allies in their extremity. It was the impulse of a generous and noble nature. He violently opposed the President's proclamation as ungrateful and wanting in magnanimity.

Washington, who could appreciate such a character, developed his calm, serene, almost divine greatness, by appointing that very James Monroe, who was denouncing the policy of the Government, as the minister of that Government to the Republic of France. Mr. Monroe was welcomed by the National Convention in France with the most enthusiastic demonstrations.

Shortly after his return to this country, Mr. Monroe was elected Governor of Virginia, and held the office for three years. He was again sent to France to co-operate with Chancellor Livingston in obtaining the vast territory then known as the Province of Louisiana, which France had but shortly before obtained from Spain. Their united efforts were successful. For the comparatively small sum of fifteen millions of dollars, the entire territory of Orleans and district of Louisiana were added to the United States. This was probably the largest transfer of real estate which was ever made in all the history of the world.

From France Mr. Monroe went to England to obtain from that country some recognition of our rights as neutrals, and to remonstrate against those odious impressments of our seamen. But England was unrelenting. He again returned to England on the same mission, but could receive no redress. He returned to his home and was again chosen Governor of Virginia. This he soon resigned to accept the position of Secretary of State under Madison. While in this office war with England was declared, the Secretary of War resigned, and during these trying times, the duties of the War Department were also put upon him. He was truly the armor-bearer of President Madison, and the most efficient business man in his cabinet. Upon the return of peace he resigned the Department of War, but continued in the office of Secretary of State until the expiration of Mr. Madison's administration. At the election held the previous autumn Mr. Monroe himself had been chosen President with but little opposition, and upon March 4, 1817, was inaugurated. Four years later he was elected for a second term.

Among the important measures of his Presidency were the cession of Florida to the United States; the Missouri Compromise, and the "Monroe doctrine."

This famous doctrine, since known as the "Monroe doctrine," was enunciated by him in 1823. At that time the United States had recognized the independence of the South American states, and did not wish to have European powers longer attempting to subdue portions of the American Continent. The doctrine is as follows: "That we should consider any attempt on the part of European powers to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety," and "that we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing or controlling American governments or provinces in any other light than as a manifestation by European powers of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States." This doctrine immediately affected the course of foreign governments, and has become the approved sentiment of the United States.

At the end of his second term Mr. Monroe retired to his home in Virginia, where he lived until 1830 when he went to New York to live with his son-in-law. In that city he died, on the 4th of July, 1831.



1846


1846



*J. Q. Adams*



## JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.



JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, the sixth President of the United States, was born in the rural home of his honored father. John Adams, in Quincy, Mass., on the 11th of July, 1767. His mother, a woman of exalted worth, watched over his childhood during the almost constant absence of his father. When but eight years of age, he stood with his mother on an eminence, listening to the booming of the great battle on Bunker's Hill, and gazing on upon the smoke and flames billowing up from the conflagration of Charlestown.

When but eleven years old he took a tearful adieu of his mother, to sail with his father for Europe,

through a fleet of hostile British cruisers. The bright, animated boy spent a year and a half in Paris, where his father was associated with Franklin and Lee as minister plenipotentiary. His intelligence attracted the notice of these distinguished men, and he received from them flattering marks of attention.

Mr. John Adams had scarcely returned to this country, in 1779, ere he was again sent abroad. Again John Quincy accompanied his father. At Paris he applied himself with great diligence, for six months, to study; then accompanied his father to Holland, where he entered, first a school in Amsterdam, then the University at Leyden. About a year from this time, in 1781, when the manly boy was but fourteen years of age, he was selected by Mr. Dana, our minister to the Russian court, as his private secretary.

In this school of incessant labor and of ennobling culture he spent fourteen months, and then returned to Holland through Sweden, Denmark, Hamburg and Bremen. This long journey he took alone, in the winter, when in his sixteenth year. Again he resumed his studies, under a private tutor, at Hague. Thence,

in the spring of 1782, he accompanied his father to Paris, traveling leisurely, and forming acquaintance with the most distinguished men on the Continent examining architectural remains, galleries of paintings and all renowned works of art. At Paris he again became associated with the most illustrious men of all lands in the contemplations of the loftiest temporal themes which can engross the human mind. After a short visit to England he returned to Paris, and consecrated all his energies to study until May, 1785, when he returned to America. To a brilliant young man of eighteen, who had seen much of the world, and who was familiar with the etiquette of courts, a residence with his father in London, under such circumstances, must have been extremely attractive but with judgment very rare in one of his age, he preferred to return to America to complete his education in an American college. He wished then to study law, that with an honorable profession, he might be able to obtain an independent support.

Upon leaving Harvard College, at the age of twenty he studied law for three years. In June, 1794, being then but twenty-seven years of age, he was appointed by Washington, resident minister at the Netherlands. Sailing from Boston in July, he reached London in October, where he was immediately admitted to the deliberations of Messrs. Jay and Pinckney, assisting them in negotiating a commercial treaty with Great Britain. After thus spending a fortnight in London, he proceeded to the Hague.

In July, 1797, he left the Hague to go to Portugal as minister plenipotentiary. On his way to Portugal, upon arriving in London, he met with despatches directing him to the court of Berlin, but requesting him to remain in London until he should receive his instructions. While waiting he was married to an American lady to whom he had been previously engaged,—Miss Louisa Catherine Johnson, daughter of Mr. Joshua Johnson, American consul in London, a lady endowed with that beauty and those accomplishments which eminently fitted her to move in the elevated sphere for which she was destined.

He reached Berlin with his wife in November, 1797; where he remained until July, 1799, when, having fulfilled all the purposes of his mission, he solicited his recall.

Soon after his return, in 1802, he was chosen to the Senate of Massachusetts, from Boston, and then was elected Senator of the United States for six years, from the 4th of March, 1804. His reputation, his ability and his experience, placed him immediately among the most prominent and influential members of that body. Especially did he sustain the Government in its measures of resistance to the encroachments of England, destroying our commerce and insulting our flag. There was no man in America more familiar with the arrogance of the British court upon these points, and no one more resolved to present a firm resistance.

In 1809, Madison succeeded Jefferson in the Presidential chair, and he immediately nominated John Quincy Adams minister to St. Petersburg. Resigning his professorship in Harvard College, he embarked at Boston, in August, 1809.

While in Russia, Mr. Adams was an intense student. He devoted his attention to the language and history of Russia; to the Chinese trade; to the European system of weights, measures, and coins; to the climate and astronomical observations; while he kept up a familiar acquaintance with the Greek and Latin classics. In all the universities of Europe, a more accomplished scholar could scarcely be found. All through life the Bible constituted an important part of his studies. It was his rule to read five chapters every day.

On the 4th of March, 1817, Mr. Monroe took the Presidential chair, and immediately appointed Mr. Adams Secretary of State. Taking leave of his numerous friends in public and private life in Europe, he sailed in June, 1819, for the United States. On the 18th of August, he again crossed the threshold of his home in Quincy. During the eight years of Mr. Monroe's administration, Mr. Adams continued Secretary of State.

Some time before the close of Mr. Monroe's second term of office, new candidates began to be presented for the Presidency. The friends of Mr. Adams brought forward his name. It was an exciting campaign. Party spirit was never more bitter. Two hundred and sixty electoral votes were cast. Andrew Jackson received ninety-nine; John Quincy Adams, eighty-four; William H. Crawford, forty-one; Henry Clay, thirty-seven. As there was no choice by the people, the question went to the House of Representatives. Mr. Clay gave the vote of Kentucky to Mr. Adams, and he was elected.

The friends of all the disappointed candidates now combined in a venomous and persistent assault upon Mr. Adams. There is nothing more disgraceful in the past history of our country than the abuse which

was poured in one uninterrupted stream, upon this high-minded, upright, patriotic man. There never was an administration more pure in principles, more conscientiously devoted to the best interests of the country, than that of John Quincy Adams; and never, perhaps, was there an administration more unscrupulously and outrageously assailed.

Mr. Adams was, to a very remarkable degree, abstemious and temperate in his habits; always rising early, and taking much exercise. When at his home in Quincy, he has been known to walk, before breakfast, seven miles to Boston. In Washington, it was said that he was the first man up in the city, lighting his own fire and applying himself to work in his library often long before dawn.

On the 4th of March, 1829, Mr. Adams retired from the Presidency, and was succeeded by Andrew Jackson. John C. Calhoun was elected Vice President. The slavery question now began to assume portentous magnitude. Mr. Adams returned to Quincy and to his studies, which he pursued with unabated zeal. But he was not long permitted to remain in retirement. In November, 1830, he was elected representative to Congress. For seventeen years, until his death, he occupied the post as representative, towering above all his peers, ever ready to do brave battle for freedom, and winning the title of "the old man eloquent." Upon taking his seat in the House, he announced that he should hold himself bound to no party. Probably there never was a member more devoted to his duties. He was usually the first in his place in the morning, and the last to leave his seat in the evening. Not a measure could be brought forward and escape his scrutiny. The battle which Mr. Adams fought, almost singly, against the proslavery party in the Government, was sublime in its moral daring and heroism. For persisting in presenting petitions for the abolition of slavery, he was threatened with indictment by the grand jury with expulsion from the House, with assassination but no threats could intimidate him, and his final triumph was complete.

It has been said of President Adams, that when his body was bent and his hair silvered by the lapse of fourscore years, yielding to the simple faith of a little child, he was accustomed to repeat every night, before he slept, the prayer which his mother taught him in his infant years.

On the 21st of February, 1848, he rose on the floor of Congress, with a paper in his hand, to address the speaker. Suddenly he fell, again stricken by paralysis, and was caught in the arms of those around him. For a time he was senseless, as he was conveyed to the sofa in the rotunda. With reviving consciousness, he opened his eyes, looked calmly around and said "*This is the end of earth.*" then after a moment's pause he added, "*I am content.*" These were the last words of the grand "Old Man Eloquent."

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*Andrew Jackson*



## ANDREW JACKSON.



ANDREW JACKSON, the seventh President of the United States, was born in Waxhaw settlement, N. C., March 15, 1767, a few days after his father's death. His parents were poor emigrants from Ireland, and took up their abode in Waxhaw settlement, where they lived in deepest poverty.

Andrew, or Andy, as he was universally called, grew up a very rough, rude, turbulent boy. His features were coarse, his form ungainly; and there was but very

little in his character, made visible, which was attractive.

When only thirteen years old he joined the volunteers of Carolina against the British invasion. In 1781, he and his brother Robert were captured and imprisoned for a time at Camden. A British officer ordered him to brush his mud-spattered boots. "I am a prisoner of war, not your servant," was the reply of the dauntless boy.

The brute drew his sword, and aimed a desperate blow at the head of the helpless young prisoner. Andrew raised his hand, and thus received two fearful gashes,—one on the hand and the other upon the head. The officer then turned to his brother Robert with the same demand. He also refused, and received a blow from the keen-edged sabre, which quite disabled him, and which probably soon after caused his death. They suffered much other ill-treatment, and were finally stricken with the small-pox. Their mother was successful in obtaining their exchange,

and took her sick boys home. After a long illness Andrew recovered, and the death of his mother soon left him entirely friendless.

Andrew supported himself in various ways, such as working at the saddler's trade, teaching school and clerking in a general store, until 1784, when he entered a law office at Salisbury, N. C. He, however, gave more attention to the wild amusements of the times than to his studies. In 1788, he was appointed solicitor for the western district of North Carolina, of which Tennessee was then a part. This involved many long and tedious journeys amid dangers of every kind, but Andrew Jackson never knew fear, and the Indians had no desire to repeat a skirmish with the Sharp Knife.

In 1791, Mr. Jackson was married to a woman who supposed herself divorced from her former husband. Great was the surprise of both parties, two years later, to find that the conditions of the divorce had just been definitely settled by the first husband. The marriage ceremony was performed a second time, but the occurrence was often used by his enemies to bring Mr. Jackson into disfavor.

During these years he worked hard at his profession, and frequently had one or more duels on hand, one of which, when he killed Dickenson, was especially disgraceful.

In January, 1796, the Territory of Tennessee then containing nearly eighty thousand inhabitants, the people met in convention at Knoxville to frame a constitution. Five were sent from each of the eleven counties. Andrew Jackson was one of the delegates. The new State was entitled to but one member in the National House of Representatives. Andrew Jackson was chosen that member. Mounting his horse he rode to Philadelphia, where Congress then held its

sessions,—a distance of about eight hundred miles.

Jackson was an earnest advocate of the Democratic party. Jefferson was his idol. He admired Bonaparte, loved France and hated England. As Mr. Jackson took his seat, Gen. Washington, whose second term of office was then expiring, delivered his last speech to Congress. A committee drew up a complimentary address in reply. Andrew Jackson did not approve of the address, and was one of the twelve who voted against it. He was not willing to say that Gen. Washington's administration had been "wise, firm and patriotic."

Mr. Jackson was elected to the United States Senate in 1797, but soon resigned and returned home. Soon after he was chosen Judge of the Supreme Court of his State, which position he held for six years.

When the war of 1812 with Great Britain commenced, Madison occupied the Presidential chair. Aaron Burr sent word to the President that there was an unknown man in the West, Andrew Jackson, who would do credit to a commission if one were conferred upon him. Just at that time Gen. Jackson offered his services and those of twenty-five hundred volunteers. His offer was accepted, and the troops were assembled at Nashville.

As the British were hourly expected to make an attack upon New Orleans, where Gen. Wilkinson was in command, he was ordered to descend the river with fifteen hundred troops to aid Wilkinson. The expedition reached Natchez; and after a delay of several weeks there, without accomplishing anything, the men were ordered back to their homes. But the energy Gen. Jackson had displayed, and his entire devotion to the comfort of his soldiers, won him golden opinions; and he became the most popular man in the State. It was in this expedition that his toughness gave him the nickname of "Old Hickory."

Soon after this, while attempting to horsewhip Col. Thomas H. Benton, for a remark that gentleman made about his taking a part as second in a duel, in which a younger brother of Benton's was engaged, he received two severe pistol wounds. While he was lingering upon a bed of suffering news came that the Indians, who had combined under Tecumseh from Florida to the Lakes, to exterminate the white settlers, were committing the most awful ravages. Decisive action became necessary. Gen. Jackson, with his fractured bone just beginning to heal, his arm in a sling, and unable to mount his horse without assistance, gave his amazing energies to the raising of an army to rendezvous at Fayetteville, Alabama.

The Creek Indians had established a strong fort on one of the bends of the Tallapoosa River, near the center of Alabama, about fifty miles below Fort Strother. With an army of two thousand men, Gen. Jackson traversed the pathless wilderness in a march of eleven days. He reached their fort, called Tohopeka or Horse-shoe, on the 27th of March, 1814. The bend

of the river enclosed nearly one hundred acres of tangled forest and wild ravine. Across the narrow neck the Indians had constructed a formidable breastwork of logs and brush. Here nine hundred warriors, with an ample supply of arms were assembled.

The fort was stormed. The fight was utterly desperate. Not an Indian would accept of quarter. When bleeding and dying, they would fight those who endeavored to spare their lives. From ten in the morning until dark, the battle raged. The carnage was awful and revolting. Some threw themselves into the river; but the unerring bullet struck their heads as they swam. Nearly every one of the nine hundred warriors were killed. A few probably, in the night, swam the river and escaped. This ended the war. The power of the Creeks was broken forever. This bold plunge into the wilderness, with its terrific slaughter, so appalled the savages, that the haggard remnants of the bands came to the camp, begging for peace.

This closing of the Creek war enabled us to concentrate all our militia upon the British, who were the allies of the Indians. No man of less resolute will than Gen. Jackson could have conducted this Indian campaign to so successful an issue. Immediately he was appointed major-general.

Late in August, with an army of two thousand men, on a rushing march, Gen. Jackson came to Mobile. A British fleet came from Pensacola, landed a force upon the beach, anchored near the little fort, and from both ship and shore commenced a furious assault. The battle was long and doubtful. At length one of the ships was blown up and the rest retired.

Garrisoning Mobile, where he had taken his little army, he moved his troops to New Orleans, and the battle of New Orleans which soon ensued, was in reality a very arduous campaign. This war for Gen. Jackson an imperishable name. Here his troops, which numbered about four thousand men, won a signal victory over the British army of about nine thousand. His loss was but thirteen, while the loss of the British was two thousand six hundred.

The name of Gen. Jackson soon began to be mentioned in connection with the Presidency, but, in 1824, he was defeated by Mr. Adams. He was, however, successful in the election of 1828, and was re-elected for a second term in 1832. In 1829, just before he assumed the reins of the government, he met with the most terrible affliction of his life in the death of his wife, whom he had loved with a devotion which has perhaps never been surpassed. From the shock of her death he never recovered.

His administration was one of the most memorable in the annals of our country; applauded by one party, condemned by the other. No man had more bitter enemies or warmer friends. At the expiration of his two terms of office he retired to the Hermitage, where he died June 8, 1845. The last years of Mr. Jackson's life were that of a devoted Christian man.



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W. W. B. B. B.



## MARTIN VAN BUREN.



MARTIN VAN BUREN, the eighth President of the United States, was born at Kinderhook, N. Y., Dec. 5, 1782. He died at the same place, July 24, 1862. His body rests in the cemetery at Kinderhook. Above it is a plain granite shaft fifteen feet high, bearing a simple inscription about half way up on one face. The lot is unfenced, unbordered

or unbounded by shrub or flower.

There is but little in the life of Martin Van Buren of romantic interest. He fought no battles, engaged in no wild adventures. Though his life was stormy in political and intellectual conflicts, and he gained many signal victories, his days passed uneventful in those incidents which give zest to biography. His ancestors, as his name indicates, were of Dutch origin, and were among the earliest emigrants from Holland to the banks of the Hudson. His father was a farmer, residing in the old town of Kinderhook. His mother, also of Dutch lineage, was a woman of superior intelligence and exemplary piety.

He was decidedly a precocious boy, developing unusual activity, vigor and strength of mind. At the age of fourteen, he had finished his academic studies in his native village, and commenced the study of law. As he had not a collegiate education, seven years of study in a law-office were required of him before he could be admitted to the bar. Inspired with a lofty ambition, and conscious of his powers, he pursued his studies with indefatigable industry. After spending six years in an office in his native village,

he went to the city of New York, and prosecuted his studies for the seventh year.

In 1803, Mr. Van Buren, then twenty-one years of age, commenced the practice of law in his native village. The great conflict between the Federal and Republican party was then at its height. Mr. Van Buren was from the beginning a politician. He had, perhaps, imbibed that spirit while listening to the many discussions which had been carried on in his father's hotel. He was in cordial sympathy with Jefferson, and earnestly and eloquently espoused the cause of State Rights; though at that time the Federal party held the supremacy both in his town and State.

His success and increasing reputation led him after six years of practice, to remove to Hudson, the county seat of his county. Here he spent seven years constantly gaining strength by contending in the courts with some of the ablest men who have adorned the bar of his State.

Just before leaving Kinderhook for Hudson, Mr. Van Buren married a lady alike distinguished for beauty and accomplishments. After twelve short years she sank into the grave, the victim of consumption, leaving her husband and four sons to weep over her loss. For twenty-five years, Mr. Van Buren was an earnest, successful, assiduous lawyer. The record of those years is barren in items of public interest. In 1812, when thirty years of age, he was chosen to the State Senate, and gave his strenuous support to Mr. Madison's administration. In 1815, he was appointed Attorney-General, and the next year moved to Albany, the capital of the State.

While he was acknowledged as one of the most prominent leaders of the Democratic party, he had

the moral courage to avow that true democracy did not require that "universal suffrage" which admits the vile, the degraded, the ignorant, to the right of governing the State. In true consistency with his democratic principles, he contended that, while the path leading to the privilege of voting should be open to every man without distinction, no one should be invested with that sacred prerogative, unless he were in some degree qualified for it by intelligence, virtue and some property interests in the welfare of the State.

In 1821 he was elected a member of the United States Senate; and in the same year, he took a seat in the convention to revise the constitution of his native State. His course in this convention secured the approval of men of all parties. No one could doubt the singleness of his endeavors to promote the interests of all classes in the community. In the Senate of the United States, he rose at once to a conspicuous position as an active and useful legislator.

In 1827, John Quincy Adams being then in the Presidential chair, Mr. Van Buren was re-elected to the Senate. He had been from the beginning a determined opposer of the Administration, adopting the "State Rights" view in opposition to what was deemed the Federal proclivities of Mr. Adams.

Soon after this, in 1828, he was chosen Governor of the State of New York, and accordingly resigned his seat in the Senate. Probably no one in the United States contributed so much towards ejecting John Q. Adams from the Presidential chair, and placing in it Andrew Jackson, as did Martin Van Buren. Whether entitled to the reputation or not, he certainly was regarded throughout the United States as one of the most skillful, sagacious and cunning of politicians. It was supposed that no one knew so well as he how to touch the secret springs of action; how to pull all the wires to put his machinery in motion; and how to organize a political army which would, secretly and stealthily accomplish the most gigantic results. By these powers it is said that he outwitted Mr. Adams, Mr. Clay, Mr. Webster, and secured results which few thought then could be accomplished.

When Andrew Jackson was elected President he appointed Mr. Van Buren Secretary of State. This position he resigned in 1831, and was immediately appointed Minister to England, where he went the same autumn. The Senate, however, when it met, refused to ratify the nomination, and he returned

home, apparently untroubled; was nominated Vice President in the place of Calhoun, at the re-election of President Jackson; and with smiles for all and frowns for none, he took his place at the head of that Senate which had refused to confirm his nomination as ambassador.

His rejection by the Senate roused all the zeal of President Jackson in behalf of his repudiated favorite; and this, probably more than any other cause, secured his elevation to the chair of the Chief Executive. On the 20th of May, 1836, Mr. Van Buren received the Democratic nomination to succeed Gen. Jackson as President of the United States. He was elected by a handsome majority, to the delight of the retiring President. "Leaving New York out of the canvass," says Mr. Parton, "the election of Mr. Van Buren to the Presidency was as much the act of Gen. Jackson as though the Constitution had conferred upon him the power to appoint a successor."

His administration was filled with exciting events. The insurrection in Canada, which threatened to involve this country in war with England, the agitation of the slavery question, and finally the great commercial panic which spread over the country, all were trials to his wisdom. The financial distress was attributed to the management of the Democratic party, and brought the President into such disfavor that he failed of re-election.

With the exception of being nominated for the Presidency by the "Free Soil" Democrats, in 1848, Mr. Van Buren lived quietly upon his estate until his death.

He had ever been a prudent man, of frugal habits, and living within his income, had now fortunately a competence for his declining years. His unblemished character, his commanding abilities, his unquestioned patriotism, and the distinguished positions which he had occupied in the government of our country, secured to him not only the homage of his party, but the respect of the whole community. It was on the 4th of March, 1841, that Mr. Van Buren retired from the presidency. From his fine estate at Lindenwald, he still exerted a powerful influence upon the politics of the country. From this time until his death, on the 24th of July, 1862, at the age of eighty years, he resided at Lindenwald, a gentleman of leisure, of culture and of wealth; enjoying in a healthy old age, probably far more happiness than he had before experienced amid the stormy scenes of his active life.


THE END



*W. H. Harrison*



## WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.



WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, the ninth President of the United States, was born at Berkeley, Va., Feb. 9, 1773. His father, Benjamin Harrison, was in comparatively opulent circumstances, and was one of the most distinguished men of his day. He was an intimate friend of George Washington, was early elected a member of the Continental Congress, and was conspicuous among the patriots of Virginia in resisting the encroachments of the British crown. In the celebrated Congress of 1775, Benjamin Harrison and John Hancock were both candidates for the office of speaker.

Mr Harrison was subsequently chosen Governor of Virginia, and was twice re-elected. His son, William Henry, of course enjoyed

in childhood all the advantages which wealth and intellectual and cultivated society could give. Having received a thorough common-school education, he entered Hampden Sidney College, where he graduated with honor soon after the death of his father. He then repaired to Philadelphia to study medicine under the instructions of Dr. Rush and the guardianship of Robert Morris, both of whom were, with his father, signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Upon the outbreak of the Indian troubles, and notwithstanding the remonstrances of his friends, he abandoned his medical studies and entered the army, having obtained a commission of Ensign from Presi-

dent Washington. He was then but 19 years old. From that time he passed gradually upward in rank until he became aid to General Wayne, after whose death he resigned his commission. He was then appointed Secretary of the North-western Territory. This Territory was then entitled to but one member in Congress and Capt. Harrison was chosen to fill that position.

In the spring of 1800 the North-western Territory was divided by Congress into two portions. The eastern portion, comprising the region now embraced in the State of Ohio, was called "The Territory north-west of the Ohio." The western portion, which included what is now called Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin, was called the "Indiana Territory." William Henry Harrison, then 27 years of age, was appointed by John Adams, Governor of the Indiana Territory, and immediately after, also Governor of Upper Louisiana. He was thus ruler over almost as extensive a realm as any sovereign upon the globe. He was Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and was invested with powers nearly dictatorial over the now rapidly increasing white population. The ability and fidelity with which he discharged these responsible duties may be inferred from the fact that he was four times appointed to this office—first by John Adams, twice by Thomas Jefferson and afterwards by President Madison.

When he began his administration there were but three white settlements in that almost boundless region, now crowded with cities and resounding with all the tumult of wealth and traffic. One of these settlements was on the Ohio, nearly opposite Louisville; one at Vincennes, on the Wabash, and the third a French settlement.

The vast wilderness over which Gov. Harrison reigned was filled with many tribes of Indians. About

the year 1806, two extraordinary men, twin brothers, of the Shawnee tribe, rose among them. One of these was called Tecumseh, or "The Crouching Panther;" the other, Olliwacheca, or "The Prophet." Tecumseh was not only an Indian warrior, but a man of great sagacity, far-reaching foresight and indomitable perseverance in any enterprise in which he might engage. He was inspired with the highest enthusiasm, and had long regarded with dread and with hatred the encroachment of the whites upon the hunting-grounds of his fathers. His brother, the Prophet, was an orator, who could sway the feelings of the untutored Indian as the gale tossed the tree-tops beneath which they dwelt.

But the Prophet was not merely an orator: he was, in the superstitious minds of the Indians, invested with the superhuman dignity of a medicine-man or a magician. With an enthusiasm unsurpassed by Peter the Hermit rousing Europe to the crusades, he went from tribe to tribe, assuming that he was specially sent by the Great Spirit.

Gov. Harrison made many attempts to conciliate the Indians, but at last the war came, and at Tippecanoe the Indians were routed with great slaughter. October 28, 1812, his army began its march. When near the Prophet's town three Indians of rank made their appearance and inquired why Gov. Harrison was approaching them in so hostile an attitude. After a short conference, arrangements were made for a meeting the next day, to agree upon terms of peace.

But Gov. Harrison was too well acquainted with the Indian character to be deceived by such protestations. Selecting a favorable spot for his night's encampment, he took every precaution against surprise. His troops were posted in a hollow square, and slept upon their arms.

The troops threw themselves upon the ground for rest; but every man had his accoutrements on, his loaded musket by his side, and his bayonet fixed. The wakeful Governor, between three and four o'clock in the morning, had risen, and was sitting in conversation with his aids by the embers of a waning fire. It was a chill, cloudy morning with a drizzling rain. In the darkness, the Indians had crept as near as possible, and just then, with a savage yell, rushed, with all the desperation which superstition and passion most highly inflamed could give, upon the left flank of the little army. The savages had been amply provided with guns and ammunition by the English. Their war-whoop was accompanied by a shower of bullets.

The camp-fires were instantly extinguished, as the light aided the Indians in their aim. With hideous yells, the Indian bands rushed on, not doubting a speedy and an entire victory. But Gen. Harrison's troops stood as immovable as the rocks around them until day dawned: they then made a simultaneous charge with the bayonet, and swept every thing before them, and completely routing the foe.

Gov. Harrison now had all his energies tasked to the utmost. The British descending from the Canadas, were of themselves a very formidable force; but with their savage allies, rushing like wolves from the forest, searching out every remote farm-house, burning, plundering, scalping, torturing, the wide frontier was plunged into a state of consternation which even the most vivid imagination can but faintly conceive. The war-whoop was resounding everywhere in the forest. The horizon was illuminated with the conflagration of the cabins of the settlers. Gen. Hull had made the ignominious surrender of his forces at Detroit. Under these despairing circumstances, Gov. Harrison was appointed by President Madison commander-in-chief of the North-western army, with orders to retake Detroit, and to protect the frontiers.

It would be difficult to place a man in a situation demanding more energy, sagacity and courage; but General Harrison was found equal to the position, and nobly and triumphantly did he meet all the responsibilities.

He won the love of his soldiers by always sharing with them their fatigue. His whole baggage, while pursuing the foe up the Thames, was carried in a valise; and his bedding consisted of a single blanket lashed over his saddle. Thirty-five British officers, his prisoners of war, supped with him after the battle. The only fare he could give them was beef roasted before the fire, without bread or salt.

In 1816, Gen. Harrison was chosen a member of the National House of Representatives, to represent the District of Ohio. In Congress he proved an active member; and whenever he spoke, it was with force of reason and power of eloquence, which arrested the attention of all the members.

In 1819, Harrison was elected to the Senate of Ohio; and in 1824, as one of the presidential electors of that State, he gave his vote for Henry Clay. The same year he was chosen to the United States Senate.

In 1836, the friends of Gen. Harrison brought him forward as a candidate for the Presidency against Van Buren, but he was defeated. At the close of Mr. Van Buren's term, he was re-nominated by his party, and Mr. Harrison was unanimously nominated by the Whigs, with John Tyler for the Vice Presidency. The contest was very animated. Gen. Jackson gave all his influence to prevent Harrison's election; but his triumph was signal.

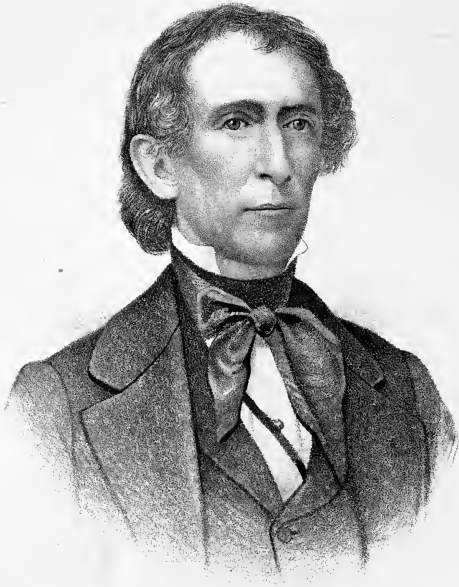
The cabinet which he formed, with Daniel Webster at its head as Secretary of State, was one of the most brilliant with which any President had ever been surrounded. Never were the prospects of an administration more flattering, or the hopes of the country more sanguine. In the midst of these bright and joyous prospects, Gen. Harrison was seized by a pleurisy-fever and after a few days of violent sickness, died on the 4th of April; just one month after his inauguration as President of the United States.



THE UNITED

STATES


10



John Tyler



## JOHN TYLER.



JOHN TYLER, the tenth President of the United States. He was born in Charles-city Co., Va., March 29, 1790. He was the favored child of affluence and high social position. At the early age of twelve, John entered William and Mary College and graduated with much honor when but seventeen years old. After graduating, he devoted himself with great assiduity to the study of law, partly with his father and partly with Edmund Randolph, one of the most distinguished lawyers of Virginia.

At nineteen years of age, he commenced the practice of law. His success was rapid and astonishing. It is said that three months had not elapsed ere there was scarcely a case on the docket of the court in which he was

retained. When but twenty-one years of age, he was almost unanimously elected to a seat in the State Legislature. He connected himself with the Democratic party, and warmly advocated the measures of Jefferson and Madison. For five successive years he was elected to the Legislature, receiving nearly the unanimous vote of his county.

When but twenty-six years of age, he was elected a member of Congress. Here he acted earnestly and ably with the Democratic party, opposing a national bank, internal improvements by the General Govern-

ment, a protective tariff, and advocating a strict construction of the Constitution, and the most careful vigilance over State rights. His labors in Congress were so arduous that before the close of his second term he found it necessary to resign and retire to his estate in Charles-city Co., to recruit his health. He, however, soon after consented to take his seat in the State Legislature, where his influence was powerful in promoting public works of great utility. With a reputation thus constantly increasing, he was chosen by a very large majority of votes, Governor of his native State. His administration was signally a successful one. His popularity secured his re-election.

John Randolph, a brilliant, erratic, half-crazed man, then represented Virginia in the Senate of the United States. A portion of the Democratic party was displeased with Mr. Randolph's wayward course, and brought forward John Tyler as his opponent, considering him the only man in Virginia of sufficient popularity to succeed against the renowned orator of Roanoke. Mr. Tyler was the victor.

In accordance with his professions, upon taking his seat in the Senate, he joined the ranks of the opposition. He opposed the tariff; he spoke against and voted against the bank as unconstitutional; he strenuously opposed all restrictions upon slavery, resisting all projects of internal improvements by the General Government, and avowed his sympathy with Mr. Calhoun's view of nullification; he declared that Gen. Jackson, by his opposition to the nullifiers, had abandoned the principles of the Democratic party. Such was Mr. Tyler's record in Congress,—a record in perfect accordance with the principles which he had always avowed.

Returning to Virginia, he resumed the practice of his profession. There was a split in the Democratic

party. His friends still regarded him as a true Jeffersonian, gave him a dinner, and showered compliments upon him. He had now attained the age of forty-six. His career had been very brilliant. In consequence of his devotion to public business, his private affairs had fallen into some disorder; and it was not without satisfaction that he resumed the practice of law, and devoted himself to the culture of his plantation. Soon after this he removed to Williamsburg, for the better education of his children; and he again took his seat in the Legislature of Virginia.

By the Southern Whigs, he was sent to the national convention at Harrisburg to nominate a President in 1839. The majority of votes were given to Gen. Harrison, a genuine Whig, much to the disappointment of the South, who wished for Henry Clay. To conciliate the Southern Whigs and to secure their vote, the convention then nominated John Tyler for Vice President. It was well known that he was not in sympathy with the Whig party in the North: but the Vice President has but very little power in the Government, his main and almost only duty being to preside over the meetings of the Senate. Thus it happened that a Whig President, and, in reality, a Democratic Vice President were chosen.

In 1841, Mr. Tyler was inaugurated Vice President of the United States. In one short month from that time, President Harrison died, and Mr. Tyler thus found himself, to his own surprise and that of the whole Nation, an occupant of the Presidential chair. This was a new test of the stability of our institutions, as it was the first time in the history of our country that such an event had occurred. Mr. Tyler was at home in Williamsburg when he received the unexpected tidings of the death of President Harrison. He hastened to Washington, and on the 6th of April was inaugurated to the high and responsible office. He was placed in a position of exceeding delicacy and difficulty. All his long life he had been opposed to the main principles of the party which had brought him into power. He had ever been a consistent, honest man, with an unblemished record. Gen. Harrison had selected a Whig cabinet. Should he retain them, and thus surround himself with counsellors whose views were antagonistic to his own? or, on the other hand, should he turn against the party which had elected him and select a cabinet in harmony with himself, and which would oppose all those views which the Whigs deemed essential to the public welfare? This was his fearful dilemma. He invited the cabinet which President Harrison had selected to retain their seats. He recommended a day of fasting and prayer, that God would guide and bless us.

The Whigs carried through Congress a bill for the incorporation of a fiscal bank of the United States. The President, after ten days' delay, returned it with his veto. He suggested, however, that he would

approve of a bill drawn up upon such a plan as he proposed. Such a bill was accordingly prepared, and privately submitted to him. He gave it his approval. It was passed without alteration, and he sent it back with his veto. Here commenced the open rupture. It is said that Mr. Tyler was provoked to this measure by a published letter from the Hon. John M. Botts, a distinguished Virginia Whig, who severely touched the pride of the President.

The opposition now exultingly received the President into their arms. The party which elected him denounced him bitterly. All the members of his cabinet, excepting Mr. Webster, resigned. The Whigs of Congress, both the Senate and the House, held a meeting and issued an address to the people of the United States, proclaiming that all political alliance between the Whigs and President Tyler were at an end.

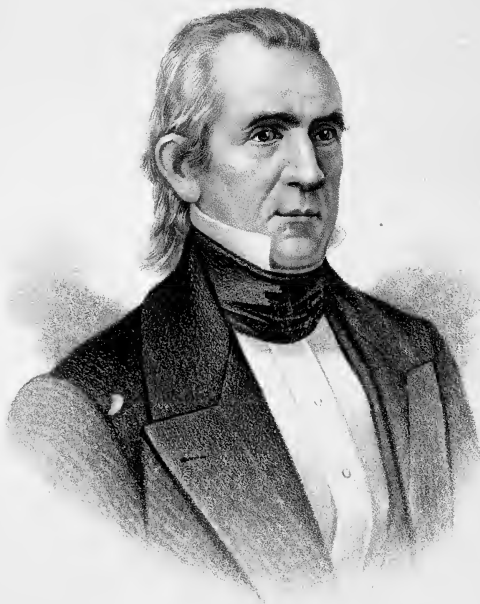
Still the President attempted to conciliate. He appointed a new cabinet of distinguished Whigs and Conservatives, carefully leaving out all strong party men. Mr. Webster soon found it necessary to resign, forced out by the pressure of his Whig friends. Thus the four years of Mr. Tyler's unfortunate administration passed sadly away. No one was satisfied. The land was filled with murmurs and vituperation. Whigs and Democrats alike assailed him. More and more, however, he brought himself into sympathy with his old friends, the Democrats, until at the close of his term, he gave his whole influence to the support of Mr. Polk, the Democratic candidate for his successor.

On the 4th of March, 1845, he retired from the harassments of office, to the regret of neither party, and probably to his own unspeakable relief. His first wife, Miss Letitia Christian, died in Washington, in 1842; and in June, 1844, President Tyler was again married, at New York, to Miss Julia Gardiner, a young lady of many personal and intellectual accomplishments.

The remainder of his days Mr. Tyler passed mainly in retirement at his beautiful home,—Sherwood Forest, Charles city Co., Va. A polished gentleman in his manners, richly furnished with information from books and experience in the world, and possessing brilliant powers of conversation, his family circle was the scene of unusual attractions. With sufficient means for the exercise of a generous hospitality, he might have enjoyed a serene old age with the few friends who gathered around him, were it not for the storms of civil war which his own principles and policy had helped to introduce.

When the great Rebellion rose, which the State-rights and nullifying doctrines of Mr. John C. Calhoun had inaugurated, President Tyler renounced his allegiance to the United States, and joined the Confederates. He was chosen a member of their Congress; and while engaged in active measures to destroy, by force of arms, the Government over which he had once presided, he was taken sick and soon died.

THE UNIVERSITY



James K. Polk

## JAMES K. POLK.

**J**AMES K. POLK, the eleventh President of the United States, was born in Mecklenburg Co., N. C., Nov. 2, 1795. His parents were Samuel and Jane (Knox) Polk, the former a son of Col. Thomas Polk, who located at the above place, as one of the first pioneers, in 1735.

In the year 1806, with his wife and children, and soon after followed by most of the members of the Polk family, Samuel Polk emigrated some two or three hundred miles farther west, to the rich valley of the Duck River. Here in the midst of the wilderness, in a region which was subsequently called Maury Co., they reared their log huts, and established their homes. In the hard toil of a new farm in the wilderness, James K. Polk spent the early years of his childhood and youth. His father, adding the pursuit of a surveyor to that of a farmer, gradually increased in wealth until

he became one of the leading men of the region. His mother was a superior woman, of strong common sense and earnest piety.

Very early in life, James developed a taste for reading and expressed the strongest desire to obtain a liberal education. His mother's training had made him methodical in his habits, had taught him punctuality and industry, and had inspired him with lofty principles of morality. His health was frail; and his father, fearing that he might not be able to endure a

sedentary life, got a situation for him behind the counter, hoping to fit him for commercial pursuits.

This was to James a bitter disappointment. He had no taste for these duties, and his daily tasks were irksome in the extreme. He remained in this uncongenial occupation but a few weeks, when at his earnest solicitation his father removed him, and made arrangements for him to prosecute his studies. Soon after he sent him to Murfreesboro Academy. With ardor which could scarcely be surpassed, he pressed forward in his studies, and in less than two and a half years, in the autumn of 1815, entered the sophomore class in the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill. Here he was one of the most exemplary of scholars, punctual in every exercise, never allowing himself to be absent from a recitation or a religious service.

He graduated in 1818, with the highest honors, being deemed the best scholar of his class, both in mathematics and the classics. He was then twenty-three years of age. Mr. Polk's health was at this time much impaired by the assiduity with which he had prosecuted his studies. After a short season of relaxation he went to Nashville, and entered the office of Felix Grundy, to study law. Here Mr. Polk renewed his acquaintance with Andrew Jackson, who resided on his plantation, the Hermitage, but a few miles from Nashville. They had probably been slightly acquainted before.

Mr. Polk's father was a Jeffersonian Republican and James K. Polk ever adhered to the same political faith. He was a popular public speaker, and was constantly called upon to address the meetings of his party friends. His skill as a speaker was such that he was popularly called the Napoleon of the stump. He was a man of unblemished morals, genial and

courteous in his bearing, and with that sympathetic nature in the joys and griefs of others which ever gave him troops of friends. In 1823, Mr. Polk was elected to the Legislature of Tennessee. Here he gave his strong influence towards the election of his friend, Mr. Jackson, to the Presidency of the United States.

In January, 1824, Mr. Polk married Miss Sarah Childress, of Rutherford Co., Tenn. His bride was altogether worthy of him,—a lady of beauty and culture. In the fall of 1825, Mr. Polk was chosen a member of Congress. The satisfaction which he gave to his constituents may be inferred from the fact, that for fourteen successive years, until 1839, he was continued in that office. He then voluntarily withdrew, only that he might accept the gubernatorial chair of Tennessee. In Congress he was a laborious member, a frequent and a popular speaker. He was always in his seat, always courteous; and whenever he spoke it was always to the point, and without any ambitious rhetorical display.

During five sessions of Congress, Mr. Polk was Speaker of the House. Strong passions were roused, and stormy scenes were witnessed; but Mr. Polk performed his arduous duties to a very general satisfaction, and a unanimous vote of thanks to him was passed by the House as he withdrew on the 4th of March, 1839.

In accordance with Southern usage, Mr. Polk, as a candidate for Governor, canvassed the State. He was elected by a large majority, and on the 14th of October, 1839, took the oath of office at Nashville. In 1841, his term of office expired, and he was again the candidate of the Democratic party, but was defeated.

On the 4th of March, 1845, Mr. Polk was inaugurated President of the United States. The verdict of the country in favor of the annexation of Texas, exerted its influence upon Congress; and the last act of the administration of President Tyler was to affix his signature to a joint resolution of Congress, passed on the 3d of March, approving of the annexation of Texas to the American Union. As Mexico still claimed Texas as one of her provinces, the Mexican minister, Almonte, immediately demanded his passports and left the country, declaring the act of the annexation to be an act hostile to Mexico.

In his first message, President Polk urged that Texas should immediately, by act of Congress, be received into the Union on the same footing with the other States. In the meantime, Gen. Taylor was sent

with an army into Texas to hold the country. He was sent first to Nueces, which the Mexicans said was the western boundary of Texas. Then he was sent nearly two hundred miles further west, to the Rio Grande, where he erected batteries which commanded the Mexican city of Matamoras, which was situated on the western banks.

The anticipated collision soon took place, and war was declared against Mexico by President Polk. The war was pushed forward by Mr. Polk's administration with great vigor. Gen. Taylor, whose army was first called one of "observation," then of "occupation," then of "invasion," was sent forward to Monterey. The feeble Mexicans, in every encounter, were hopelessly and awfully slaughtered. The day of judgement alone can reveal the misery which this war caused. It was by the ingenuity of Mr. Polk's administration that the war was brought on.

"To the victors belong the spoils." Mexico was prostrate before us. Her capital was in our hands. We now consented to peace upon the condition that Mexico should surrender to us, in addition to Texas, all of New Mexico, and all of Upper and Lower California. This new demand embraced, exclusive of Texas, eight hundred thousand square miles. This was an extent of territory equal to nine States of the size of New York. Thus slavery was securing eighteen majestic States to be added to the Union. There were some Americans who thought it all right: there were others who thought it all wrong. In the prosecution of this war, we expended twenty thousand lives and more than a hundred million of dollars. Of this money fifteen millions were paid to Mexico.

On the 3d of March, 1849, Mr. Polk retired from office, having served one term. The next day was Sunday. On the 5th, Gen. Taylor was inaugurated as his successor. Mr. Polk rode to the Capitol in the same carriage with Gen. Taylor; and the same evening, with Mrs. Polk, he commenced his return to Tennessee. He was then but fifty-four years of age. He had ever been strictly temperate in all his habits, and his health was good. With an ample fortune, a choice library, a cultivated mind, and domestic ties of the dearest nature, it seemed as though long years of tranquility and happiness were before him. But the cholera—that fearful scourge—was then sweeping up the Valley of the Mississippi. This he contracted, and died on the 15th of June, 1849, in the fifty-fourth year of his age, greatly mourned by his countrymen.



WE



Zachary Taylor.



## ZACHARY TAYLOR.



ZACHARY TAYLOR, twelfth President of the United States, was born on the 24th of Nov., 1784, in Orange Co., Va. His father, Colonel Taylor, was a Virginian of note, and a distinguished patriot and soldier of the Revolution. When Zachary was an infant, his father with his wife and two children, emigrated to Kentucky, where he settled in the pathless wilderness, a few miles from Louisville. In this frontier home, away from civilization and all its refinements, young Zachary

could enjoy but few social and educational advantages. When six years of age he attended a common school, and was then regarded as a bright, active boy, rather remarkable for bluntness and decision of character. He was strong, fearless and self-reliant, and manifested a strong desire to enter the army to fight the Indians who were ravaging the frontiers. There is little to be recorded of the uneventful years of his childhood on his father's large but lonely plantation.

In 1808, his father succeeded in obtaining for him the commission of lieutenant in the United States army; and he joined the troops which were stationed at New Orleans under Gen. Wilkinson. Soon after this he married Miss Margaret Smith, a young lady from one of the first families of Maryland.

Immediately after the declaration of war with England, in 1812, Capt. Taylor (for he had then been promoted to that rank) was put in command of Fort Harrison, on the Wabash, about fifty miles above Vincennes. This fort had been built in the wilderness by Gen. Harrison, on his march to Tippecanoe. It was one of the first points of attack by the Indians, led by Tecumseh. Its garrison consisted of a broken

company of infantry numbering fifty men, many of whom were sick.

Early in the autumn of 1812, the Indians, stealthily, and in large numbers, moved upon the fort. Their approach was first indicated by the murder of two soldiers just outside of the stockade. Capt. Taylor made every possible preparation to meet the anticipated assault. On the 4th of September, a band of forty painted and plumed savages came to the fort, waving a white flag, and informed Capt. Taylor that in the morning their chief would come to have a talk with him. It was evident that their object was merely to ascertain the state of things at the fort, and Capt. Taylor, well versed in the wiles of the savages, kept them at a distance.

The sun went down; the savages disappeared, the garrison slept upon their arms. One hour before midnight the war whoop burst from a thousand lips in the forest around, followed by the discharge of musketry, and the rush of the foe. Every man, sick and well, sprang to his post. Every man knew that defeat was not merely death, but in the case of capture, death by the most agonizing and prolonged torture. No pen can describe, no imagination can conceive the scenes which ensued. The savages succeeded in setting fire to one of the block-houses. Until six o'clock in the morning, this awful conflict continued. The savages then, baffled at every point, and gnashing their teeth with rage, retired. Capt. Taylor, for this gallant defence, was promoted to the rank of major by brevet.

Until the close of the war, Major Taylor was placed in such situations that he saw but little more of active service. He was sent far away into the depths of the wilderness, to Fort Crawford, on Fox River, which empties into Green Bay. Here there was but little to be done but to wear away the tedious hours as one best could. There were no books, no society, no in-

lectual stimulus. Thus with him the uneventful years rolled on. Gradually he rose to the rank of colonel. In the Black-Hawk war, which resulted in the capture of that renowned chieftain, Col Taylor took a subordinate but a brave and efficient part.

For twenty-four years Col. Taylor was engaged in the defence of the frontiers, in scenes so remote, and in employments so obscure, that his name was unknown beyond the limits of his own immediate acquaintance. In the year 1836, he was sent to Florida to compel the Seminole Indians to vacate that region and retire beyond the Mississippi, as their chiefs by treaty, had promised they should do. The services rendered were secured for Col. Taylor the high appreciation of the Government; and as a reward, he was elevated to the rank of brigadier-general by brevet; and soon after, in May, 1838, was appointed to the chief command of the United States troops in Florida.

After two years of such wearisome employment amidst the everglades of the peninsula, Gen. Taylor obtained, at his own request, a change of command, and was stationed over the Department of the Southwest. This field embraced Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. Establishing his headquarters at Fort Jessup, in Louisiana, he removed his family to a plantation which he purchased, near Baton Rouge, where he remained for five years, buried, as it were, to the world, but faithfully discharging every duty imposed upon him.

In 1846, Gen. Taylor was sent to guard the land between the Nueces and Rio Grande, the latter river being the boundary of Texas, which was then claimed by the United States. Soon the war with Mexico was brought on, and at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, Gen. Taylor won brilliant victories over the Mexicans. The rank of major-general by brevet was then conferred upon Gen. Taylor, and his name was received with enthusiasm almost everywhere in the Nation. Then came the battles of Monterey and Buena Vista in which he won signal victories over forces much larger than he commanded.

His careless habits of dress and his unaffected simplicity, secured for Gen. Taylor among his troops, the sobriquet of "Old Rough and Ready."

The tidings of the brilliant victory of Buena Vista created the wildest enthusiasm over the country. The name of Gen. Taylor was on every one's lips. The high party decided to take advantage of this wonderful popularity in bringing forward the unpolished, untried, honest soldier as their candidate for the presidency. Gen. Taylor was astonished at the announcement, and for a time would not listen to it; deeming that he was not at all qualified for such an office. So little interest had he taken in politics that, for forty years, he had not cast a vote. It was not without chagrin that several distinguished statesmen who had been long years in the public service found their claims set aside in behalf of one whose name

had never been heard of, save in connection with Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Monterey and Buena Vista. It is said that Daniel Webster, in his haste remarked, "It is a nomination not fit to be made."

Gen. Taylor was not an eloquent speaker nor a fine writer. His friends took possession of him, and prepared such few communications as it was needful should be presented to the public. The popularity of the successful warrior swept the land. He was triumphantly elected over two opposing candidates,—Gen. Cass and Ex-President Martin Van Buren. Though he selected an excellent cabinet, the good old man found himself in a very uncongenial position, and was, at times, sorely perplexed and harassed. His mental sufferings were very severe, and probably tended to hasten his death. The pro-slavery party was pushing its claims with tireless energy, expeditions were fitting out to capture Cuba; California was pleading for admission to the Union, while slavery stood at the door to bar her out. Gen. Taylor found the political conflicts in Washington to be far more trying to the nerves than battles with Mexicans or Indians.

In the midst of all these troubles, Gen. Taylor, after he had occupied the Presidential chair but little over a year, took cold, and after a brief sickness of but little over five days, died on the 9th of July, 1850. His last words were, "I am not afraid to die. I am ready. I have endeavored to do my duty." He died universally respected and beloved. An honest, unpretending man, he had been steadily growing in the affections of the people; and the Nation bitterly lamented his death.

Gen. Scott, who was thoroughly acquainted with Gen. Taylor, gave the following graphic and truthful description of his character:—"With a good store of common sense, Gen. Taylor's mind had not been enlarged and refreshed by reading, or much converse with the world. Rigidity of ideas was the consequence. The frontiers and small military posts had been his home. Hence he was quite ignorant for his rank, and quite bigoted in his ignorance. His simplicity was child-like, and with innumerable prejudices, amusing and incorrigible, well suited to the tender age. Thus, if a man, however respectable, chanced to wear a coat of an unusual color, or his hat a little on one side of his head; or an officer to leave a corner of his handkerchief dangling from an outside pocket,—in any such case, this critic held the offender to be a cockcomb (perhaps something worse), whom he would not, to use his oft repeated phrase, 'touch with a pair of tongs.'

"Any allusion to literature beyond good old Dilworth's spelling-book, on the part of one wearing a sword, was evidence, with the same judge, of utter unfitness for heavy marchings and combats. In short few men have ever had a more comfortable, <sup>happy</sup> saving contempt for learning of every kind."

THE LITTLE


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*Millard Fillmore*



## MILLARD FILLMORE.



MILLARD FILLMORE, thirteenth President of the United States, was born at Summer Hill, Cayuga Co., N. Y., on the 7th of January, 1800. His father was a farmer, and owing to misfortune, in humble circumstances. Of his mother, the daughter of Dr. Abiathar Millard, of Pittsfield, Mass., it has been said that she possessed an intellect of very high order, united with much personal loveliness, sweetness of disposition, graceful manners and exquisite sensibilities. She died in 1831; having lived to see her son a young man of distinguished promise,

though she was not permitted to witness the high dignity which he finally attained.

In consequence of the secluded home and limited means of his father, Millard enjoyed but slender advantages for education in his early years. The common schools, which he occasionally attended were very imperfect institutions; and books were scarce and expensive. There was nothing then in his character to indicate the brilliant career upon which he was about to enter. He was a plain farmer's boy; intelligent, good-looking, kind-hearted. The sacred influences of home had taught him to revere the Bible, and had laid the foundations of an upright character. When fourteen years of age, his father sent him some hundred miles from home, to the then wilds of Livingston County, to learn the trade of a clothier. Near the mill there was a small village, where some

enterprising man had commenced the collection of a village library. This proved an inestimable blessing to young Fillmore. His evenings were spent in reading. Soon every leisure moment was occupied with books. His thirst for knowledge became insatiate and the selections which he made were continually more elevating and instructive. He read history, biography, oratory, and thus gradually there was kindled in his heart a desire to be something more than a mere worker with his hands; and he was becoming, almost unknown to himself, a well-informed, educated man.

The young clothier had now attained the age of nineteen years, and was of fine personal appearance and of gentlemanly demeanor. It so happened that there was a gentleman in the neighborhood of ample pecuniary means and of benevolence,—Judge Walter Wood,—who was struck with the prepossessing appearance of young Fillmore. He made his acquaintance, and was so much impressed with his ability and attainments that he advised him to abandon his trade and devote himself to the study of the law. The young man replied, that he had no means of his own, no friends to help him and that his previous education had been very imperfect. But Judge Wood had so much confidence in him that he kindly offered to take him into his own office, and to loan him such money as he needed. Most gratefully the generous offer was accepted.

There is in many minds a strange delusion about a collegiate education. A young man is supposed to be liberally educated if he has graduated at some college. But many a boy loiters through university halls and then enters a law office, who is by no means as

well prepared to prosecute his legal studies as was Millard Fillmore when he graduated at the clothing-mill at the end of four years of manual labor, during which every leisure moment had been devoted to intense mental culture.

In 1823, when twenty-three years of age, he was admitted to the Court of Common Pleas. He then went to the village of Aurora, and commenced the practice of law. In this secluded, peaceful region, his practice of course was limited, and there was no opportunity for a sudden rise in fortune or in fame. Here, in the year 1826, he married a lady of great moral worth, and one capable of adorning any station she might be called to fill,—Miss Abigail Powers.

His elevation of character, his untiring industry, his legal acquirements, and his skill as an advocate, gradually attracted attention; and he was invited to enter into partnership under highly advantageous circumstances, with an elder member of the bar in Buffalo. Just before removing to Buffalo, in 1829, he took his seat in the House of Assembly, of the State of New York, as a representative from Erie County. Though he had never taken a very active part in politics, his vote and his sympathies were with the Whig party. The State was then Democratic, and he found himself in a helpless minority in the Legislature, still the testimony comes from all parties, that his courtesy, ability and integrity, won, to a very unusual degree the respect of his associates.

In the autumn of 1832, he was elected to a seat in the United States Congress. He entered that troubled arena in some of the most tumultuous hours of our national history. The great conflict respecting the national bank and the removal of the deposits, was then raging.

His term of two years closed; and he returned to his profession, which he pursued with increasing reputation and success. After a lapse of two years he again became a candidate for Congress; was re-elected, and took his seat in 1837. His past experience as a representative gave him strength and confidence. The first term of service in Congress to any man can be but little more than an introduction. He was now prepared for active duty. All his energies were brought to bear upon the public good. Every measure received his impress.

Mr. Fillmore was now a man of wide repute, and his popularity filled the State, and in the year 1847, he was elected Comptroller of the State.

Mr. Fillmore had attained the age of forty-seven years. His labors at the bar, in the Legislature, in Congress and as Comptroller, had given him very considerable fame. The Whigs were casting about to find suitable candidates for President and Vice-President at the approaching election. Far away, on the waters of the Rio Grande, there was a rough old soldier, who had fought one or two successful battles with the Mexicans, which had caused his name to be proclaimed in trumpet-tones all over the land. But it was necessary to associate with him on the same ticket some man of reputation as a statesman.

Under the influence of these considerations, the names of Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore became the rallying-cry of the Whigs, as their candidates for President and Vice-President. The Whig ticket was signally triumphant. On the 4th of March, 1849, Gen. Taylor was inaugurated President, and Millard Fillmore Vice-President, of the United States.

On the 9th of July, 1850, President Taylor, but about one year and four months after his inauguration, was suddenly taken sick and died. By the Constitution, Vice-President Fillmore thus became President. He appointed a very able cabinet, of which the illustrious Daniel Webster was Secretary of State.

Mr. Fillmore had very serious difficulties to contend with, since the opposition had a majority in both Houses. He did everything in his power to conciliate the South; but the pro-slavery party in the South felt the inadequacy of all measures of transient conciliation. The population of the free States was so rapidly increasing over that of the slave States that it was inevitable that the power of the Government should soon pass into the hands of the free States. The famous compromise measures were adopted under Mr. Fillmore's administration, and the Japan Expedition was sent out. On the 4th of March, 1853, Mr. Fillmore, having served one term, retired.

In 1856, Mr. Fillmore was nominated for the Presidency by the "Know Nothing" party, but was beaten by Mr. Buchanan. After that Mr. Fillmore lived in retirement. During the terrible conflict of civil war, he was mostly silent. It was generally supposed that his sympathies were rather with those who were endeavoring to overthrow our institutions. President Fillmore kept aloof from the conflict, without any cordial words of cheer to the one party or the other. He was thus forgotten by both. He lived to a ripe old age, and died in Buffalo, N. Y., March 8, 1874.



1986



*Franklin Pierce*



## FRANKLIN PIERCE.



FRANKLIN PIERCE, the fourteenth President of the United States, was born in Hillsborough, N. H., Nov. 23, 1804. His father was a Revolutionary soldier, who, with his own strong arm, hewed out a home in the wilderness. He was a man of inflexible integrity; of strong, though uncultivated mind, and an uncompromising Democrat. The mother of Franklin Pierce was all that a son could desire,—an intelligent, prudent, affectionate, Christian wom-

an. Franklin was the sixth of eight children.

Franklin was a very bright and handsome boy, generous, warm-hearted and brave. He won alike the love of old and young. The boys on the play ground loved him. His teachers loved him. The neighbors looked upon him with pride and affection. He was by instinct a gentleman; always speaking kind words, doing kind deeds, with a peculiar unstudied tact which taught him what was agreeable. Without developing any precocity of genius, or any unnatural devotion to books, he was a good scholar; in body, in mind, in affections, a finely-developed boy.

When sixteen years of age, in the year 1820, he entered Bowdoin College, at Brunswick, Me. He was one of the most popular young men in the college. The purity of his moral character, the unvarying courtesy of his demeanor, his rank as a scholar, and

genial nature, rendered him a universal favorite. There was something very peculiarly winning in his address, and it was evidently not in the slightest degree studied: it was the simple outgushing of his own magnanimous and loving nature.

Upon graduating, in the year 1824, Franklin Pierce commenced the study of law in the office of Judge Woodbury, one of the most distinguished lawyers of the State, and a man of great private worth. The eminent social qualities of the young lawyer, his father's prominence as a public man, and the brilliant political career into which Judge Woodbury was entering, all tended to entice Mr. Pierce into the fascinating yet perilous path of political life. With all the ardor of his nature he espoused the cause of Gen. Jackson for the Presidency. He commenced the practice of law in Hillsborough, and was soon elected to represent the town in the State Legislature. Here he served for four years. The last two years he was chosen speaker of the house by a very large vote.

In 1833, at the age of twenty-nine, he was elected a member of Congress. Without taking an active part in debates, he was faithful and laborious in duty and ever rising in the estimation of those with whom he was associated.

In 1837, being then but thirty-three years of age, he was elected to the Senate of the United States; taking his seat just as Mr. Van Buren commenced his administration. He was the youngest member in the Senate. In the year 1834, he married Miss Jane Means Appleton, a lady of rare beauty and accomplishments, and one admirably fitted to adorn every station with which her husband was honored. Of the

three sons who were born to them, all now sleep with their parents in the grave.

In the year 1838, Mr. Pierce, with growing fame and increasing business as a lawyer, took up his residence in Concord, the capital of New Hampshire. President Polk, upon his accession to office, appointed Mr. Pierce attorney-general of the United States; but the offer was declined, in consequence of numerous professional engagements at home, and the precarious state of Mrs. Pierce's health. He also, about the same time declined the nomination for governor by the Democratic party. The war with Mexico called Mr. Pierce in the army. Receiving the appointment of brigadier-general, he embarked, with a portion of his troops, at Newport, R. I., on the 27th of May, 1847. He took an important part in this war, proving himself a brave and true soldier.

When Gen. Pierce reached his home in his native State, he was received enthusiastically by the advocates of the Mexican war, and coldly by his opponents. He resumed the practice of his profession, very frequently taking an active part in political questions, giving his cordial support to the pro-slavery wing of the Democratic party. The compromise measures met cordially with his approval; and he strenuously advocated the enforcement of the infamous fugitive-slave law, which so shocked the religious sensibilities of the North. He thus became distinguished as a "Northern man with Southern principles." The strong partisans of slavery in the South consequently regarded him as a man whom they could safely trust in office to carry out their plans.

On the 12th of June, 1852, the Democratic convention met in Baltimore to nominate a candidate for the Presidency. For four days they continued in session, and in thirty-five ballotings no one had obtained a two-thirds vote. Not a vote thus far had been thrown for Gen. Pierce. Then the Virginia delegation brought forward his name. There were fourteen more ballotings, during which Gen. Pierce constantly gained strength, until, at the forty-ninth ballot, he received two hundred and eighty-two votes, and all other candidates eleven. Gen. Winfield Scott was the Whig candidate. Gen. Pierce was chosen with great unanimity. Only four States—Vermont, Massachusetts, Kentucky and Tennessee—cast their electoral votes against him. Gen. Franklin Pierce was therefore inaugurated President of the United States on the 4th of March, 1853.

His administration proved one of the most stormy our country had ever experienced. The controversy between slavery and freedom was then approaching its culminating point. It became evident that there was an "irrepressible conflict" between them, and that this Nation could not long exist "half slave and half free." President Pierce, during the whole of his administration, did every thing he could to conciliate the South; but it was all in vain. The conflict every year grew more violent, and threats of the dissolution of the Union were borne to the North on every Southern breeze.

Such was the condition of affairs when President Pierce approached the close of his four-years' term of office. The North had become thoroughly alienated from him. The anti-slavery sentiment, goaded by great outrages, had been rapidly increasing; all the intellectual ability and social worth of President Pierce were forgotten in deep reprehension of his administrative acts. The slaveholders of the South, also, unmindful of the fidelity with which he had advocated those measures of Government which they approved, and perhaps, also, feeling that he had rendered himself so unpopular as no longer to be able acceptably to serve them, ungratefully dropped him, and nominated James Buchanan to succeed him.

On the 4th of March, 1857, President Pierce retired to his home in Concord. Of three children, two had died, and his only surviving child had been killed before his eyes by a railroad accident; and his wife, one of the most estimable and accomplished of ladies, was rapidly sinking in consumption. The hour of dreadful gloom soon came, and he was left alone in the world, without wife or child.

When the terrible Rebellion burst forth, which divided our country into two parties, and two only, Mr. Pierce remained steadfast in the principles which he had always cherished, and gave his sympathies to that pro-slavery party with which he had ever been allied. He declined to do anything, either by voice or pen, to strengthen the hand of the National Government. He continued to reside in Concord until the time of his death, which occurred in October, 1869. He was one of the most genial and social of men, an honored communicant of the Episcopal Church, and one of the kindest of neighbors. Generous to a fault, he contributed liberally for the alleviation of suffering and want, and many of his towns people were often gladdened by his material bounty

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*James Buchanan*



# JAMES BUCHANAN.

**J**AMES BUCHANAN, the fifteenth President of the United States, was born in a small frontier town, at the foot of the eastern ridge of the Alleghenies, in Franklin Co., Penn., on the 23d of April, 1791. The place where the humble cabin of his father stood was called Stony Batter. It was a wild and romantic spot in a gorge of the mountains, with towering summits rising grandly all around. His father was a native of the north of Ireland; a poor man, who had emigrated in 1783, with little property save his

own strong arms. Five years afterwards he married Elizabeth Spear, the daughter of a respectable farmer, and, with his young bride, plunged into the wilderness, staked his claim, reared his log-hut, opened a clearing with his axe, and settled down there to perform his obscure part in the drama of life. In this secluded home, where James was born, he remained for eight years, enjoying but few social or intellectual advantages. When James was eight years of age, his father removed to the village of Mercersburg, where his son was placed at school, and commenced a course of study in English, Latin and Greek. His progress was rapid, and at the age of fourteen, he entered Dickinson College, at Carlisle. Here he developed remarkable talent, and took his stand among the first scholars in the institution. His application to study was intense, and yet his native powers en-

abled him to master the most abstruse subjects with facility.

In the year 1809, he graduated with the highest honors of his class. He was then eighteen years of age; tall and graceful, vigorous in health, fond of athletic sport, an unerring shot, and enlivened with an exuberant flow of animal spirits. He immediately commenced the study of law in the city of Lancaster, and was admitted to the bar in 1812, when he was but twenty-one years of age. Very rapidly he rose in his profession, and at once took undisputed stand with the ablest lawyers of the State. When but twenty-six years of age, unaided by counsel, he successfully defended before the State Senate one of the judges of the State, who was tried upon articles of impeachment. At the age of thirty it was generally admitted that he stood at the head of the bar; and there was no lawyer in the State who had a more lucrative practice.

In 1820, he reluctantly consented to run as a candidate for Congress. He was elected, and for ten years he remained a member of the Lower House. During the vacations of Congress, he occasionally tried some important case. In 1831, he retired altogether from the toils of his profession, having acquired an ample fortune.

Gen. Jackson, upon his elevation to the Presidency, appointed Mr. Buchanan minister to Russia. The duties of his mission he performed with ability, which gave satisfaction to all parties. Upon his return, in 1833, he was elected to a seat in the United States Senate. He there met, as his associates, Webster, Clay, Wright and Calhoun. He advocated the measures proposed by President Jackson, of making retri-

sals against France, to enforce the payment of our claims against that country; and defended the course of the President in his unprecedented and wholesale removal from office of those who were not the supporters of his administration. Upon this question he was brought into direct collision with Henry Clay. He also, with voice and vote, advocated expunging from the journal of the Senate the vote of censure against Gen. Jackson for removing the deposits. Earnestly he opposed the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and urged the prohibition of the circulation of anti-slavery documents by the United States mails.

As to petitions on the subject of slavery, he advocated that they should be respectfully received; and that the reply should be returned, that Congress had no power to legislate upon the subject. "Congress," said he, "might as well undertake to interfere with slavery under a foreign government as in any of the States where it now exists."

Upon Mr. Polk's accession to the Presidency, Mr. Buchanan became Secretary of State, and as such, took his share of the responsibility in the conduct of the Mexican War. Mr. Polk assumed that crossing the Nueces by the American troops into the disputed territory was not wrong, but for the Mexicans to cross the Rio Grande into that territory was a declaration of war. No candid man can read with pleasure the account of the course our Government pursued in that movement.

Mr. Buchanan identified himself thoroughly with the party devoted to the perpetuation and extension of slavery, and brought all the energies of his mind to bear against the Wilmot Proviso. He gave his cordial approval to the compromise measures of 1850, which included the fugitive-slave law. Mr. Pierce, upon his election to the Presidency, honored Mr. Buchanan with the mission to England.

In the year 1856, a national Democratic convention nominated Mr. Buchanan for the Presidency. The political conflict was one of the most severe in which our country has ever engaged. All the friends of slavery were on one side; all the advocates of its restriction and final abolition, on the other. Mr. Fremont, the candidate of the enemies of slavery, received 114 electoral votes. Mr. Buchanan received 174, and was elected. The popular vote stood 1,340,618, for Fremont, 1,224,750 for Buchanan. On March 4th, 1857, Mr. Buchanan was inaugurated.

Mr. Buchanan was far advanced in life. Only four years were wanting to fill up his threescore years and ten. His own friends, those with whom he had been allied in political principles and action for years, were seeking the destruction of the Government, that they might rear upon the ruins of our free institutions a nation whose corner-stone should be human slavery. In this emergency, Mr. Buchanan was hopelessly bewildered. He could not, with his long-avowed prin-

ciples, consistently oppose the State-rights party their assumptions. As President of the United States bound by his oath faithfully to administer the law he could not, without perjury of the grossest kind unite with those endeavoring to overthrow the republic. He therefore did nothing.

The opponents of Mr. Buchanan's administration nominated Abraham Lincoln as their standard bearer in the next Presidential canvass. The pro-slavery party declared, that if he were elected, and the control of the Government were thus taken from their hands, they would secede from the Union, taking with them, as they retired, the National Capitol at Washington, and the lion's share of the territory of the United States.

Mr. Buchanan's sympathy with the pro-slavery party was such, that he had been willing to offer the South far more than they had ventured to claim. All the South had professed to ask of the North was no intervention upon the subject of slavery. Mr. Buchanan had been ready to offer them the active cooperation of the Government to defend and extend the institution.

As the storm increased in violence, the slaveholders claiming the right to secede, and Mr. Buchanan avowing that Congress had no power to prevent it, one of the most pitiable exhibitions of governmental imbecility was exhibited the world has ever seen. He declared that Congress had no power to enforce its laws in any State which had withdrawn, or which was attempting to withdraw from the Union. This was not the doctrine of Andrew Jackson, when, with his hand upon his sword-hilt, he exclaimed, "The Union must and shall be preserved!"

South Carolina seceded in December, 1860; near three months before the inauguration of President Lincoln. Mr. Buchanan looked on in listless despair. The rebel flag was raised in Charleston; Fort Sumter was besieged; our forts, navy-yards and arsenals were seized; our depots of military stores were plundered; and our custom-houses and post-offices were appropriated by the rebels.

The energy of the rebels, and the imbecility of our Executive, were alike marvelous. The Nation looked on in agony, waiting for the slow weeks to glide away and close the administration, so terrible in its weakness. At length the long-looked-for hour of deliverance came, when Abraham Lincoln was to receive the scepter.

The administration of President Buchanan was certainly the most calamitous our country has experienced. His best friends cannot recall it with pleasure. And still more deplorable it is for his far that in that dreadful conflict which rolled its billows of flame and blood over our whole land, no word came from his lips to indicate his wish that our country banner should triumph over the flag of the rebellion. He died at his Wheatland retreat, June 1, 1868.



THE UNITED

STATES OF AMERICA



Your friend & ever

A. Lincoln

ABRAHAM

LINCOLN.



**A**BRAM LINCOLN, the sixteenth President of the United States, was born in Hardin Co., Ky., Feb. 12, 1809. About the year 1780, a man by the name of Abraham Lincoln left Virginia with his family and moved into the then wilds of Kentucky. Only two years after this emigration, still a young man, while working one day in a field, was stealthily approached by an Indian and shot dead. His widow was left in extreme poverty with five little children, three boys and two girls. Thomas, the youngest of the boys, was four years of age at his father's death. This Thomas was the father of Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States

whose name must henceforth forever be enrolled with the most prominent in the annals of our world.

Of course no record has been kept of the life of one so lowly as Thomas Lincoln. He was among the poorest of the poor. His home was a wretched log-cabin; his food the coarsest and the meanest. Education he had none; he could never either read or write. As soon as he was able to do anything for himself, he was compelled to leave the cabin of his carving mother, and push out into the world, a friendless, wandering boy, seeking work. He hired himself out, and thus spent the whole of his youth as a laborer in the fields of others.

When twenty-eight years of age he built a log-cabin of his own, and married Nancy Hanks, the daughter of another family of poor Kentucky emigrants, who had also come from Virginia. Their second child was Abraham Lincoln, the subject of this sketch. The mother of Abraham was a noble woman, gentle, loving, pensive, created to adorn a palace, doomed to toil and pine, and die in a hovel. All that I am, or hope to be," exclaims the grateful son "I owe to my angel-mother."

When he was eight years of age, his father sold his

cabin and small farm, and moved to Indiana. Where two years later his mother died.

Abraham soon became the scribe of the uneducated community around him. He could not have had a better school than this to teach him to put thoughts into words. He also became an eager reader. The books he could obtain were few; but these he read and re-read until they were almost committed to memory.

As the years rolled on, the lot of this lowly family was the usual lot of humanity. There were joys and griefs, weddings and funerals. Abraham's sister Sarah, to whom he was tenderly attached, was married when a child of but fourteen years of age, and soon died. The family was gradually scattered. Mr Thomas Lincoln sold out his squatter's claim in 1830 and emigrated to Macon Co., Ill.

Abraham Lincoln was then twenty-one years of age. With vigorous hands he aided his father in rearing another log-cabin. Abraham worked diligently at this until he saw the family comfortably settled, and their small lot of enclosed prairie planted with corn, when he announced to his father his intention to leave home, and to go out into the world and seek his fortune. Little did he or his friends imagine how brilliant that fortune was to be. He saw the value of education and was intensely earnest to improve his mind to the utmost of his power. He saw the ruin which ardent spirits were causing, and became strictly temperate; refusing to allow a drop of intoxicating liquor to pass his lips. And he had read in God's word, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain;" and a profane expression he was never heard to utter. Religion he revered. His morals were pure, and he was uncontaminated by a single vice.

Young Abraham worked for a time as a hired laborer among the farmers. Then he went to Springfield, where he was employed in building a large flat-boat. In this he took a herd of swine, floated them down the Sangamon to the Illinois, and thence by the Mississippi to New Orleans. Whatever Abraham Lincoln undertook, he performed so faithfully as to give great satisfaction to his employers. In this adven

ture his employers were so well pleased, that upon his return they placed a store and mill under his care.

In 1832, at the outbreak of the Black Hawk war, he enlisted and was chosen captain of a company. He returned to Sangamon County, and although only 23 years of age, was a candidate for the Legislature, but was defeated. He soon after received from Andrew Jackson the appointment of Postmaster of New Salem, His only post-office was his hat. All the letters he received he carried there ready to deliver to those he chanced to meet. He studied surveying, and soon made this his business. In 1834 he again became a candidate for the Legislature, and was elected. Mr. Stuart, of Springfield, advised him to study law. He walked from New Salem to Springfield, borrowed of Mr. Stuart a load of books, carried them back and began his legal studies. When the Legislature assembled he trudged on foot with his pack on his back one hundred miles to Vandalia, then the capital. In 1836 he was re-elected to the Legislature. Here it was he first met Stephen A. Douglas. In 1839 he removed to Springfield and began the practice of law. His success with the jury was so great that he was soon engaged in almost every noted case in the circuit.

In 1854 the great discussion began between Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas, on the slavery question. In the organization of the Republican party in Illinois, in 1856, he took an active part, and at once became one of the leaders in that party. Mr. Lincoln's speeches in opposition to Senator Douglas in the contest in 1858 for a seat in the Senate, form a most notable part of his history. The issue was on the slavery question, and he took the broad ground of the Declaration of Independence, that all men are created equal. Mr. Lincoln was defeated in this contest, but won a far higher prize.

The great Republican Convention met at Chicago on the 16th of June, 1860. The delegates and strangers who crowded the city amounted to twenty-five thousand. An immense building called "The Wigwam," was reared to accommodate the Convention. There were eleven candidates for whom votes were thrown. William H. Seward, a man whose fame as a statesman had long filled the land, was the most prominent. It was generally supposed he would be the nominee. Abraham Lincoln, however, received the nomination on the third ballot. Little did he then dream of the weary years of toil and care, and the bloody death, to which that nomination doomed him: and as little did he dream that he was to render services to his country, which would fix upon him the eyes of the whole civilized world, and which would give him a place in the affections of his countrymen, second only, if second, to that of Washington.

Election day came and Mr. Lincoln received 180 electoral votes out of 203 cast, and was, therefore, constitutionally elected President of the United States. The tirade of abuse that was poured upon this good

and merciful man, especially by the slaveholders, was greater than upon any other man ever elected to this high position. In February, 1861, Mr. Lincoln started for Washington, stopping in all the large cities on his way making speeches. The whole journey was fraught with much danger. Many of the Southern States had already seceded, and several attempts at assassination were afterwards brought to light. A gang in Baltimore had arranged, upon his arrival to "get up a row," and in the confusion to make sure of his death with revolvers and hand-grenades. A detective unravelled the plot. A secret and special train was provided to take him from Harrisburg, through Baltimore, at an unexpected hour of the night. The train started at half-past ten; and to prevent any possible communication on the part of the Secessionists with their Confederate gang in Baltimore, as soon as the train had started the telegraph-wires were cut. Mr. Lincoln reached Washington in safety and was inaugurated, although great anxiety was felt by all loyal people.

In the selection of his cabinet Mr. Lincoln gave to Mr. Seward the Department of State, and to other prominent opponents before the convention he gave important positions.

During no other administration have the duties devolving upon the President been so manifold, and the responsibilities so great, as those which fell to the lot of President Lincoln. Knowing this, and feeling his own weakness and inability to meet, and in his own strength to cope with, the difficulties, he learned early to seek Divine wisdom and guidance in determining his plans, and Divine comfort in all his trials, both personal and national. Contrary to his own estimate of himself, Mr. Lincoln was one of the most courageous of men. He went directly into the rebel capital just as the retreating foe was leaving, with no guard but a few sailors. From the time he had left Springfield, in 1861, however, plans had been made for his assassination, and he at last fell a victim to one of them. April 14, 1865, he, with Gen. Grant was urgently invited to attend Ford's Theater. It was announced that they would be present. Gen. Grant, however, left the city. President Lincoln, feeling, with his characteristic kindness of heart, that it would be a disappointment if he should fail them, very reluctantly consented to go. While listening to the play an actor by the name of John Wilkes Booth entered the box where the President and family were seated, and fired a bullet into his brains. He died the next morning at seven o'clock.

Never before, in the history of the world was a nation plunged into such deep grief by the death of its ruler. Strong men met in the streets and wept in speechless anguish. It is not too much to say that a nation was in tears. His was a life which will fitly become a model. His name as the savior of his country will live with that of Washington's, its father; his countrymen being unable to decide which is the greater.


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*Andrew Johnson*



## ANDREW JOHNSON.



ANDREW JOHNSON, seventeenth President of the United States. The early life of Andrew Johnson contains but the record of poverty, destitution and friendlessness. He was born December 29, 1808, in Raleigh, N. C. His parents, belonging to the class of the "poor whites" of the South, were in such circumstances, that they could not confer upon the slightest advantages of education upon their child. When Andrew was five years of age, his father accidentally

lost his life while heroically endeavoring to save a friend from drowning. Until ten years of age, Andrew was a ragged boy about the streets, supported by the labor of his mother, who obtained her living with her own hands.

He then, having never attended a school one day, and being unable either to read or write, was apprenticed to a tailor in his native town. A gentleman was in the habit of going to the tailor's shop occasionally, and reading to the boys at work there. He often read from the speeches of distinguished British statesmen. Andrew, who was endowed with a mind of more than ordinary native ability, became much interested in these speeches; his ambition was roused, and he was inspired with a strong desire to learn to read.

He accordingly applied himself to the alphabet, and with the assistance of some of his fellow-workmen, learned his letters. He then called upon the gentleman to borrow the book of speeches. The owner,

pleased with his zeal, not only gave him the book but assisted him in learning to combine the letters into words. Under such difficulties he pressed onward laboriously, spending usually ten or twelve hours at work in the shop, and then robbing himself of rest and recreation to devote such time as he could to reading.

He went to Tennessee in 1826, and located at Greenville, where he married a young lady who possessed some education. Under her instructions he learned to write and cipher. He became prominent in the village debating society, and a favorite with the students of Greenville College. In 1828, he organized a working man's party, which elected him alderman, and in 1830 elected him mayor, which position he held three years.

He now began to take a lively interest in political affairs; identifying himself with the working-classes, to which he belonged. In 1835, he was elected a member of the House of Representatives of Tennessee. He was then just twenty-seven years of age. He became a very active member of the legislature gave his adhesion to the Democratic party, and in 1840 "stumped the State," advocating Martin Van Buren's claims to the Presidency, in opposition to those of Gen. Harrison. In this campaign he acquired much readiness as a speaker, and extended and increased his reputation.

In 1841, he was elected State Senator; in 1843, he was elected a member of Congress, and by successive elections, held that important post for ten years. In 1853, he was elected Governor of Tennessee, and was re-elected in 1855. In all these responsible positions, he discharged his duties with distinguished abi-

ity, and proved himself the warm friend of the working classes. In 1857, Mr. Johnson was elected United States Senator.

Years before, in 1845, he had warmly advocated the annexation of Texas, stating however, as his reason, that he thought this annexation would probably prove "to be the gateway out of which the sable sons of Africa are to pass from bondage to freedom, and become merged in a population congenial to themselves." In 1850, he also supported the compromise measures, the two essential features of which were, that the white people of the Territories should be permitted to decide for themselves whether they would enslave the colored people or not, and that the free States of the North should return to the South persons who attempted to escape from slavery.

Mr. Johnson was never ashamed of his lowly origin: on the contrary, he often took pride in avowing that he owed his distinction to his own exertions. "Sir," said he on the floor of the Senate, "I do not forget that I am a mechanic; neither do I forget that Adam was a tailor and sewed fig-leaves, and that our Savior was the son of a carpenter."

In the Charleston-Baltimore convention of 1860, he was the choice of the Tennessee Democrats for the Presidency. In 1861, when the purpose of the Southern Democracy became apparent, he took a decided stand in favor of the Union, and held that "slavery must be held subordinate to the Union at whatever cost." He returned to Tennessee, and repeatedly imperiled his own life to protect the Unionists of Tennessee. Tennessee having seceded from the Union, President Lincoln, on March 4th, 1862, appointed him Military Governor of the State, and he established the most stringent military rule. His numerous proclamations attracted wide attention. In 1864, he was elected Vice-President of the United States, and upon the death of Mr. Lincoln, April 15, 1865, became President. In a speech two days later he said, "The American people must be taught, if they do not already feel, that treason is a crime and must be punished; that the Government will not always bear with its enemies; that it is strong not only to protect, but to punish. \* \* The people must understand that it (treason) is the blackest of crimes, and will surely be punished." Yet his whole administration, the history of which is so well known, was in utter inconsistency with, and the most violent

opposition to, the principles laid down in that speech.

In his loose policy of reconstruction and general amnesty, he was opposed by Congress; and he characterized Congress as a new rebellion, and lawlessly defied it, in everything possible, to the utmost. In the beginning of 1868, on account of "high crimes and misdemeanors," the principal of which was the removal of Secretary Stanton, in violation of the Tenure of Office Act, articles of impeachment were preferred against him, and the trial began March 23.

It was very tedious, continuing for nearly three months. A test article of the impeachment was at length submitted to the court for its action. It was certain that as the court voted upon that article so would it vote upon all. Thirty-four voices pronounced the President guilty. As a two-thirds vote was necessary to his condemnation, he was pronounced acquitted, notwithstanding the great majority against him. The change of one vote from the *not guilty* side would have sustained the impeachment.

The President, for the remainder of his term, was but little regarded. He continued, though impotent, his conflict with Congress. His own party did not think it expedient to renominate him for the Presidency. The Nation rallied, with enthusiasm unparalleled since the days of Washington, around the name of Gen. Grant. Andrew Johnson was forgotten. The bullet of the assassin introduced him to the President's chair. Notwithstanding this, never was there presented to a man a better opportunity to immortalize his name, and to win the gratitude of a nation. He failed utterly. He retired to his home in Greenville, Tenn., taking no very active part in politics until 1875. On Jan. 26, after an exciting struggle, he was chosen by the Legislature of Tennessee, United States Senator in the forty-fourth Congress, and took his seat in that body, at the special session convened by President Grant, on the 5th of March. On the 27th of July, 1875, the ex-President made a visit to his daughter's home, near Carter Station, Tenn. When he started on his journey, he was apparently in his usual vigorous health, but on reaching the residence of his child the following day, was stricken with paralysis, rendering him unconscious. He rallied occasionally, but finally passed away at 2 A. M., July 31, aged sixty-seven years. His funeral was attended at Greenville, on the 3d of August, with every demonstration of respect.



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*U. S. Grant*



## ULYSSES S. GRANT.



ULYSSES S. GRANT, the eighteenth President of the United States, was born on the 29th of April, 1822, of Christian parents, in a humble home, at Point Pleasant, on the banks of the Ohio. Shortly after his father moved to Georgetown, Brown Co., O. In this remote frontier hamlet, Ulysses received a common-school education. At the age of seventeen, in the year 1839, he entered the Military Academy at West Point. Here he was regarded as a

solid, sensible young man of fair abilities, and of sturdy, honest character. He took respectable rank as a scholar. In June, 1843, he graduated, about the middle in his class, and was sent as lieutenant of infantry to one of the distant military posts in the Missouri Territory. Two years he past in these dreary solitudes, watching the vagabond and exasperating Indians.

The war with Mexico came. Lieut. Grant was sent with his regiment to Corpus Christi. His first battle was at Palo Alto. There was no chance here for the exhibition of either skill or heroism, nor at Resaca de la Palma, his second battle. At the battle of Monterey, his third engagement, it is said that he performed a signal service of daring and skillful horsemanship. His brigade had exhausted its ammunition. A messenger must be sent for more, along a route exposed to the bullets of the foe. Lieut. Grant, adopting an expedient learned of the Indians, grasped the mane of his horse, and hanging upon one side of the animal, ran the gauntlet in entire safety.

From Monterey he was sent, with the fourth infantry, to aid Gen. Scott, at the siege of Vera Cruz. In preparation for the march to the city of Mexico, he was appointed quartermaster of his regiment. At the battle of Molino del Rey, he was promoted to a first lieutenantcy, and was brevetted captain at Chalultepec.

At the close of the Mexican War, Capt. Grant returned with his regiment to New York, and was again sent to one of the military posts on the frontier. The discovery of gold in California causing an immense tide of emigration to flow to the Pacific shores, Capt. Grant was sent with a battalion to Fort Dallas, in Oregon, for the protection of the interests of the immigrants. Life was wearisome in those wilds. Capt. Grant resigned his commission and returned to the States; and having married, entered upon the cultivation of a small farm near St. Louis, Mo. He had but little skill as a farmer. Finding his toil not remunerative, he turned to mercantile life, entering into the leather business, with a younger brother, at Galena, Ill. This was in the year 1860. As the tidings of the rebels firing on Fort Sumpter reached the ears of Capt. Grant in his counting-room, he said,—“Uncle Sam has educated me for the army: though I have served him through one war, I do not feel that I have yet repaid the debt. I am still ready to discharge my obligations. I shall therefore buckle on my sword and see Uncle Sam through this war too.”

He went into the streets, raised a company of volunteers, and led them as their captain to Springfield, the capital of the State, where their services were offered to Gov. Yates. The Governor, impressed by the zeal and straightforward executive ability of Capt. Grant, gave him a desk in his office, to assist in the volunteer organization that was being formed in the State in behalf of the Government. On the 15th of

June, 1861, Capt. Grant received a commission as Colonel of the Twenty-first Regiment of Illinois Volunteers. His merits as a West Point graduate, who had served for 15 years in the regular army, were such that he was soon promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General and was placed in command at Cairo. The rebels raised their banner at Paducah, near the mouth of the Tennessee River. Scarcely had its folds appeared in the breeze ere Gen. Grant was there. The rebels fled. Their banner fell, and the star and stripes were unfurled in its stead.

He entered the service with great determination and immediately began active duty. This was the beginning, and until the surrender of Lee at Richmond he was ever pushing the enemy with great vigor and effectiveness. At Belmont, a few days later, he surprised and routed the rebels, then at Fort Henry won another victory. Then came the brilliant fight at Fort Donelson. The nation was electrified by the victory, and the brave leader of the boys in blue was immediately made a Major-General, and the military district of Tennessee was assigned to him.

Like all great captains, Gen. Grant knew well how to secure the results of victory. He immediately pushed on to the enemies' lines. Then came the terrible battles of Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, and the siege of Vicksburg, where Gen. Pemberton made an unconditional surrender of the city with over thirty thousand men and one-hundred and seventy-two cannon. The fall of Vicksburg was by far the most severe blow which the rebels had thus far encountered, and opened up the Mississippi from Cairo to the Gulf.

Gen. Grant was next ordered to co-operate with Gen. Banks in a movement upon Texas, and proceeded to New Orleans, where he was thrown from his horse, and received severe injuries, from which he was laid up for months. He then rushed to the aid of Gens. Rosecrans and Thomas at Chattanooga, and by a wonderful series of strategic and technical measures put the Union Army in fighting condition. Then followed the bloody battles at Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, in which the rebels were routed with great loss. This won for him unbounded praise in the North. On the 4th of February, 1864, Congress revived the grade of lieutenant-general, and the rank was conferred on Gen. Grant. He repaired to Washington to receive his credentials and enter upon the duties of his new office

Gen. Grant decided as soon as he took charge of the army to concentrate the widely-dispersed National troops for an attack upon Richmond, the nominal capital of the Rebellion, and endeavor there to destroy the rebel armies which would be promptly assembled from all quarters for its defence. The whole continent seemed to tremble under the tramp of these majestic armies, rushing to the decisive battle field. Steamers were crowded with troops. Railway trains were burdened with closely packed thousands. His plans were comprehensive and involved a series of campaigns, which were executed with remarkable energy and ability, and were consummated at the surrender of Lee, April 9, 1865.

The war was ended. The Union was saved. The almost unanimous voice of the Nation declared Gen. Grant to be the most prominent instrument in its salvation. The eminent services he had thus rendered the country brought him conspicuously forward as the Republican candidate for the Presidential chair.

At the Republican Convention held at Chicago, May 21, 1868, he was unanimously nominated for the Presidency, and at the autumn election received a majority of the popular vote, and 214 out of 294 electoral votes.

The National Convention of the Republican party which met at Philadelphia on the 5th of June, 1872, placed Gen. Grant in nomination for a second term by a unanimous vote. The selection was emphatically indorsed by the people five months later, 292 electoral votes being cast for him.

Soon after the close of his second term, Gen. Grant started upon his famous trip around the world. He visited almost every country of the civilized world, and was everywhere received with such ovations and demonstrations of respect and honor, private as well as public and official, as were never before bestowed upon any citizen of the United States.

He was the most prominent candidate before the Republican National Convention in 1880 for a re-nomination for President. He went to New York and embarked in the brokerage business under the firm name of Grant & Ward. The latter proved a villain, wrecked Grant's fortune, and for larceny was sent to the penitentiary. The General was attacked with cancer in the throat, but suffered in his stoic-like manner, never complaining. He was re-instated as General of the Army and retired by Congress. The cancer soon finished its deadly work, and July 23, 1885, the nation went in mourning over the death of the illustrious General.

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Sincerely  
R. B. Hayes



## RUTHERFORD B. HAYES.

**R**UTHERFORD B. HAYES, the nineteenth President of the United States, was born in Delaware, O., Oct. 4, 1822, almost three months after the death of his father, Rutherford Hayes. His ancestry on both the paternal and maternal sides, was of the most honorable character. It can be traced, it is said, as far back as 1280, when Hayes and Rutherford were two Scottish chieftains, fighting side by side with Baliol, William Wallace and Robert Bruce. Both families belonged to the nobility, owned extensive estates, and had a large following. Misfor-

tune overtaking the family, George Hayes left Scotland in 1680, and settled in Windsor, Conn. His son George was born in Windsor, and remained there during his life. Daniel Hayes, son of the latter, married Sarah Lee, and lived from the time of his marriage until his death in Simsbury, Conn. Ezekiel, son of Daniel, was born in 1724, and was a manufacturer of scythes at Bradford, Conn. Rutherford Hayes, son of Ezekiel and grandfather of President Hayes, was born in New Haven, in August, 1756. He was a farmer, blacksmith and tavern-keeper. He emigrated to Vermont at an unknown date, settling in Brattleboro, where he established a hotel. Here his son Rutherford Hayes the father of President Hayes, was

born. He was married, in September, 1813, to Sophia Birchard, of Wilmington, Vt., whose ancestors emigrated thither from Connecticut, they having been among the wealthiest and best families of Norwich. Her ancestry on the male side are traced back to 1635, to John Birchard, one of the principal founders of Norwich. Both of her grandfathers were soldiers in the Revolutionary War.

The father of President Hayes was an industrious, frugal and opened-hearted man. He was of a mechanical turn, and could mend a plow, knit a stocking, or do almost anything else that he choose to undertake. He was a member of the Church, active in all the benevolent enterprises of the town, and conducted his business on Christian principles. After the close of the war of 1812, for reasons inexplicable to his neighbors, he resolved to emigrate to Ohio.

The journey from Vermont to Ohio in that day when there were no canals, steamers, nor railways, was a very serious affair. A tour of inspection was first made, occupying four months. Mr. Hayes determined to move to Delaware, where the family arrived in 1817. He died July 22, 1822, a victim of malarial fever, less than three months before the birth of the son, of whom we now write. Mrs. Hayes, in her sore bereavement, found the support she so much needed in her brother Sardis, who had been a member of the household from the day of its departure from Vermont, and in an orphan girl whom she had adopted some time before as an act of charity.

Mrs. Hayes at this period was very weak, and the

subject of this sketch was so feeble at birth that he was not expected to live beyond a month or two at most. As the months went by he grew weaker and weaker, so that the neighbors were in the habit of inquiring from time to time "if Mrs. Hayes' baby died last night." On one occasion a neighbor, who was on familiar terms with the family, after alluding to the boy's big head, and the mother's assiduous care of him, said in a bantering way, "That's right! Stick to him. You have got him along so far, and I shouldn't wonder if he would really come to something yet."

"You need not laugh," said Mrs. Hayes. "You wait and see. You can't tell but I shall make him President of the United States yet." The boy lived, in spite of the universal predictions of his speedy death; and when, in 1825, his older brother was drowned, he became, if possible, still dearer to his mother.

The boy was seven years old before he went to school. His education, however, was not neglected. He probably learned as much from his mother and sister as he would have done at school. His sports were almost wholly within doors, his playmates being his sister and her associates. These circumstances tended, no doubt, to foster that gentleness of disposition, and that delicate consideration for the feelings of others, which are marked traits of his character.

His uncle Sardis Birchard took the deepest interest in his education; and as the boy's health had improved, and he was making good progress in his studies, he proposed to send him to college. His preparation commenced with a tutor at home; but he was afterwards sent for one year to a professor in the Wesleyan University, in Middletown, Conn. He entered Kenyon College in 1838, at the age of sixteen, and was graduated at the head of his class in 1842.

Immediately after his graduation he began the study of law in the office of Thomas Sparrow, Esq., in Columbus. Finding his opportunities for study in Columbus somewhat limited, he determined to enter the Law School at Cambridge, Mass., where he remained two years.

In 1845, after graduating at the Law School, he was admitted to the bar at Marietta, Ohio, and shortly afterward went into practice as an attorney-at-law with Ralph P. Buckland, of Fremont. Here he remained three years, acquiring but a limited practice, and apparently unambitious of distinction in his profession.

In 1849 he moved to Cincinnati, where his ambition found a new stimulus. For several years, however, his progress was slow. Two events, occurring at this period, had a powerful influence upon his subsequent life. One of these was his marriage with Miss Lucy Ware Webb, daughter of Dr. James Webb, of Chillicothe; the other was his introduction to the Cincinnati Literary Club, a body embracing among its members such men as Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase,

Gen. John Pope, Gov. Edward F. Noyes, and many others hardly less distinguished in after life. The marriage was a fortunate one in every respect, as everybody knows. Not one of all the wives of our Presidents was more universally admired, revered and beloved than was Mrs. Hayes, and no one did more than she to reflect honor upon American womanhood. The Literary Club brought Mr. Hayes into constant association with young men of high character and noble aims, and lured him to display the qualities so long hidden by his bashfulness and modesty.

In 1856 he was nominated to the office of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas; but he declined to accept the nomination. Two years later, the office of city solicitor becoming vacant, the City Council elected him for the unexpired term.

In 1861, when the Rebellion broke out, he was at the zenith of his professional life. His rank at the bar was among the first. But the news of the attack on Fort Sumpter found him eager to take up arms for the defense of his country.

His military record was bright and illustrious. In October, 1861, he was made Lieutenant-Colonel, and in August, 1862, promoted Colonel of the 79th Ohio regiment, but he refused to leave his old comrades and go among strangers. Subsequently, however, he was made Colonel of his old regiment. At the battle of South Mountain he received a wound, and while faint and bleeding displayed courage and fortitude that won admiration from all.

Col. Hayes was detached from his regiment, after his recovery, to act as Brigadier-General, and placed in command of the celebrated Kanawha division, and for gallant and meritorious services in the battles of Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek, he was promoted Brigadier-General. He was also brevetted Major-General, "for gallant and distinguished services during the campaigns of 1864, in West Virginia." In the course of his arduous services, four horses were shot from under him, and he was wounded four times.

In 1864, Gen. Hayes was elected to Congress, from the Second Ohio District, which had long been Democratic. He was not present during the campaign, and after his election was importuned to resign his commission in the army; but he finally declared, "I shall never come to Washington until I can come by the way of Richmond." He was re-elected in 1866.

In 1867, Gen. Hayes was elected Governor of Ohio, over Hon. Allen G. Thurman, a popular Democrat. In 1869 was re-elected over George H. Pendleton. He was elected Governor for the third term in 1875.

In 1876 he was the standard bearer of the Republican Party in the Presidential contest, and after a hard long contest was chosen President, and was inaugurated Monday, March 5, 1875. He served his full term, not, however, with satisfaction to his party, but his administration was an average one.



THE END



*J. A. Garfield*



# JAMES A. GARFIELD.

**J**AMES A. GARFIELD, twentieth President of the United States, was born Nov. 19, 1831, in the woods of Orange, Cuyahoga Co., O. His parents were Abram and Eliza (Ballou) Garfield, both of New England ancestry and from families well known in the early history of that section of our country, but had moved to the Western Reserve, in Ohio, early in its settlement.

The house in which James A. was born was not unlike the houses of poor Ohio farmers of that day. It

was about 20 x 30 feet, built of logs, with the spaces between the logs filled with clay. His father was a hard working farmer, and he soon had his fields cleared, an orchard planted, and a log barn built. The household comprised the father and mother and their four children—Mehetabel, Thomas, Mary and James. In May, 1823, the father, from a cold contracted in helping to put out a forest fire, died. At this time James was about eighteen months old, and Thomas about ten years old. No one, perhaps, can tell how much James was indebted to his brother's toil and self-sacrifice during the twenty years succeeding his father's death, but undoubtedly very much. He now lives in Michigan, and the two sisters live in Solon, O., near their birthplace.

The early educational advantages young Garfield enjoyed were very limited, yet he made the most of them. He labored at farm work for others, did carpenter work, chopped wood, or did anything that would bring in a few dollars to aid his widowed mother in her struggles to keep the little family to-

gether. Nor was Gen. Garfield ever ashamed of his origin, and he never forgot the friends of his struggling childhood, youth and manhood, neither did they ever forget him. When in the highest seats of honor the humblest friend of his boyhood was as kindly greeted as ever. The poorest laborer was sure of the sympathy of one who had known all the bitterness of want and the sweetness of bread earned by the sweat of the brow. He was ever the simple, plain, modest gentleman.

The highest ambition of young Garfield until he was about sixteen years old was to be a captain of a vessel on Lake Erie. He was anxious to go aboard a vessel, which his mother strongly opposed. She finally consented to his going to Cleveland, with the understanding, however, that he should try to obtain some other kind of employment. He walked all the way to Cleveland. This was his first visit to the city. After making many applications for work, and trying to get aboard a lake vessel, and not meeting with success, he engaged as a driver for his cousin, Amos Letcher, on the Ohio & Pennsylvania Canal. He remained at this work but a short time when he went home, and attended the seminary at Chester for about three years, when he entered Hiram and the Eclectic Institute, teaching a few terms of school in the meantime, and doing other work. This school was started by the Disciples of Christ in 1850, of which church he was then a member. He became janitor and bell-ringer in order to help pay his way. He then became both teacher and pupil. He soon "exhausted Hiram" and needed more; hence, in the fall of 1854, he entered Williams College, from which he graduated in 1856, taking one of the highest honors of his class. He afterwards returned to Hiram College as its President. As above stated, he early united with the Christian or Disciples Church at Hiram, and was ever after a devoted, zealous member, often preaching in its pulpit and places where he happened to be. Dr. Noah Porter, President of Yale College, says of him in reference to his religion;

"President Garfield was more than a man of strong moral and religious convictions. His whole history, from boyhood to the last, shows that duty to man and to God, and devotion to Christ and life and faith and spiritual commission were controlling springs of his being, and to a more than usual degree. In my judgment, there is no more interesting feature of his character than his loyal allegiance to the body of Christians in which he was trained, and the fervent sympathy which he ever showed in their Christian communion. Not many of the few 'wise and mighty and noble who are called' show a similar loyalty to the less stately and cultured Christian communions in which they have been reared. Too often it is true that as they step upward in social and political significance they step upward from one degree to another in some of the many types of fashionable Christianity. President Garfield adhered to the church of his mother, the church in which he was trained, and in which he served as a pillar and an evangelist, and yet with the largest and most unsectarian charity for all 'who love our Lord in sincerity.'"

Mr. Garfield was united in marriage with Miss Lucretia Rudolph, Nov. 11, 1858, who proved herself worthy as the wife of one whom all the world loved and mourned. To them were born seven children, five of whom are still living, four boys and one girl.

Mr. Garfield made his first political speeches in 1856, in Hiram and the neighboring villages, and three years later he began to speak at county mass-meetings, and became the favorite speaker wherever he was. During this year he was elected to the Ohio Senate. He also began to study law at Cleveland, and in 1861 was admitted to the bar. The great Rebellion broke out in the early part of this year, and Mr. Garfield at once resolved to fight as he had talked, and enlisted to defend the old flag. He received his commission as Lieut.-Colonel of the Forty-second Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Aug. 14, 1861. He was immediately put into active service, and before he had ever seen a gun fired in action, was placed in command of four regiments of infantry and eight companies of cavalry, charged with the work of driving out of his native State the officer (Humphrey Marshall) reputed to be the ablest of those, not educated to war whom Kentucky had given to the Rebellion. This work was bravely and speedily accomplished, although against great odds. President Lincoln, on his success commissioned him Brigadier-General, Jan. 10, 1862; and as "he had been the youngest man in the Ohio Senate two years before, so now he was the youngest General in the army." He was with Gen. Buell's army at Shiloh, in its operations around Corinth and its march through Alabama. He was then detailed as a member of the General Court-Martial for the trial of Gen. Fitz-John Porter. He was then ordered to report to Gen. Rosecrans, and was assigned to the "Chief of Staff."

The military history of Gen. Garfield closed with

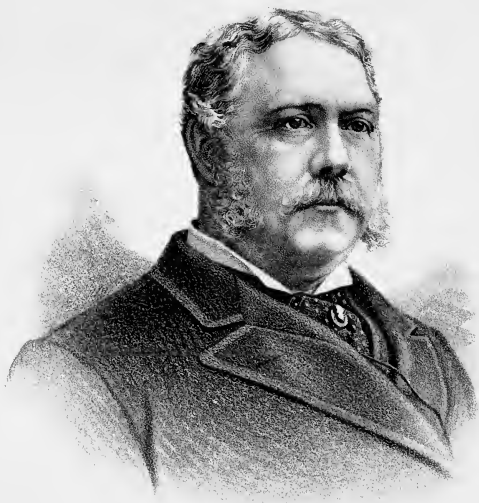
his brilliant services at Chickamauga, where he won the stars of the Major-General.

Without an effort on his part Gen. Garfield was elected to Congress in the fall of 1862 from the Nineteenth District of Ohio. This section of Ohio had been represented in Congress for sixty years mainly by two men—Elisha Whittlesey and Joshua R. Giddings. It was not without a struggle that he resigned his place in the army. At the time he entered Congress he was the youngest member in that body. There he remained by successive re-elections until he was elected President in 1880. Of his labors in Congress Senator Hoar says: "Since the year 1864 you cannot think of a question which has been debated in Congress, or discussed before a tribunal of the American people, in regard to which you will not find, if you wish instruction, the argument on one side stated, in almost every instance better than by anybody else, in some speech made in the House of Representatives or on the hustings by Mr. Garfield."

Upon Jan. 14, 1880, Gen. Garfield was elected to the U. S. Senate, and on the eighth of June, of the same year, was nominated as the candidate of his party for President at the great Chicago Convention. He was elected in the following November, and on March 4, 1881, was inaugurated. Probably no administration ever opened its existence under brighter auspices than that of President Garfield, and every day it grew in favor with the people, and by the first of July he had completed all the initiatory and preliminary work of his administration and was preparing to leave the city to meet his friends at Williams College. While on his way and at the depot, in company with Secretary Blaine, a man stepped behind him, drew a revolver, and fired directly at his back. The President tottered and fell, and as he did so the assassin fired a second shot, the bullet cutting the left coat sleeve of his victim, but inflicting no further injury. It has been very truthfully said that this was "the shot that was heard round the world." Never before in the history of the Nation had anything occurred which so nearly froze the blood of the people for the moment, as this awful deed. He was smitten on the brightest, gladdest day of all his life, and was at the summit of his power and hope. For eighty days, all during the hot months of July and August, he lingered and suffered. He, however, remained master of himself till the last, and by his magnificent bearing was teaching the country and the world the noblest of human lessons—how to live grandly in the very clutch of death. Great in life, he was surpassingly great in death. He passed serenely away Sept. 19, 1883, at Ellheron, N. J., on the very bank of the ocean, where he had been taken shortly previous. The world wept at his death, as it never had done on the death of any other man who had ever lived upon it. The murderer was duly tried, found guilty and executed, in one year after he committed the foul deed.

THE ...


...



*C. A. Astor*



CHESTER A. ARTHUR.



CHESTER A. ARTHUR, twenty-first President of the United States was born in Franklin County, Vermont, on the fifth of October, 1830, and is the oldest of a family of two sons and five daughters. His father was the Rev. Dr. William Arthur, a Baptist clergyman, who emigrated to this country from the county Antrim, Ireland, in his 18th year, and died in 1875, in Newtonville, near Albany, after a long and successful ministry.

Young Arthur was educated at Union College, Schenectady, where he excelled in all his studies. After his graduation he taught school in Vermont for two years, and at the expiration of that time came to New York, with \$500 in his pocket, and entered the office of ex-Judge E. D. Culver as student. After being admitted to the bar he formed

a partnership with his intimate friend and room-mate, Henry D. Gardiner, with the intention of practicing in the West, and for three months they roamed about in the Western States in search of an eligible site, but in the end returned to New York, where they hung out their shingle, and entered upon a successful career almost from the start. General Arthur soon afterward married the daughter of Lieutenant

Herndon, of the United States Navy, who was lost at sea. Congress voted a gold medal to his widow in recognition of the bravery he displayed on that occasion. Mrs. Arthur died shortly before Mr. Arthur's nomination to the Vice Presidency, leaving two children.

Gen. Arthur obtained considerable legal celebrity in his first great case, the famous Lemmon suit, brought to recover possession of eight slaves who had been declared free by Judge Paine, of the Superior Court of New York City. It was in 1852 that Jonathan Lemmon, of Virginia, went to New York with his slaves, intending to ship them to Texas, when they were discovered and freed. The Judge decided that they could not be held by the owner under the Fugitive Slave Law. A howl of rage went up from the South, and the Virginia Legislature authorized the Attorney General of that State to assist in an appeal. Wm. M. Evarts and Chester A. Arthur were employed to represent the People, and they won their case, which then went to the Supreme Court of the United States. Charles O'Connor here espoused the cause of the slave-holders, but he too was beaten by Messrs Evarts and Arthur, and a long step was taken toward the emancipation of the black race.

Another great service was rendered by General Arthur in the same cause in 1856. Lizzie Jennings, a respectable colored woman, was put off a Fourth Avenue car with violence after she had paid her fare. General Arthur sued on her behalf, and secured a verdict of \$500 damages. The next day the company issued an order to admit colored persons to ride on their cars, and the other car companies quickly

followed their example. Before that the Sixth Avenue Company ran a few special cars for colored persons and the other lines refused to let them ride at all.

General Arthur was a delegate to the Convention at Saratoga that founded the Republican party. Previous to the war he was Judge-Advocate of the Second Brigade of the State of New York, and Governor Morgan, of that State, appointed him Engineer-in-Chief of his staff. In 1861, he was made Inspector General, and soon afterward became Quartermaster-General. In each of these offices he rendered great service to the Government during the war. At the end of Governor Morgan's term he resumed the practice of the law, forming a partnership with Mr. Ransom, and then Mr. Phelps, the District Attorney of New York, was added to the firm. The legal practice of this well-known firm was very large and lucrative, each of the gentlemen composing it were able lawyers, and possessed a splendid local reputation, if not indeed one of national extent.

He always took a leading part in State and city politics. He was appointed Collector of the Port of New York by President Grant, Nov. 21 1872, to succeed Thomas Murphy, and held the office until July, 20, 1878, when he was succeeded by Collector Merritt.

Mr. Arthur was nominated on the Presidential ticket, with Gen. James A. Garfield, at the famous National Republican Convention held at Chicago in June, 1880. This was perhaps the greatest political convention that ever assembled on the continent. It was composed of the leading politicians of the Republican party, all able men, and each stood firm and fought vigorously and with signal tenacity for their respective candidates that were before the convention for the nomination. Finally Gen. Garfield received the nomination for President and Gen. Arthur for Vice-President. The campaign which followed was one of the most animated known in the history of our country. Gen. Hancock, the standard-bearer of the Democratic party, was a popular man, and his party made a valiant fight for his election.

Finally the election came and the country's choice was Garfield and Arthur. They were inaugurated March 4, 1881, as President and Vice-President. A few months only had passed ere the newly chosen President was the victim of the assassin's bullet. Then came terrible weeks of suffering,—those moments of anxious suspense, when the hearts of all civilized na-

tions were throbbing in unison, longing for the recovery of the noble, the good President. The remarkable patience that he manifested during those hours and weeks, and even months, of the most terrible suffering man has often been called upon to endure, was seemingly more than human. It was certainly God-like. During all this period of deepest anxiety Mr. Arthur's every move was watched, and be it said to his credit that his every action displayed only an earnest desire that the suffering Garfield might recover, to serve the remainder of the term he had so auspiciously begun. Not a selfish feeling was manifested in deed or look of this man, even though the most honored position in the world was at any moment likely to fall to him.

At last God in his mercy relieved President Garfield from further suffering, and the world, as never before in its history over the death of any other man, wept at his bier. Then it became the duty of the Vice President to assume the responsibilities of the high office, and he took the oath in New York, Sept. 20, 1881. The position was an embarrassing one to him, made doubly so from the facts that all eyes were on him, anxious to know what he would do, what policy he would pursue, and who he would select as advisers. The duties of the office had been greatly neglected during the President's long illness, and many important measures were to be immediately decided by him; and still farther to embarrass him he did not fail to realize under what circumstances he became President, and knew the feelings of many on this point. Under these trying circumstances President Arthur took the reins of the Government in his own hands; and, as embarrassing as were the condition of affairs, he happily surprised the nation, acting so wisely that but few criticised his administration. He served the nation well and faithfully, until the close of his administration, March 4, 1885, and was a popular candidate before his party for a second term. His name was ably presented before the convention at Chicago, and was received with great favor, and doubtless but for the personal popularity of one of the opposing candidates, he would have been selected as the standard-bearer of his party for another campaign. He retired to private life carrying with him the best wishes of the American people, whom he had served in a manner satisfactory to them and with credit to himself.




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Grover Cleveland



## S. Grover Cleveland.



STEPHEN GROVER CLEVELAND, the twenty-second President of the United States, was born in 1837, in the obscure town of Caldwell, Essex Co., N. J., and in a little two-and-a-half-story white house which is still standing, characteristically to mark the humble birth-place of one of America's great men in striking contrast with the Old World, where all men high in office must be high in origin and born in the cradle of wealth. When the subject of this sketch was three years of age, his father, who was a Presbyterian minister,

with a large family and a small salary, moved, by way of the Hudson River and Erie Canal, to Fayetteville, in search of an increased income and a larger field of work. Fayetteville was then the most straggling of country villages, about five miles from Pompey Hill, where Governor Seymour was born.

At the last mentioned place young Grover commenced going to school in the "good, old-fashioned way," and presumably distinguished himself after the manner of all village boys, in doing the things he ought not to do. Such is the distinguishing trait of all geniuses and independent thinkers. When he arrived at the age of 14 years, he had outgrown the capacity of the village school and expressed a most

emphatic desire to be sent to an academy. To this his father decidedly objected. Academies in those days cost money; besides, his father wanted him to become self-supporting by the quickest possible means, and this at that time in Fayetteville seemed to be a position in a country store, where his father and the large family on his hands had considerable influence. Grover was to be paid \$50 for his services the first year, and if he proved trustworthy he was to receive \$100 the second year. Here the lad commenced his career as salesman, and in two years he had earned so good a reputation for trustworthiness that his employers desired to retain him for an indefinite length of time. Otherwise he did not exhibit as yet any particular "flashes of genius" or eccentricities of talent. He was simply a good boy.

But instead of remaining with this firm in Fayetteville, he went with the family in their removal to Clinton, where he had an opportunity of attending a high school. Here he industriously pursued his studies until the family removed with him to a point on Black River known as the "Holland Patent," a village of 500 or 600 people, 15 miles north of Utica, N. Y. At this place his father died, after preaching but three Sundays. This event broke up the family, and Grover set out for New York City to accept, at a small salary, the position of "under-teacher" in an asylum for the blind. He taught faithfully for two years, and although he obtained a good reputation in this capacity, he concluded that teaching was not his

calling for life, and, reversing the traditional order, he left the city to seek his fortune. Instead of going to a city. He first thought of Cleveland, Ohio, as there was some charm in that name for him; but before proceeding to that place he went to Buffalo to ask the advice of his uncle, Lewis F. Allan, a noted stock-breeder of that place. The latter did not speak enthusiastically. "What is it you want to do, my boy?" he asked. "Well, sir, I want to study law," was the reply. "Good gracious!" remarked the old gentleman; "do you, indeed? What ever put that into your head? How much money have you got?" "Well, sir, to tell the truth, I haven't got any."

After a long consultation, his uncle offered him a place temporarily as assistant herd-keeper, at \$50 a year, while he could "look around." One day soon afterward he boldly walked into the office of Rogers, Bowen & Rogers, of Buffalo, and told them what he wanted. A number of young men were already engaged in the office, but Grover's persistency won, and he was finally permitted to come as an office boy and have the use of the law library, for the nominal sum of \$3 or \$4 a week. Out of this he had to pay for his board and washing. The walk to and from his uncle's was a long and rugged one; and, although the first winter was a memorably severe one, his shoes were out of repair and his overcoat—he had none—yet he was nevertheless prompt and regular. On the first day of his service here, his senior employer threw down a copy of Blackstone before him with a bang that made the dust fly, saying "That's where they all begin." A titter ran around the little circle of clerks and students, as they thought that was enough to scare young Grover out of his plans; but in due time he mastered that cumbersome volume. Then, as ever afterward, however, Mr. Cleveland exhibited a talent for executiveness rather than for chasing principles through all their metaphysical possibilities. "Let us quit talking and go and do it," was practically his motto.

The first public office to which Mr. Cleveland was elected was that of Sheriff of Erie Co., N. Y., in which Buffalo is situated; and in such capacity it fell to his duty to inflict capital punishment upon two criminals. In 1831 he was elected Mayor of the City of Buffalo, on the Democratic ticket, with especial reference to the bringing about certain reforms

in the administration of the municipal affairs of that city. In this office, as well as that of Sheriff, his performance of duty has generally been considered fair, with possibly a few exceptions which were ferreted out and magnified during the last Presidential campaign. As a specimen of his plain language in a veto message, we quote from one vetoing an iniquitous street-cleaning contract: "This is a time for plain speech, and my objection to your action shall be plainly stated. I regard it as the culmination of a most bare-faced, impudent and shameless scheme to betray the interests of the people and to worse than squander the people's money." The *New York Sun* afterward very highly commended Mr. Cleveland's administration as Mayor of Buffalo, and thereupon recommended him for Governor of the Empire State. To the latter office he was elected in 1832, and his administration of the affairs of State was generally satisfactory. The mistakes he made, if any, were made very public throughout the nation after he was nominated for President of the United States. For this high office he was nominated July 11, 1834, by the National Democratic Convention at Chicago, when other competitors were Thomas F. Bayard, Roswell P. Flower, Thomas A. Hendricks, Benjamin F. Butler, Allen G. Thurman, etc.; and he was elected by the people, by a majority of about a thousand, over the brilliant and long-trying Republican statesman, James G. Blaine. President Cleveland resigned his office as Governor of New York in January, 1835, in order to prepare for his duties as the Chief Executive of the United States, in which capacity his term commenced at noon on the 4th of March, 1835. For his Cabinet officers he selected the following gentlemen: For Secretary of State, Thomas F. Bayard, of Delaware; Secretary of the Treasury, Daniel Manning of New York; Secretary of War, William C. Endicott, of Massachusetts; Secretary of the Navy, William C. Whitney, of New York; Secretary of the Interior, L. Q. C. Lamar, of Mississippi; Postmaster-General, William F. Vilas, of Wisconsin; Attorney-General, A. H. Garland, of Arkansas.

The silver question precipitated a controversy between those who were in favor of the continuance of silver coinage and those who were opposed, Mr. Cleveland answering for the latter, even before his inauguration.

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*Benj. Harrison*



Benjamin Harrison.



**B**ENJAMIN HARRISON, the twenty-third President, is the descendant of one of the historical families of this country. The head of the family was a Major General Harrison, one of Oliver Cromwell's trusted followers and fighters. In the zenith of Cromwell's power it became the duty of this Harrison to participate in the trial of Charles I. and afterward to sign the death warrant of the king. He subsequently paid for this with his life, being hung Oct. 13, 1660. His descendants came to America, and the next of the family that appears in history is Benjamin Harrison, of Virginia, great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch, and

after whom he was named. Benjamin Harrison was a member of the Continental Congress during the years 1774-5-6, and was one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was three times elected Governor of Virginia.

Gen William Henry Harrison, the son of the

distinguished patriot of the Revolution, after a successful career as a soldier during the War of 1812, and with a clean record as Governor of the Northwestern Territory, was elected President of the United States in 1840. His career was cut short by death within one month after his inauguration.

President Harrison was born at North Bend, Hamilton Co., Ohio, Aug. 20, 1803. His life up to the time of his graduation by the Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, was the uneventful one of a country lad of a family of small means. His father was able to give him a good education, and nothing more. He became engaged while at college to the daughter of Dr. Scott, Principal of a female school at Oxford. After graduating he determined to enter upon the study of the law. He went to Cincinnati and then read law for two years. At the expiration of that time young Harrison received the only inheritance of his life; his aunt dying left him a lot valued at \$800. He regarded this legacy as a fortune, and decided to get married at once, take this money and go to some Eastern town and begin the practice of law. He sold his lot, and with the money in his pocket, he started out with his young wife to fight for a place in the world. He

decided to go to Indianapolis, which was even at that time a town of promise. He met with slight encouragement at first, making scarcely anything the first year. He worked diligently, applying himself closely to his calling, built up an extensive practice and took a leading rank in the legal profession. He is the father of two children.

In 1860 Mr. Harrison was nominated for the position of Supreme Court Reporter, and then began his experience as a stump speaker. He canvassed the State thoroughly, and was elected by a handsome majority. In 1862 he raised the 17th Indiana Infantry, and was chosen its Colonel. His regiment was composed of the rawest of material, out Col. Harrison employed all his time at first mastering military tactics and drilling his men, when he therefore came to move toward the East with Sherman his regiment was one of the best drilled and organized in the army. At Resaca he especially distinguished himself, and for his bravery at Peachtree Creek he was made a Brigadier General, Gen. Hooker speaking of him in the most complimentary terms.

During the absence of Gen. Harrison in the field the Supreme Court declared the office of the Supreme Court Reporter vacant, and another person was elected to the position. From the time of leaving Indiana with his regiment until the fall of 1864 he had taken no leave of absence, but having been nominated that year for the same office, he got a thirty-day leave of absence, and during that time made a brilliant canvass of the State, and was elected for another term. He then started to rejoin Sherman, but on the way was stricken down with scarlet fever, and after a most trying siege made his way to the front in time to participate in the closing incidents of the war.

In 1868 Gen. Harrison declined re-election as reporter, and resumed the practice of law. In 1876 he was a candidate for Governor. Although defeated, the brilliant campaign he made won for him a National reputation, and he was much sought, especially in the East, to make speeches. In 1880, as usual, he took an active part in the campaign, and was elected to the United States Senate. Here he served six years, and was known as one of the ablest men, best lawyers, and strongest debaters in

that body. With the expiration of his Senatorial term he returned to the practice of his profession, becoming the head of one of the strongest firms in the State.

The political campaign of 1888 was one of the most memorable in the history of our country. The convention which assembled in Chicago in June and named Mr. Harrison as the chief standard bearer of the Republican party, was great in every particular, and on this account, and the attitude it assumed upon the vital questions of the day, chief among which was the tariff, awoke a deep interest in the campaign throughout the Nation. Shortly after the nomination delegations began to visit Mr. Harrison at Indianapolis, his home. This movement became popular, and from all sections of the country societies, clubs and delegations journeyed thither to pay their respects to the distinguished statesman. The popularity of these was greatly increased on account of the remarkable speeches made by Mr. Harrison. He spoke daily all through the summer and autumn to these visiting delegations, and so varied, masterly and eloquent were his speeches that they at once placed him in the foremost rank of American orators and statesmen.

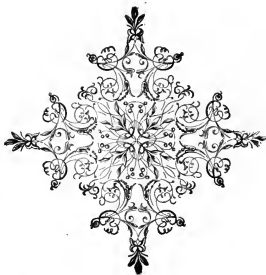
On account of his eloquence as a speaker and his power as a debater, he was called upon at an uncommonly early age to take part in the discussion of the great questions that then began to agitate the country. He was an uncompromising anti-slavery man, and was matched against some of the most eminent Democratic speakers of his State. No man who felt the touch of his blade desired to be pitted with him again. With all his eloquence as an orator he never spoke for oratorical effect, but his words always went like bullets to the mark. He is purely American in his ideas and is a splendid type of the American statesman. Gifted with quick perception, a logical mind and a ready tongue, he is one of the most distinguished impromptu speakers in the Nation. Many of these speeches sparkled with the rarest of eloquence and contained arguments of greatest weight. Many of his terse statements have already become aphorisms. Original in thought, precise in logic, terse in statement, yet without faultless in eloquence, he is recognized as the sound statesman and brilliant orator of the day.





GOVERNORS.





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*Shadrach Bond.*



## SHADRACH BOND.

**S**HADRACH BOND, the first Governor of Illinois after its organization as a State, serving from 1818 to 1822, was born in Frederick County, Maryland, in the year 1773, and was raised a farmer on his father's plantation, receiving only a plain English education. He emigrated to this State in 1794, when it was a part of the "Northwest Territory," continuing in the vocation in which he had been brought up in his native State, in the "New Design," near Eagle Creek, in what is now Monroe County. He served several terms as a member of the General Assembly

of Indiana Territory, after it was organized as such, and in 1812-14 he was a Delegate to the Twelfth and Thirteenth Congresses, taking his seat Dec. 3, 1812, and serving until Oct. 3, 1814. These were the times, the reader will recollect, when this Government had its last struggle with Great Britain. The year 1812 is also noted in the history of this State as that in which the first Territorial Legislature was held. It convened at Kaskaskia, Nov. 25, and adjourned Dec. 26, following.

While serving as Delegate to Congress, Mr. Bond was instrumental in procuring the right of pre-emption on the public domain. On the expiration of his term at Washington he was appointed Receiver of Public Moneys at Kaskaskia, then the capital of the Territory. In company with John G. Comyges,

Thomas H. Harris, Charles Slade, Michael Jones, Warren Brown, Edward Humphries and Charles W. Hunter, he became a proprietor of the site of the initial city of Cairo, which they hoped, from its favorable location at the junction of the two great rivers near the center of the Great West, would rapidly develop into a metropolis. To aid the enterprise, they obtained a special charter from the Legislature, incorporating both the City and the Bank of Cairo.

In 1818 Mr. Bond was elected the first Governor of the State of Illinois, being inaugurated Oct. 6 that year, which was several weeks before Illinois was actually admitted. The facts are these: In January, 1818, the Territorial Legislature sent a petition to Congress for the admission of Illinois as a State, Nathaniel Pope being then Delegate. The petition was granted, fixing the northern line of the State on the latitude of the southern extremity of Lake Michigan; but the bill was afterward so amended as to extend this line to its present latitude. In July a convention was called at Kaskaskia to draft a constitution, which, however, was not submitted to the people. By its provisions, supreme judges, prosecuting attorneys, county and circuit judges, recorders and justices of the peace were all to be appointed by the Governor or elected by the Legislature. This constitution was accepted by Congress Dec. 30. At that time Illinois comprised but eleven counties, namely, Randolph, Madison, Gallatin, Johnson, Pope, Jackson, Crawford, Bond, Union, Washington and Franklin, the northern portion of the State being mainly in Madison County. Thus it appears that Mr. Bond was honored by the naming of a

county before he was elected Governor. The present county of Bond is of small limitations, about 60 to 80 miles south of Springfield. For Lieutenant Governor the people chose Pierre Menard, a prominent and worthy Frenchman, after whom a county in this State is named. In this election there were no opposition candidates, as the popularity of these men had made their promotion to the chief offices of the State, even before the constitution was drafted, a foregone conclusion.

The principal points that excited the people in reference to political issues at this period were local or "internal improvements," as they were called, State banks, location of the capital, slavery and the personal characteristics of the proposed candidates. Mr. Bond represented the "Convention party," for introducing slavery into the State, supported by Elias Kent Kane, his Secretary of State, and John McLean, while Nathaniel Pope and John P. Cook led the anti-slavery element. The people, however, did not become very much excited over this issue until 1820, when the famous Missouri Compromise was adopted by Congress, limiting slavery to the south of the parallel of 36° 30' except in Missouri. While this measure settled the great slavery controversy, so far as the average public sentiment was temporarily concerned, until 1854, when it was repealed under the leadership of Stephen A. Douglas, the issue as considered locally in this State was not decided until 1824, after a most furious campaign. (See sketch of Gov. Coles.) The ticket of 1818 was a compromise one, Bond representing (moderately) the pro-slavery sentiment and Menard the anti-slavery.

An awkward element in the State government under Gov. Bond's administration, was the imperfection of the State constitution. The Convention wished to have Elijah C. Berry for the first Auditor of Public Accounts, but, as it was believed that the new Governor would not appoint him to the office, the Convention declared in a schedule that "an auditor of public accounts, an attorney general and such other officers of the State as may be necessary, may be appointed by the General Assembly." The Constitution, as it stood, vested a very large appointing power in the Governor; but for the purpose of getting one man into office, a total change was made, and the power vested in the Legislature. Of this provision the Legislature took advantage, and de-

clared that State's attorneys, canal commissioners, bank directors, etc., were all "officers of the State" and must therefore be appointed by itself independently of the Governor.

During Gov. Bond's administration a general law was passed for the incorporation of academies and towns, and one authorizing lotteries. The session of 1822 authorized the Governor to appoint commissioners, to act in conjunction with like commissioners appointed by the State of Indiana, to report on the practicability and expediency of improving the navigation of the Wabash River; also inland navigation generally. Many improvements were recommended, some of which have been feebly worked at even till the present day, those along the Wabash being of no value. Also, during Gov. Bond's term of office, the capital of the State was removed from Kaskaskia to Vandalia. In 1820 a law was passed by Congress authorizing this State to open a canal through the public lands. The State appointed commissioners to explore the route and prepare the necessary surveys and estimates, preparatory to its execution; but, being unable out of its own resources to defray the expenses of the undertaking, it was abandoned until some time after Congress made the grant of land for the purpose of its construction.

On the whole, Gov. Bond's administration was fairly good, not being open to severe criticism from any party. In 1824, two years after the expiration of his term of office, he was brought out as a candidate for Congress against the formidable John P. Cook, but received only 4,374 votes to 7,460 for the latter. Gov. Bond was no orator, but had made many fast friends by a judicious bestowment of his gubernatorial patronage, and these worked zealously for him in the campaign.

In 1827 ex-Gov. Bond was appointed by the Legislature, with Wm. P. McKee and Dr. Gershom Jayne, as Commissioners to locate a site for a penitentiary on the Mississippi at or near Alton.

Mr. Bond was of a benevolent and convivial disposition, a man of shrewd observation and clear appreciation of events. His person was erect, standing six feet in height, and after middle life became portly, weighing 200 pounds. His features were strongly masculine, complexion dark, hair jet and eyes hazel; was a favorite with the ladies. He died April 11, 1830, in peace and contentment.





*Edward Coles*





## Edward Coles.



EDWARD COLES, second Governor of Illinois, 1823-6, was born Dec. 15, 1786, in Albemarle Co., Va., on the old family estate called "Enniscorthy," on the Green Mountain. His father, John Coles, was a Colonel in the Revolutionary War. Having been fitted for college by private tutors, he was sent to Hampden Sidney, where he remained until the autumn of 1805, when he was removed to William and Mary College, at Williamsburg, Va. This college he left in the summer of 1807, a short time before the final and graduating examination. Among his classmates were Lieut. Gen. Scott, President John Tyler, Wm. S. Archer, United States Senator from Virginia, and Justice Baldwin, of the United States Supreme Court. The president of the latter college, Bishop Madison, was a cousin of President James Madison, and that circumstance was the occasion of Mr. Coles becoming personally acquainted with the President and receiving a position as his private secretary, 1809-15. The family of Coles was a prominent one in Virginia, and their mansion was the seat of the old-fashioned Virginian hospitality. It was visited by such notables as Patrick Henry, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, the Randolphs, Fazewell, Wirt, etc. At the age of 23, young Coles found himself heir to a plantation and a considerable number of slaves. Ever since his earlier college days his attention had been drawn to the question of slavery. He read every-

thing on the subject that came in his way, and listened to lectures on the rights of man. The more he reflected upon the subject, the more impossible was it for him to reconcile the immortal declaration "that all men are born free and equal" with the practice of slave-holding. He resolved, therefore, to free his slaves the first opportunity, and even remove his residence to a free State. One reason which determined him to accept the appointment as private secretary to Mr. Madison was because he believed that through the acquaintances he could make at Washington he could better determine in what part of the non-slaveholding portion of the Union he would prefer to settle.

The relations between Mr. Coles and President Madison, as well as Jefferson and other distinguished men, were of a very friendly character, arising from the similarity of their views on the question of slavery and their sympathy for each other in holding doctrines so much at variance with the prevailing sentiment in their own State.

In 1857, he resigned his secretaryship and spent a portion of the following autumn in exploring the Northwest Territory, for the purpose of finding a location and purchasing lands on which to settle his negroes. He traveled with a horse and buggy, with an extra man and horse for emergencies, through many parts of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, determining finally to settle in Illinois. At this time, however, a misunderstanding arose between our Government and Russia, and Mr. Coles was selected to repair to St. Petersburg on a special mission, bearing important papers concerning the matter at issue. The result was a conviction of the Emperor (Alex-

ander) of the error committed by his minister at Washington, and the consequent withdrawal of the latter from the post. On his return, Mr. Coles visited other parts of Europe, especially Paris, where he was introduced to Gen. Lafayette.

In the spring of 1819, he removed with all his negroes from Virginia to Edwardsville, Ill., with the intention of giving them their liberty. He did not make known to them his intention until one beautiful morning in April, as they were descending the Ohio River. He lashed all the boats together and called all the negroes on deck and made them a short address, concluding his remarks by so expressing himself that by a turn of a sentence he proclaimed in the shortest and fullest manner that they were no longer slaves, but free as he was and were at liberty to proceed with him or go ashore at their pleasure. A description of the effect upon the negroes is best described in his own language:

"The effect upon them was electrical. They stared at me and then at each other, as if doubting the accuracy or reality of what they heard. In breathless silence they stood before me, unable to utter a word, but with countenances beaming with expression which no words could convey, and which no language can describe. As they began to see the truth of what they had heard, and realize their situation, there came on a kind of hysterical, giggling laugh. After a pause of intense and unutterable emotion, bathed in tears, and with tremulous voices, they gave vent to their gratitude and implored the blessing of God on me."

Before landing he gave them a general certificate of freedom, and afterward conformed more particularly with the law of this State requiring that each individual should have a certificate. This act of Mr. Coles, all the more noble and heroic considering the overwhelming pro-slavery influences surrounding him, has challenged the admiration of every philanthropist of modern times.

March 5, 1819, President Monroe appointed Mr. Coles Registrar of the Land Office at Edwardsville, at that time one of the principal land offices in the State. While acting in this capacity and gaining many friends by his politeness and general intelligence, the greatest struggle that ever occurred in Illinois on the slavery question culminated in the furious contest characterizing the campaigns and elections of 1822-4. In the summer of 1823, when a new Governor was to be elected to succeed Mr. Bond, the pro-slavery element divided into factions, putting forward for the executive office Joseph Phillips, Chief Justice of the State, Thomas C. Browne and Gen. James B. Moore, of the State Militia. The anti-slavery element united upon Mr. Coles, and, after one of the most bitter campaigns, succeeded in electing him as Governor. His plurality over Judge Phillips was only 59 in a total vote of

over 8,000. The Lieutenant Governor was elected by the slavery men. Mr. Coles' inauguration speech was marked by calmness, deliberation and such a wise expression of appropriate suggestions as to elicit the sanction of all judicious politicians. But he compromised not with evil. In his message to the Legislature, the seat of Government being then at Vandalia, he strongly urged the abrogation of the modified form of slavery which then existed in this State, contrary to the Ordinance of 1787. His position on this subject seems the more remarkable, when it is considered that he was a minority Governor, the population of Illinois being at that time almost exclusively from slave-holding States and by a large majority in favor of the perpetuation of that old relic of barbarism. The Legislature itself was, of course, a reflex of the popular sentiment, and a majority of them were led on by fiery men in denunciations of the conscientious Governor, and in curses loud and deep upon him and all his friends. Some of the public men, indeed, went so far as to head a sort of mob, or "shiveree" party, who visited the residence of the Governor and others at Vandalia and yelled and groaned and spat fire.

The Constitution, not establishing or permitting slavery in this State, was thought therefore to be defective by the slavery politicians, and they desired a State Convention to be elected, to devise and submit a new Constitution; and the dominant politics of the day was "Convention" and "anti-Convention." Both parties issued addresses to the people, Gov. Coles himself being the author of the address published by the latter party. This address revealed the schemes of the conspirators in a masterly manner. It is difficult for us at this distant day to estimate the critical and extremely delicate situation in which the Governor was placed at that time.

Our hero maintained himself honorably and with supreme dignity throughout his administration, and in his honor a county in this State is named. He was truly a great man, and those who lived in this State during his sojourn here, like those who live at the base of the mountain, were too near to see and recognize the greatness that overshadowed them.

Mr. Coles was married Nov. 28, 1833, by Bishop De Lancey, to Miss Sally Logan Roberts, a daughter of Hugh Roberts, a descendant of Welsh ancestry, who came to this country with Wm. Penn in 1682.

After the expiration of his term of service, Gov. Coles continued his residence in Edwardsville, superintending his farm in the vicinity. He was fond of agriculture, and was the founder of the first agricultural society in the State. On account of ill health, however, and having no family to tie him down, he spent much of his time in Eastern cities. About 1832 he changed his residence to Philadelphia, where he died July 7, 1868, and is buried at Woodland, near that city.

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*Norman Edwards*



# Ninian Edwards.



**N**INIAN EDWARDS, Governor from 1827 to 1830, was a son of Benjamin Edwards, and was born in Montgomery County, Maryland, in March, 1775. His domestic training was well fitted to give

his mind strength, firmness and honorable principles, and a good foundation was laid for the elevated character to which he afterwards attained. His parents were Baptists, and very strict in their moral principles. His education in early youth was in company with and partly under the tuition of Hon. Wm. Wirt, whom his father patronized, and who was more than two years older. An intimacy was thus

formed between them which was lasting for life. He was further educated at Dickinson College, at Carlisle, Pa. He next commenced the study of law, but before completing his course he moved to Nelson County, Ky., to open a farm for his father and to purchase homes and locate lands for his brothers and sisters. Here he fell in the company of dissolute companions, and for several years led the life of a spendthrift. He was, however, elected to the Legislature of Kentucky as the Representative of Nelson County before he was 21 years of age, and was re-elected by an almost unanimous vote.

In 1798 he was licensed to practice law, and the following year was admitted to the Courts of Tennessee. About this time he left Nelson County for Russellville, in Logan County, broke away from his dissolute companions, commenced a reformation and devoted himself to severe and laborious study. He then began to rise rapidly in his profession, and soon became an eminent lawyer, and inside of four years he filled in succession the offices of Presiding Judge of the General Court, Circuit Judge, fourth Judge of the Court of Appeals and Chief Justice of the State, —all before he was 32 years of age! In addition, in 1802, he received a commission as Major of a battalion of Kentucky militia, and in 1804 was chosen a Presidential Elector, on the Jefferson and Clinton ticket. In 1806 he was a candidate for Congress, but withdrew on being promoted to the Court of Appeals.

Illinois was organized as a separate Territory in the spring of 1809, when Mr. Edwards, then Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals in Kentucky, received from President Madison the appointment as Governor of the new Territory, his commission bearing date April 24, 1809. Edwards arrived at Kaskaskia in June, and on the 11th of that month took the oath of office. At the same time he was appointed Superintendent of the United States Saline, this Government interest then developing into considerable proportions in Southern Illinois. Although during the first three years of his administration he had the power to make new counties and appoint all the officers, yet he always allowed the people of each county, by an informal

vote, to select their own officers, both civil and military. The noted John J. Crittenden, afterward United States Senator from Kentucky, was appointed by Gov. Edwards to the office of Attorney General of the Territory, which office was accepted for a short time only.

The Indians in 1810 committing sundry depredations in the Territory, crossing the Mississippi from the Territory of Louisiana, a long correspondence followed between the respective Governors concerning the remedies, which ended in a council with the savages at Peoria in 1812, and a fresh interpretation of the treaties. Peoria was depopulated by these depredations, and was not re-settled for many years afterward.

As Gov. Edwards' term of office expired by law in 1812, he was re-appointed for another term of three years, and again in 1815 for a third term, serving until the organization of the State in the fall of 1818 and the inauguration of Gov. Bond. At this time ex-Gov. Edwards was sent to the United States Senate, his colleague being Jesse B. Thomas. As Senator, Mr. Edwards took a conspicuous part, and acquitted himself honorably in all the measures that came up in that body, being well posted, an able debater and a conscientious statesman. He thought seriously of resigning this situation in 1821, but was persuaded by his old friend, Wm. Wirt, and others to continue in office, which he did to the end of the term.

He was then appointed Minister to Mexico by President Monroe. About this time, it appears that Mr. Edwards saw suspicious signs in the conduct of Wm. H. Crawford, Secretary of the United States Treasury, and an ambitious candidate for the Presidency, and being implicated by the latter in some of his statements, he resigned his Mexican mission in order fully to investigate the charges. The result was the exculpation of Mr. Edwards.

Pro-slavery regulations, often termed "Black Laws," disgraced the statute books of both the Territory and the State of Illinois during the whole of his career in this commonwealth, and Mr. Edwards always maintained the doctrines of freedom, and was an important actor in the great struggle which ended in a victory for his party in 1824.

In 1826-7 the Winnebago and other Indians committed some depredations in the northern part of the

State, and the white settlers, who desired the lands and wished to exasperate the savages into an evacuation of the country, magnified the misdemeanors of the aborigines and thereby produced a hostility between the races so great as to precipitate a little war, known in history as the "Winnebago War." A few chases and skirmishes were had, when Gen. Atkinson succeeded in capturing Red Bird, the Indian chief, and putting him to death, thus ending the contest, at least until the troubles commenced which ended in the "Black Hawk War" of 1832. In the interpretation of treaties and execution of their provisions Gov. Edwards had much vexatious work to do. The Indians kept themselves generally within the jurisdiction of Michigan Territory, and its Governor, Lewis Cass, was at a point so remote that ready correspondence with him was difficult or impossible. Gov. Edwards' administration, however, in regard to the protection of the Illinois frontier, seems to have been very efficient and satisfactory.

For a considerable portion of his time after his removal to Illinois, Gov. Edwards resided upon his farm near Kaskaskia, which he had well stocked with horses, cattle and sheep from Kentucky, also with fruit-trees, grape-vines and shrubbery. He established saw and grist-mills, and engaged extensively in mercantile business, having no less than eight or ten stores in this State and Missouri. Notwithstanding the arduous duties of his office, he nearly always purchased the goods himself with which to supply the stores. Although not a regular practitioner of medicine, he studied the healing art to a considerable extent, and took great pleasure in prescribing for, and taking care of, the sick, generally without charge. He was also liberal to the poor, several widows and ministers of the gospel becoming indebted to him even for their homes.

He married Miss Elvira Lane, of Maryland, in 1803, and they became the affectionate parents of several children, one of whom, especially, is well known to the people of the "Prairie State," namely, Ninian Wirt Edwards, once the Superintendent of Public Instruction and still a resident of Springfield. Gov. Edwards resided at and in the vicinity of Kaskaskia from 1809 to 1818; in Edwardsville (named after him) from that time to 1824; and from the latter date at Belleville, St. Clair County, until his death, July 20, 1833, of Asiatic cholera. Edwards County is also named in his honor.

THE

OF



*John Reynolds*





## John Reynolds.



**J**OHN REYNOLDS, Governor 1831-4, was born in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, Feb. 26, 1788. His father, Robert Reynolds and his mother, *nee* Margaret Moore, were both natives of Ireland, from which country they emigrated to the United States in 1785, landing at Philadelphia. The senior Reynolds entertained an undying hostility to the British Government. When the subject of this sketch was about six months old, his parents emigrated with him to Tennessee, where many of their

relatives had already located, at the base of the Copper Ridge Mountain, about 14 miles northeast of the present city of Knoxville. There they were exposed to Indian depredations, and were much molested by them. In 1794 they moved into the interior of the State. They were poor, and brought up their children to habits of manual industry.

In 1800 the family removed to Kaskaskia, Ill., with eight horses and two wagons, encountering many hardships on the way. Here young Reynolds passed the most of his childhood, while his character began to develop, the most prominent traits of which were ambition and energy. He also adopted the principle and practice of total abstinence from intoxicating liquors. In 1807 the family made another removal,

this time to the "Goshen Settlement," at the foot of the Mississippi bluffs three or four miles southwest of Edwardsville.

On arriving at his 20th year, Mr. Reynolds, seeing that he must look about for his own livelihood and not yet having determined what calling to pursue, concluded first to attend college, and he accordingly went to such an institution of learning, near Knoxville, Tenn., where he had relatives. Imagine his diffidence, when, after passing the first 20 years of his life without ever having seen a carpet, a papered wall or a Windsor chair, and never having lived in a shingle-roofed house, he suddenly ushered himself into the society of the wealthy in the vicinity of Knoxville! He attended college nearly two years, going through the principal Latin authors; but it seems that he, like the rest of the world in modern times, had but very little use for his Latin in after life. He always failed, indeed, to exhibit any good degree of literary discipline. He commenced the study of law in Knoxville, but a pulmonary trouble came on and compelled him to change his mode of life. Accordingly he returned home and recuperated, and in 1812 resumed his college and law studies at Knoxville. In the fall of 1812 he was admitted to the Bar at Kaskaskia. About this time he also learned the French language, which he practiced with pleasure in conversation with his family for many years. He regarded this language as being superior to all others for social intercourse.

From his services in the West, in the war of 1812, he obtained the sobriquet of the "Old Ranger." He was Orderly Sergeant, then Judge Advocate.

Mr. Reynolds opened his first law office in the winter and spring of 1814, in the French village of Cahokia, then the capital of St. Clair County.

In the fall of 1818 he was elected an Associate Justice upon the Supreme Bench by the General Assembly. In 1825 he entered more earnestly than ever into the practice of law, and the very next year was elected a member of the Legislature, where he acted independently of all cliques and private interests. In 1828 the Whigs and Democrats were for the first time distinctively organized as such in Illinois, and the usual party bitterness grew up and raged on all sides, while Mr. Reynolds preserved a judicial calmness and moderation. The real animus of the campaign was "Jackson" and "anti-Jackson," the former party carrying the State.

In August, 1830, Mr. Reynolds was elected Governor, amid great excitement. Installed in office, he did all within his power to advance the cause of education, internal improvements, the Illinois & Michigan Canal, the harbor at Chicago, settling the country, etc.; also recommended the winding up of the State Bank, as its affairs had become dangerously complicated. In his national politics, he was a moderate supporter of General Jackson. But the most celebrated event of his gubernatorial administration was the Black Hawk War, which occurred in 1832. He called out the militia and prosecuted the contest with commendable diligence, appearing in person on the battle-grounds during the most critical periods. He was recognized by the President as Major-General, and authorized by him to make treaties with the Indians. By the assistance of the general Government the war was terminated without much bloodshed, but after many serious fights. This war, as well as everything else, was materially retarded by the occurrence of Asiatic cholera in the West. This was its first appearance here, and was the next event in prominence during Gov. Reynolds' term.

South Carolina nullification coming up at this time, it was heartily condemned by both President Jackson and Gov. Reynolds, who took precisely the same grounds as the Unionists in the last war.

On the termination of his gubernatorial term in 1834, Gov. Reynolds was elected a Member of Congress, still considering himself a backwoodsman, as he had scarcely been outside of the State since he became of age, and had spent nearly all his youthful days in the wildest region of the frontier. His first move in Congress was to adopt a resolution that in all elections made by the House for officers the votes should be given *viva voce*, each member in his place naming aloud the person for whom he votes. This created considerable heated discussion, but was es-

entially adopted, and remained the controlling principle for many years. The ex-Governor was scarcely absent from his seat a single day, during eight sessions of Congress, covering a period of seven years, and he never vacillated in a party vote; but he failed to get the Democratic party to foster his "National Road" scheme. He says, in "My Own Times" (a large autobiography he published), that it was only by rigid economy that he avoided insolvency while in Washington. During his sojourn in that city he was married, to a lady of the place.

In 1837, while out of Congress, and in company with a few others, he built the first railroad in the Mississippi Valley, namely, one about six miles long, leading from his coal mine in the Mississippi bluff to the bank of the river opposite St. Louis. Having not the means to purchase a locomotive, they operated it by horse-power. The next spring, however, the company sold out, at great sacrifice.

In 1839 the ex-Governor was appointed one of the Canal Commissioners, and authorized to borrow money to prosecute the enterprise. Accordingly, he repaired to Philadelphia and succeeding in obtaining a million dollars, which, however, was only a fourth of what was wanted. The same year he and his wife made at our of Europe. This year, also, Mr. Reynolds had the rather awkward little responsibility of introducing to President Van Buren the noted Mormon Prophet, Joseph Smith, as a "Latter-Day Saint!"

In 1846 Gov. Reynolds was elected a member of the Legislature from St. Clair County, more particularly for the purpose of obtaining a feasible charter for a macadamized road from Belleville to St. Louis, a distance of nearly 14 miles. This was immediately built, and was the first road of the kind in the State. He was again elected to the Legislature in 1852, when he was chosen Speaker of the House. In 1860, aged and infirm, he attended the National Democratic Convention at Charleston, S. C., as an anti-Douglas Delegate, where he received more attention from the Southern Delegates than any other member. He supported Breckenridge for the Presidency. After the October elections foreshadowed the success of Lincoln, he published an address urging the Democrats to rally to the support of Douglas. Immediately preceding and during the late war, his correspondence evinced a clear sympathy for the Southern secession, and about the first of March, 1861, he urged upon the Buchanan officials the seizure of the treasure and arms in the custom-house and arsenal at St. Louis. Mr. Reynolds was a rather talkative man, and apt in all the Western phrases and catchwords that ever gained currency, besides many cunning and odd ones of his own manufacture.

He was married twice, but had no children. He died in Belleville, in May, 1865, just after the close of the war.





*Mr. L. D. Ewing*



Wm. L. D. Ewing.

**W**ILLIAM LEE D. EWING, Governor of Illinois Nov. 3 to 17, 1834, was a native of Kentucky, and probably of Scotch ancestry. He had a fine education, was a gentleman of polished manners and refined sentiment. In 1830 John Reynolds was elected Governor of the State, and Zadok Casey Lieutenant Governor, and for the principal events that followed, and the characteristics of the times, see sketch of Gov. Reynolds. The first we see in history concerning Mr. Ewing, informs us that he was a Receiver of Public

Moneys at Vandalia soon after the organization of this State, and that the public moneys in his hands were deposited in various banks, as they are usually at the present day. In 1823 the State Bank was robbed, by which disaster Mr. Ewing lost a thousand-dollar deposit.

The subject of this sketch had a commission as Colonel in the Black Hawk War, and in emergencies he acted also as Major. In the summer of 1832, when it was rumored among the whites that Black Hawk and his men had encamped somewhere on Rock River, Gen. Henry was sent on a tour of reconnoissance, and with orders to drive the Indians from the State. After some opposition from his subordinate officers, Henry resolved to proceed up Rock River in search of the enemy. On the 19th of July, early in the morning, five baggage wagons,

camp equipage and all heavy and cumbersome articles were piled up and left, so that the army might make speedy and forced marches. For some miles the travel was exceedingly bad, crossing swamps and the worst thickets; but the large, fresh trail gave life and animation to the Americans. Gen. Dodge and Col. Ewing were both acting as Majors, and composed the "spy corps" or vanguard of the army. It is supposed the army marched nearly 50 miles this day, and the Indian trail they followed became fresher, and was strewed with much property and trinkets of the red-skins; that they had lost or thrown away to hasten their march. During the following night there was a terrific thunder-storm, and the soldiery, with all their appurtenances, were thoroughly drenched.

On approaching nearer the Indians the next day. Gen. Dodge and Major Ewing, each commanding a battalion of men, were placed in front to bring on the battle, but the savages were not overtaken this day. Forced marches were continued until they reached Wisconsin River, where a veritable battle ensued, resulting in the death of about 68 of Black Hawk's men. The next day they continued the chase, and as soon as he discovered the trail of the Indians leading toward the Mississippi, Maj. Ewing formed his battalion in order of battle and awaited the order of Gen. Henry. The latter soon appeared on the ground and ordered a charge, which directly resulted in chasing the red warriors across the great river. Maj. Ewing and his command proved particularly efficient in war, as it seems they were the chief actors in driving the main body of the Sacs and Foxes, in-

cluding Black Hawk himself, across the Mississippi, while Gen. Atkinson, commander-in-chief of the expedition, with a body of the army, was hunting for them in another direction.

In the above affair Maj. Ewing is often referred to as a "General," which title he had derived from his connection with the militia.

It was in the latter part of the same year (1832) that Lieutenant Governor Casey was elected to Congress and Gen. Ewing, who had been elected to the Senate, was chosen to preside over that body. At the August election of 1834, Gov. Reynolds was also elected to Congress, more than a year ahead of the time at which he could actually take his seat, as was then the law. His predecessor, Charles Slade, had just died of Asiatic cholera, soon after the election, and Gov. Reynolds was chosen to serve out his unexpired term. Accordingly he set out for Washington in November of that year to take his seat in Congress, and Gen. Ewing, by virtue of his office as President of the Senate, became Governor of the State of Illinois, his term covering only a period of 15 days, namely, from the 3d to the 17th days, inclusive, of November. On the 17th the Legislature met, and Gov. Ewing transmitted to that body his message, giving a statement of the condition of the affairs of the State at that time, and urging a continuance of the policy adopted by his predecessor; and on the same day Governor elect Joseph Duncan was sworn into office, thus relieving Mr. Ewing from

the responsible situation. This is the only time that such a juncture has happened in the history of Illinois.

On the 29th of December, 1835, Gen. Ewing was elected a United States Senator to serve out the unexpired term of Elias Kent Kane, deceased. The latter gentleman was a very prominent figure in the early politics of Illinois, and a county in this State is named in his honor. The election of Gen. Ewing to the Senate was a protracted struggle. His competitors were James Semple, who afterwards held several important offices in this State, and Richard M. Young, afterward a United States Senator and a Supreme Judge and a man of vast influence. On the first ballot Mr. Semple had 25 votes, Young 19 and Ewing 18. On the eighth ballot Young was dropped; the ninth and tenth stood a tie; but on the 12th Ewing received 40, to Semple 37, and was accordingly declared elected. In 1837 Mr. Ewing received some votes for a continuance of his term in Congress, when Mr. Young, just referred to, was elected. In 1842 Mr. Ewing was elected State Auditor on the ticket with Gov. Ford.

Gen. Ewing was a gentleman of culture, a lawyer by profession, and was much in public life. In person he was above medium height and of heavy build, with auburn hair, blue eyes, large-sized head and short face. He was genial, social, friendly and affable, with fair talent, though of no high degree of originality. He died March 25, 1846.



THE OFFICE  
OF THE

SECRETARY

OF THE

STATE




*Joseph Duncan*





## Joseph Duncan.



JOSEPH DUNCAN, Governor 1834-8, was born at Paris, Ky., Feb. 23, 1794. At the tender age of 19 years he enlisted in the war against Great Britain, and as a soldier he acquitted himself with credit. He was an Ensign under the dauntless Croghan at Lower Sandusky, or Fort Stephenson. In Illinois he first appeared in a public capacity as Major-General of the Militia, a position which his military fame had procured him. Subsequently he became a State Senator from Jackson County, and is honorably

mentioned for introducing the first bill providing for a free-school system. In 1826, when the redoubtable John P. Cook, who had previously beaten such men as John McLean, Elias Kent Kane and ex-Gov. Bond, came up for the fourth time for Congress, Mr. Duncan was brought forward against him by his friends, greatly to the surprise of all the politicians. As yet he was but little known in the State. He was an original Jackson man at that time, being attached to his political fortune in admiration of the glory of his military achievements. His chances of success against Cook were generally regarded as hopeless, but he entered upon the campaign undaunted. His speeches, though short and devoid of ornament, were full of good sense. He made a diligent canvass of the State, Mr. Cook being hindered by the condition of his health. The most that was expected of Mr. Duncan, under the circumstances, was that he would

obtain a respectable vote, but without defeating Mr. Cook. The result of the campaign, however, was a source of surprise and amazement to both friends and foes, as Mr. Duncan came out 641 votes ahead! He received 6,321 votes, and Mr. Cook 5,680. Until this *denouement*, the violence of party feeling smoldering in the breasts of the people on account of the defeat of Jackson, was not duly appreciated. Aside from the great convention struggle of 1824, no other than mere local and personal considerations had ever before controlled an election in Illinois.

From the above date Mr. Duncan retained his seat in Congress until his election as Governor in August, 1834. The first and bloodless year of the Black Hawk War he was appointed by Gov. Reynolds to the position of Brigadier-General of the volunteers, and he conducted his brigade to Rock Island. But he was absent from the State, in Washington, during the gubernatorial campaign, and did not personally participate in it, but addressed circulars to his constituents. His election was, indeed, attributed to the circumstance of his absence, because his estrangement from Jackson, formerly his political idol, and also from the Democracy, largely in ascendancy in the State, was complete; but while his defection was well known to his Whig friends, and even to the leading Jackson men of this State, the latter were unable to carry conviction of that fact to the masses, as mail and newspaper facilities at that day were far inferior to those of the present time. Of course the Governor was much abused afterward by the fossilized Jackson men who regarded party ties and affiliations as above all other issues that could arise; but he was doubtless

sincere in his opposition to the old hero, as the latter had vetoed several important western measures which were dear to Mr. Duncan. In his inaugural message he threw off the mask and took a bold stand against the course of the President. The measures recommended in his message, however, were so desirable that the Legislature, although by a large majority consisting of Jackson men, could not refrain from endorsing them. These measures related mainly to banks and internal improvements.

It was while Mr. Duncan was Governor that the people of Illinois went whirling on with bank and internal improvement schemes that well nigh bankrupted the State. The hard times of 1837 came on, and the disasters that attended the inauguration of these plans and the operation of the banks were mutually charged upon the two political parties. Had any one man autocratic power to introduce and carry on any one of these measures, he would probably have succeeded to the satisfaction of the public; but as many jealous men had hold of the same plow handle, no success followed and each blamed the other for the failure. In this great vortex Gov. Duncan was carried along, suffering the like derogation of character with his fellow citizens.

At the height of the excitement the Legislature "provided for" railroads from Galena to Cairo, Alton to Shawneetown, Alton to Mount Carmel, Alton to the eastern boundary of the State in the direction of Terre Haute, Quincy *via* Springfield to the Wabash, Bloomington to Pekin, and Peoria to Warsaw,—in all about 1,300 miles of road. It also provided for the improvement of the navigation of the Kaskaskia, Illinois, Great and Little Wabash and Rock Rivers; also as a *placebo*, \$200,000 in money were to be distributed to the various counties wherein no improvements were ordered to be made as above. The estimate for the expenses for all these projects was placed at a little over \$10,000,000, which was not more than half enough! That would now be equal to saddling upon the State a debt of \$225,000,000! It was sufficient to bankrupt the State several times over, even counting all the possible benefits.

One of the most exciting events that ever occurred in this fair State was the murder of Elijah P. Lovejoy in the fall of 1837, at Alton, during Mr. Duncan's term as Governor. Lovejoy was an "Abolitionist," editing the *Observer* at that place, and the proslavery slums there formed themselves into a mob,

and after destroying successively three presses belonging to Mr. Lovejoy, surrounded the warehouse where the fourth press was stored away, endeavoring to destroy it, and where Lovejoy and his friends were entrenching themselves, and shot and killed the brave reformer!

About this time, also, the question of removing the State capital again came up, as the 20 years' limit for its existence at Vandalia was drawing to a close. There was, of course, considerable excitement over the matter, the two main points competing for it being Springfield and Peoria. The jealousy of the latter place is not even yet, 45 years afterward, fully allayed.

Gov. Duncan's term expired in 1838. In 1842 he was again proposed as a candidate for the Executive chair, this time by the Whig party, against Adam W. Snyder, of St. Clair County, the nominee of the Democrats. Charles W. Hunter was a third candidate for the same position. Mr. Snyder, however, died before the campaign had advanced very far, and his party substituted Thomas Ford, who was elected receiving 46,909 votes, to 38,584 for Duncan, and 909 for Hunter. The cause of Democratic success at this time is mainly attributed to the temporary support of the Mormons which they enjoyed, and the want of any knowledge, on the part of the masses, that Mr. Ford was opposed to any given policy entertained in the respective localities.

Gov. Duncan was a man of rather limited education, but with naturally fine abilities he profited greatly by his various public services, and gathered a store of knowledge regarding public affairs which served him a ready purpose. He possessed a clear judgment, decision, confidence in himself and moral courage to carry out his convictions of right. In his deportment he was well adapted to gain the admiration of the people. His intercourse with them was both affable and dignified. His portrait at the Governor's mansion, from which the accompanying was made, represents him as having a swarthy complexion, high cheek bones, broad forehead, piercing black eyes and straight black hair.

He was a liberal patron of the Illinois College at Jacksonville, a member of its Board of Trustees, and died, after a short illness, Jan. 15, 1844, a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church, leaving a wife but no children. Two children, born to them, had died in infancy.





*Thos. Carlin*

Thomas

Carlin.



**C**HOMAS CARLIN, the sixth Governor of the State of Illinois, serving from 1838 to 1842, was also a Kentuckian, being born near Frankfort, that State, July 18, 1789, of Irish paternity.

The opportunities for an education being very meager in his native place, he, on approaching years of judgment and maturity, applied himself to those branches of learning that seemed most important, and thus became a self-made man; and his taste for reading and study remained with him through life. In 1803 his father removed

to Missouri, then a part of "New Spain," where he died in 1810.

In 1812 young Carlin came to Illinois and participated in all the "ranging" service incident to the war of that period, proving himself a soldier of undaunted bravery. In 1814 he married Rebecca Huit, and lived for four years on the bank of the Mississippi River, opposite the mouth of the Missouri, where he followed farming, and then removed to Greene County. He located the town site of Carleton, in that county, and in 1825 made a liberal donation of land for county building purposes. He was the first Sheriff of that county after its separate organization, and afterward was twice elected, as a Jackson Democrat, to the Illinois Senate. In the Black Hawk War he commanded a spy battalion, a post of considerable danger. In 1834 he was appointed by President Jackson to the position of Receiver of Public Moneys, and to fulfill the office

more conveniently he removed to the city of Quincy.

While, in 1838, the unwieldy internal improvement system of the State was in full operation, with all its expensive machinery, amidst bank suspensions throughout the United States, a great stringency in the money market everywhere, and Illinois bonds forced to sale at a heavy discount, and the "hardest times" existing that the people of the Prairie State ever saw, the general election of State officers was approaching. Discreet men who had cherished the hope of a speedy subsidence of the public infatuation, met with disappointment. A Governor and Legislature were to be elected, and these were now looked forward to for a repeal of the ruinous State policy. But the grand scheme had not yet lost its dazzling influence upon the minds of the people. Time and experience had not yet fully demonstrated its utter absurdity. Hence the question of arresting its career of profligate expenditures did not become a leading one with the dominant party during the campaign, and most of the old members of the Legislature were returned at this election.

Under these circumstances the Democrats, in State Convention assembled, nominated Mr. Carlin for the office of Governor, and S. H. Anderson for Lieutenant Governor, while the Whigs nominated Cyrus Edwards, brother of Ninian Edwards, formerly Governor, and W. H. Davidson. Edwards came out strongly for a continuance of the State policy, while Carlin remained non-committal. This was the first time that the two main political parties in this State were unembarrassed by any third party in the field. The result of the election was: Carlin, 35,573; Anderson, 30,335; Edwards, 29,629; and Davidson, 28,715.

Upon the meeting of the subsequent Legislature (1839), the retiring Governor (Duncan) in his mes-

sage spoke in emphatic terms of the impolicy of the internal improvement system, presaging the evils threatened, and urged that body to do their utmost to correct the great error; yet, on the contrary, the Legislature not only decided to continue the policy but also added to its burden by voting more appropriations and ordering more improvements. Although the money market was still stringent, a further loan of \$4,000,000 was ordered for the Illinois & Michigan Canal alone. Chicago at that time began to loom up and promise to be an important city, even the great emporium of the West, as it has since indeed came to be. Ex-Gov. Reynolds, an incompetent financier, was commissioned to effect the loan, and accordingly hastened to the East on this responsible errand, and negotiated the loans, at considerable sacrifice to the State. Besides this embarrassment to Carlin's administration, the Legislature also declared that he had no authority to appoint a Secretary of State until a vacancy existed, and A. P. Field, a Whig, who had already held the post by appointment through three administrations, was determined to keep the place a while longer, in spite of Gov. Carlin's preferences. The course of the Legislature in this regard, however, was finally sustained by the Supreme Court, in a *quo warranto* case brought up before it by John A. McClermand, whom the Governor had nominated for the office. Thereupon that dignified body was denounced as a "Whig Court!" endeavoring to establish the principle of life-tenure of office.

A new law was adopted re-organizing the Judiciary, and under it five additional Supreme Judges were elected by the Legislature, namely, Thomas Ford (afterward Governor), Sidney Breese, Walter B. Scates, Samuel H. Treat and Stephen A. Douglas—all Democrats.

It was during Gov. Carlin's administration that the noisy campaign of "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" occurred, resulting in a Whig victory. This, however, did not affect Illinois politics very seriously.

Another prominent event in the West during Gov. Carlin's term of office was the excitement caused by the Mormons and their removal from Independence, Mo., to Nauvoo, Ill., in 1840. At the same time they began to figure somewhat in State politics. On account of their believing—as they thought, according to the New Testament—that they should have

"all things common," and that consequently "all the earth" and all that is upon it were the "Lord's" and therefore the property of his "saints," they were suspected, and correctly, too, of committing many of the deeds of larceny, robbery, etc., that were so rife throughout this country in those days. Hence a feeling of violence grew up between the Mormons and "anti-Mormons." In the State of Missouri the Mormons always supported the Democracy until they were driven out by the Democratic government, when they turned their support to the Whigs. They were becoming numerous, and in the Legislature of 1840-1, therefore, it became a matter of great interest with both parties to conciliate these people. Through the agency of one John C. Bennett, a scamp, the Mormons succeeded in rushing through the Legislature (both parties not daring to oppose) a charter for the city of Nauvoo which virtually erected a hierarchy co-ordinate with the Federal Government itself. In the fall of 1841 the Governor of Missouri made a demand upon Gov. Carlin for the body of Joe Smith, the Mormon leader, as a fugitive from justice. Gov. Carlin issued the writ, but for some reason it was returned unserved. It was again issued in 1842, and Smith was arrested, but was either rescued by his followers or discharged by the municipal court on a writ of habeas corpus.

In December, 1841, the Democratic Convention nominated Adam W. Snyder, of Belleville, for Governor. As he had been, as a member of the Legislature, rather friendly to the Mormons, the latter naturally turned their support to the Democratic party. The next spring the Whigs nominated Ex-Gov. Duncan for the same office. In the meantime the Mormons began to grow more odious to the masses of the people, and the comparative prospects of the respective parties for success became very problematical. Mr. Snyder died in May, and Thomas Ford, a Supreme Judge, was substituted as a candidate, and was elected.

At the close of his gubernatorial term, Mr. Carlin removed back to his old home at Carrollton, where he spent the remainder of his life, as before his elevation to office, in agricultural pursuits. In 1849 he served out the unexpired term of J. D. Fry in the Illinois House of Representatives, and died Feb. 4, 1852, at his residence at Carrollton, leaving a wife and seven children.

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Thomas Ford





## Thomas Ford.



**T**HOMAS FORD, Governor from 1842 to 1846, and author of a very interesting history of Illinois, was born at Uniontown, Pa., in the year 1800. His mother, after the death of her first husband (Mr. Forquer), married Robert Ford, who was killed in 1802, by the Indians in the mountains of Pennsylvania. She was consequently left in indigent circumstances, with a large family, mostly girls. With a view to better her condition, she, in 1804, removed to Missouri, where it had been customary by the Spanish Government to give land to actual settlers; but upon her arrival at St. Louis she found the country ceded to the United States, and the liberal policy toward settlers changed by the new ownership. After some sickness to herself and family, she finally removed to Illinois, and settled some three miles south of Waterloo, but the following year moved nearer the Mississippi bluffs. Here young Ford received his first

schooling, under the instructions of a Mr. Humphrey, for which he had to walk three miles. His mother, though lacking a thorough education, was a woman of superior mental endowments, joined to energy and determination of character. She inculcated in her children those high-toned principles which distinguished her sons in public life. She exercised a rigid economy to provide her children an education; but George Forquer, her oldest son (six years older than Thomas Ford), at an early age had to quit school to aid by his labor in the support of the family. He afterward became an eminent man in Illinois affairs, and but for his early death would probably have been elected to the United States Senate.

Young Ford, with somewhat better opportunities, received a better education, though limited to the curriculum of the common school of those pioneer times. His mind gave early promise of superior endowments, with an inclination for mathematics. His proficiency attracted the attention of Hon. Daniel P. Cook, who became his efficient patron and friend. The latter gentleman was an eminent Illinois statesman who, as a Member of Congress, obtained a grant of 300,000 acres of land to aid in completing the Illinois & Michigan Canal, and after whom the county of Cook was named. Through the advice of

this gentleman, Mr. Ford turned his attention to the study of law; but Forquer, then merchandising, regarding his education defective, sent him to Transylvania University, where, however, he remained but one term, owing to Forquer's failure in business. On his return he alternated his law reading with teaching school for support.

In 1829 Gov. Edwards appointed him Prosecuting Attorney, and in 1831 he was re-appointed by Gov. Reynolds, and after that he was four times elected a Judge by the Legislature, without opposition, twice a Circuit Judge, once a Judge of Chicago, and as Associate Judge of the Supreme Court, when, in 1841, the latter tribunal was re-organized by the addition of five Judges, all Democrats. Ford was assigned to the Ninth Judicial Circuit, and while in this capacity he was holding Court in Ogle County he received a notice of his nomination by the Democratic Convention for the office of Governor. He immediately resigned his place and entered upon the canvass. In August, 1842, he was elected, and on the 8th of December following he was inaugurated.

All the offices which he had held were unsolicited by him. He received them upon the true Jeffersonian principle,—Never to ask and never to refuse office. Both as a lawyer and as a Judge he stood deservedly high, but his cast of intellect fitted him rather for a writer upon law than a practicing advocate in the courts. In the latter capacity he was void of the moving power of eloquence, so necessary to success with juries. As a Judge his opinions were sound, lucid and able expositions of the law. In practice, he was a stranger to the tact, skill and insinuating address of the politician, but he saw through the arts of demagogues as well as any man. He was plain in his demeanor, so much so, indeed, that at one time after the expiration of his term of office, during a session of the Legislature, he was taken by a stranger to be a seeker for the position of door-keeper, and was waited upon at his hotel near midnight by a knot of small office-seekers with the view of effecting a "combination!"

Mr. Ford had not the "brass" of the ordinary politician, nor that impetuosity which characterizes a political leader. He cared little for money, and hardly enough for a decent support. In person he was of small stature, slender, of dark complexion, with black hair, sharp features, deep-set eyes, a pointed, aquiline nose having a decided twist to one side, and a small mouth.

The three most important events in Gov. Ford's administration were the establishment of the high financial credit of the State, the "Mormon War" and the Mexican War.

In the first of these the Governor proved himself to be eminently wise. On coming into office he found the State badly paralyzed by the ruinous effects of the notorious "internal improvement" schemes of

the preceding decade, with scarcely anything to show by way of "improvement." The enterprise that seemed to be getting ahead more than all the rest was the Illinois & Michigan Canal. As this promised to be the most important thoroughfare, feasible to the people, it was well under headway in its construction. Therefore the State policy was almost concentrated upon it, in order to rush it on to completion. The bonded indebtedness of the State was growing so large as to frighten the people, and they were about ready to entertain a proposition for repudiation. But the Governor had the foresight to recommend such measures as would maintain the public credit, for which every citizen to-day feels thankful.

But perhaps the Governor is remembered more for his connection with the Mormon troubles than for anything else; for it was during his term of office that the "Latter-Day Saints" became so strong at Nauvoo, built their temple there, increased their numbers throughout the country, committed misdemeanors, taught dangerous doctrines, suffered the loss of their leader, Jo Smith, by a violent death, were driven out of Nauvoo to the far West, etc. Having been a Judge for so many years previously, Mr. Ford of course was non-committal concerning Mormon affairs, and was therefore claimed by both parties and also accused by each of sympathizing too greatly with the other side. Mormonism claiming to be a system of religion, the Governor no doubt was "between two fires," and felt compelled to touch the matter rather "gingerly," and doubtless felt greatly relieved when that pestilential people left the State. Such complicated matters, especially when religion is mixed up with them, expose every person participating in them to criticism from all parties.

The Mexican War was begun in the spring of 1845, and was continued into the gubernatorial term of Mr. Ford's successor. The Governor's connection with this war, however, was not conspicuous, as it was only administrative, commissioning officers, etc.


Ford's "History of Illinois" is a very readable and entertaining work, of 450 small octavo pages, and is destined to increase in value with the lapse of time. It exhibits a natural flow of compact and forcible thought, never failing to convey the nicest sense. In tracing with his trenchant pen the devious operations of the professional politician, in which he is inimitable, his account is open, perhaps, to the objection that *all* his contemporaries are treated as mere place-seekers, while many of them have since been judged by the people to be worthy statesmen. His writings seem slightly open to the criticism that they exhibit a little splenetic partiality against those of his contemporaries who were prominent during his term of office as Governor.

The death of Gov. Ford took place at Peoria, Ill., Nov. 2, 1850.


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*Aug C French*



## Augustus C. French.



**A**UGUSTUS C. FRENCH, Governor of Illinois from 1846 to 1852, was born in the town of Hill, in the State of New Hampshire, Aug. 2, 1808. He was a descendant in the fourth generation of Nathaniel French, who emigrated from England in 1687 and settled in Saybury, Mass.

In early life young French lost his father, but continued to receive instruction from an exemplary and Christian mother until he was 19 years old, when she also died, confiding to his care and trust four younger brothers and one sister. He discharged his trust with parental devotion. His education in early life was such mainly as a common school afforded. For a brief period he attended Dartmouth College, but from pecuniary causes and the care of his brothers and sister, he did not graduate. He subsequently read law, and was admitted to the Bar in 1831, and shortly afterward removed to Illinois, settling first at Albion, Edwards County, where he established himself in the practice of law. The following year he removed to Paris, Edgar County. Here he attained prominence in his profession, and entered public life by representing that county in the Legislature. A strong attachment sprang up between him and Stephen A. Douglas.

In 1839, Mr. French was appointed Receiver of the United States Land Office at Palestine, Crawford County, at which place he was a resident when

elevated to the gubernatorial chair. In 1844 he was a Presidential Elector, and as such he voted for James K. Polk.

The Democratic State Convention of 1846, meeting at Springfield Feb. 10, nominated Mr. French for Governor. Other Democratic candidates were Lyman Trumbull, John Calhoun (subsequently of Lecompton Constitution notoriety), Walter B. Scates, Richard M. Young and A. W. Cavarly,—an array of very able and prominent names. Trumbull was perhaps defeated in the Convention by the rumor that he was opposed to the Illinois and Michigan Canal, as he had been a year previously. For Lieutenant Governor J. B. Wells was chosen, while other candidates were Lewis Ross, Wm. McMurtry, Newton Cloud, J. B. Hamilton and W. W. Thompson. The resolutions declared strongly against the resuscitation of the old State Banks.

The Whigs, who were in a hopeless minority, held their convention June 8, at Peoria, and selected Thomas M. Kilpatrick, of Scott County, for Governor, and Gen. Nathaniel G. Wilcox, of Schuyler, for Lieutenant Governor.

In the campaign the latter exposed Mr. French's record and connection with the passage of the internal improvement system, urging it against his election; but in the meantime the war with Mexico broke out, regarding which the Whig record was unpopular in this State. The war was the absorbing and dominating question of the period, sweeping every other political issue in its course. The election in August gave Mr. French 58,700 votes, and Kilpatrick only 36,775. Richard Eells, Abolitionist candidate for the same office, received 5,152 votes.

By the new Constitution of 1848, a new election for State officers was ordered in November of that year, before Gov. French's term was half out, and he was re-elected for the term of four years. He was therefore the incumbent for six consecutive years, the only Governor of this State who has ever served in that capacity so long at one time. As there was no organized opposition to his election, he received 67,453 votes, to 5,639 for Pierre Menard (son of the first Lieutenant Governor), 4,748 for Charles V. Dyer, 3,834 for W. L. D. Morrison, and 1,361 for James L. D. Morrison. But Wm. McMurtry, of Knox County, was elected Lieutenant Governor, in place of Joseph B. Wells, who was before elected and did not run again.

Governor French was inaugurated into office during the progress of the Mexican War, which closed during the summer of 1847, although the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was not made until Feb. 2, 1848. The policy of Gov. French's party was committed to that war, but in connection with that affair he was, of course, only an administrative officer. During his term of office, Feb. 19, 1847, the Legislature, by special permission of Congress, declared that all Government lands sold to settlers should be immediately subject to State taxation; before this they were exempt for five years after sale. By this arrangement the revenue was materially increased. About the same time, the distribution of Government land warrants among the Mexican soldiers as bounty threw upon the market a great quantity of good lands, and this enhanced the settlement of the State. The same Legislature authorized, with the recommendation of the Governor, the sale of the Northern Cross Railroad (from Springfield to Meredosia, the first in the State and now a section of the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific). It sold for \$100,000 in bonds, although it had cost the State not less than a million. The salt wells and canal lands in the Saline reserve in Gallatin County, granted by the general Government to the State, were also authorized by the Governor to be sold, to apply on the State debt. In 1850, for the first time since 1839, the accruing State revenue, exclusive of specific appropriations, was sufficient to meet the current demands upon the treasury. The aggregate taxable property of the State at this time was over \$100,000,000, and the population 851,470.

In 1849 the Legislature adopted the township organization law, which, however, proved defective, and was properly amended in 1851. At its session in the latter year, the General Assembly also passed a law to exempt homesteads from sale on executions. This beneficent measure had been repeatedly urged upon that body by Gov. French.

In 1850 some business men in St. Louis commenced to build a dike opposite the lower part of their city on the Illinois side, to keep the Mississippi in its channel near St. Louis, instead of breaking away from them as it sometimes threatened to do. This they undertook without permission from the Legislature or Executive authority of this State; and as many of the inhabitants there complained that the scheme would inundate and ruin much valuable land, there was a slight conflict of jurisdictions, resulting in favor of the St. Louis project; and since then a good site has existed there for a city (East St. Louis), and now a score of railroads center there.

It was in September, 1850, that Congress granted to this State nearly 3,000,000 acres of land in aid of the completion of the Illinois Central Railroad, which constituted the most important epoch in the railroad—we might say internal improvement—history of the State. The road was rushed on to completion, which accelerated the settlement of the interior of the State by a good class of industrious citizens, and by the charter a good income to the State Treasury is paid in from the earnings of the road.

In 1851 the Legislature passed a law authorizing free stock banks, which was the source of much legislative discussion for a number of years.

But we have not space further to particularize concerning legislation. Gov. French's administration was not marked by any feature to be criticised, while the country was settling up as never before.

In stature, Gov. French was of medium height, squarely built, light complexioned, with ruddy face and pleasant countenance. In manners he was plain and agreeable. By nature he was somewhat diffident, but he was often very outspoken in his convictions of duty. In public speech he was not an orator, but was chaste, earnest and persuasive. In business he was accurate and methodical, and in his administration he kept up the credit of the State.

He died in 1865, at his home in Lebanon, St. Clair Co., Ill.

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*J. A. Matteson*





**J**OEL A. MATTESON, Governor 1853-6, was born Aug. 8, 1808, in Jefferson County, New York, to which place his father had removed from Vermont three years before. His father was a farmer in fair circumstances, but a common English education was all that his only son received. Young Joel first tempted fortune as a small tradesman in Prescott, Canada, before he was of age. He returned from that place to his home, entered an academy, taught school, visited the principal Eastern cities, improved a farm his father had given him, made a tour in the South, worked there in building railroads, experienced a storm on the Gulf of Mexico, visited the gold diggings of Northern Georgia, and returned *via* Nashville to St. Louis and through Illinois to his father's home, when he married. In 1833, having sold his farm, he removed, with his wife and one child, to Illinois, and entered a claim on Government land near the head of Au Sable River, in what is now Kendall County. At that time there were not more than two neighbors within a range of ten miles of his place, and only three or four houses between him and Chicago. He opened a large farm. His family was boarded 12

miles away while he erected a house on his claim, sleeping, during this time, under a rude pole shed. Here his life was once placed in imminent peril by a huge prairie rattlesnake sharing his bed.

In 1835 he bought largely at the Government land sales. During the speculative real-estate mania which broke out in Chicago in 1836 and spread over the State, he sold his lands under the inflation of that period and removed to Joliet. In 1838 he became a heavy contractor on the Illinois & Michigan Canal. Upon the completion of his job in 1841, when hard times prevailed, business at a stand, contracts paid in State scrip; when all the public works except the canal were abandoned, the State offered for sale 700 tons of railroad iron, which was purchased by Mr. Matteson at a bargain. This he accepted, shipped and sold at Detroit, realizing a very handsome profit, enough to pay off all his canal debts and leave him a surplus of several thousand dollars. His enterprise next prompted him to start a woolen mill at Joliet, in which he prospered, and which, after successive enlargements, became an enormous establishment.

In 1842 he was first elected a State Senator, but, by a bungling apportionment, John Pearson, a Senator holding over, was found to be in the same district, and decided to be entitled to represent it. Matteson's seat was declared vacant. Pearson, however, with a nobleness difficult to appreciate in this day of

greed for office, unwilling to represent his district under the circumstances, immediately resigned his unexpired term of two years. A bill was passed in a few hours ordering a new election, and in ten days' time Mr. Matteson was returned re-elected and took his seat as Senator. From his well-known capacity as a business man, he was made Chairman of the Committee on Finance, a position he held during this half and two full succeeding Senatorial terms, discharging its important duties with ability and faithfulness. Besides his extensive woolen-mill interest, when work was resumed on the canal under the new loan of \$1,600,000 he again became a heavy contractor, and also subsequently operated largely in building railroads. Thus he showed himself a most energetic and thorough business man.

He was nominated for Governor by the Democratic State Convention which met at Springfield April 20, 1852. Other candidates before the Convention were D. L. Gregg and F. C. Sherman, of Cook; John Dement, of Lee; Thomas L. Harris, of Menard; Lewis W. Ross, of Fulton; and D. P. Bush, of Pike. Gustavus Koerner, of St. Clair, was nominated for Lieutenant Governor. For the same offices the Whigs nominated Edwin B. Webb and Dexter A. Knowlton. Mr. Matteson received 80,645 votes at the election, while Mr. Webb received 64,408. Matteson's forte was not on the stump; he had not cultivated the art of oily flattery, or the quality of being all things to all men. His intellectual qualities took rather the direction of efficient executive ability. His turn consisted not so much in the adroit management of party, or the powerful advocacy of great governmental principles, as in those more solid and enduring operations which cause the physical development and advancement of a State,—of commerce and business enterprise, into which he labored with success to lead the people. As a politician he was just and liberal in his views, and both in official and private life he then stood untainted and free from blemish. As a man, in active benevolence, social virtues and all the amiable qualities of neighbor or citizen, he had few superiors. His messages present a perspicuous array of facts as to the condition of the State, and are often couched in forcible and elegant diction.

The greatest excitement during his term of office was the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, by Con-

gress, under the leadership of Stephen A. Douglas in 1854, when the bill was passed organizing the Territory of Kansas and Nebraska. A large portion of the Whig party of the North, through their bitter opposition to the Democratic party, naturally drifted into the doctrine of anti-slavery, and thus led to what was temporarily called the "Anti-Nebraska" party, while the followers of Douglas were known as "Nebraska or Douglas Democrats." It was during this embryo stage of the Republican party that Abraham Lincoln was brought forward as the "Anti-Nebraska" candidate for the United States Senatorship, while Gen. James Shields, the incumbent, was re-nominated by the Democrats. But after a few ballottings in the Legislature (1855), these men were dropped, and Lyman Trumbull, an Anti-Nebraska Democrat, was brought up by the former, and Mr. Matteson, then Governor, by the latter. On the 11th ballot Mr. Trumbull obtained one majority, and was accordingly declared elected. Before Gov. Matteson's term expired, the Republicans were fully organized as a national party, and in 1856 put into the field a full national and State ticket, carrying the State, but not the nation.

The Legislature of 1855 passed two very important measures,—the present free-school system and a submission of the Maine liquor law to a vote of the people. The latter was defeated by a small majority of the popular vote.

During the four years of Gov. Matteson's administration the taxable wealth of the State was about trebled, from \$137,818,079 to \$349,951,272; the public debt was reduced from \$17,398,985 to \$12,843,144; taxation was at the same time reduced, and the State resumed paying interest on its debt in New York as fast as it fell due; railroads were increased in their mileage from something less than 400 to about 3,000; and the population of Chicago was nearly doubled, and its commerce more than quadrupled.

Before closing this account, we regret that we have to say that Mr. Matteson, in all other respects an upright man and a good Governor, was implicated in a false re-issue of redeemed canal scrip, amounting to \$224,182.66. By a suit in the Sangamon Circuit Court the State recovered the principal and all the interest excepting \$27,500.

He died in the winter of 1872-3, at Chicago.

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*Wm. A. Russell*



## William H. Bissell.

**W**ILLIAM H. BISSELL, Governor 1857-60, was born April 25, 1811, in the State of New York, near Painted Post, Yates County.

His parents were obscure, honest, God-fearing people, who reared their children under the daily example of industry and frugality, according to the custom of that class of Eastern society. Mr. Bissell received a respectable but not thorough academical education. By assiduous application he acquired a knowledge of medicine, and in his early manhood came West and located in Mon-

roe County, this State, where he engaged in the practice of that profession. But he was not enamored of his calling; he was swayed by a broader ambition, to such an extent that the mysteries of the healing art and its arduous duties failed to yield him further any charms. In a few years he discovered his choice of a profession to be a mistake, and when he approached the age of 30 he sought to begin anew. Dr. Bissell, no doubt unexpectedly to himself, discovered a singular facility and charm of speech, the exercise of which acquired for him a ready local notoriety. It soon came to be under-

stood that he desired to abandon his profession and take up that of the law. During terms of Court he would spend his time at the county seat among the members of the Bar, who extended to him a ready welcome.

It was not strange, therefore, that he should drift into public life. In 1840 he was elected as a Democrat to the Legislature from Monroe County, and was an efficient member of that body. On his return home he qualified himself for admission to the Bar and speedily rose to the front rank as an advocate. His powers of oratory were captivating. With a pure diction, charming and inimitable gestures, clearness of statement, and a remarkable vein of sly humor, his efforts before a jury told with irresistible effect. He was chosen by the Legislature Prosecuting Attorney for the Circuit in which he lived, and in that position he fully discharged his duty to the State, gained the esteem of the Bar, and seldom failed to convict the offender of the law.

In stature he was somewhat tall and slender, and with a straight, military bearing, he presented a distinguished appearance. His complexion was dark, his head well poised, though not large, his address pleasant and manner winning. He was exemplary in his habits, a devoted husband and kind parent. He was twice married, the first time to Miss James,

of Monroe County, by whom he had two children, both daughters. She died soon after the year 1840, and Mr. B. married for his second wife a daughter of Elias K. Kane, previously a United States Senator from this State. She survived him but a short time, and died without issue.

When the war with Mexico was declared in 1846, Mr. Bissell enlisted and was elected Colonel of his regiment, over Hon. Don Morrison, by an almost unanimous vote,—807 to 6. Considering the limited opportunities he had had, he evinced a high order of military talent. On the bloody field of Buena Vista he acquitted himself with intrepid and distinguished ability, contributing with his regiment, the Second Illinois, in no small degree toward saving the wavering fortunes of our arms during that long and fiercely contested battle.

After his return home, at the close of the war, he was elected to Congress, his opponents being the Hons. P. B. Fouke and Joseph Gillespie. He served two terms in Congress. He was an ardent politician. During the great contest of 1850 he voted in favor of the adjustment measures; but in 1854 he opposed the repeal of the Missouri Compromise act and therefore the Kansas-Nebraska bill of Douglas, and thus became identified with the nascent Republican party.

During his first Congressional term, while the Southern members were following their old practice of intimidating the North by bullying language, and claiming most of the credit for victories in the Mexican War, and Jefferson Davis claiming for the Mississippi troops all the credit for success at Buena Vista, Mr. Bissell bravely defended the Northern troops; whereupon Davis challenged Bissell to a duel, which was accepted. This matter was brought up against Bissell when he was candidate for Governor and during his term of office, as the Constitution of this State forbade any duelist from holding a State office.

In 1856, when the Republican party first put forth a candidate, John C. Fremont, for President of the United States, the same party nominated Mr. Bissell for Governor of Illinois, and John Wood, of Quincy, for Lieutenant Governor, while the Democrats nominated Hon. W. A. Richardson, of Adams County, for Governor, and Col. R. J. Hamilton, of Cook County, for Lieutenant Governor. The result of the

election was a plurality of 4,729 votes over Richardson. The American, or Know-Nothing, party had a ticket in the field. The Legislature was nearly balanced, but was politically opposed to the Governor. His message to the Legislature was short and rather ordinary, and was criticised for expressing the supposed obligations of the people to the incorporators of the Illinois Central Railroad Company and for reopening the slavery question by allusions to the Kansas troubles. Late in the session an apportionment bill, based upon the State census of 1855, was passed, amid much partisan strife. The Governor at first signed the bill and then vetoed it. A furious debate followed, and the question whether the Governor had the authority to recall a signature was referred to the Courts, that of last resort deciding in favor of the Governor. Two years afterward another outrageous attempt was made for a re-apportionment and to gerrymander the State, but the Legislature failed to pass the bill over the veto of the Governor.

It was during Gov. Bissell's administration that the notorious canal scrip fraud was brought to light, implicating ex-Gov. Matteson and other prominent State officials. The principal and interest, aggregating \$255,500, was all recovered by the State excepting \$27,500. (See sketch of Gov. Matteson.)

In 1859 an attempt was discovered to fraudulently refund the Macalister and Stebbins bonds and thus rob the State Treasury of nearly a quarter of a million dollars. The State Government was implicated in this affair, and to this day remains unexplained or unatoned for. For the above, and other matters previously mentioned, Gov. Bissell has been severely criticised, and he has also been most shamefully libelled and slandered.

On account of exposure in the army, the remote cause of a nervous form of disease gained entrance into his system and eventually developed paraplegia, affecting his lower extremities, which, while it left his body in comparative health, deprived him of locomotion except by the aid of crutches. While he was generally hopeful of ultimate recovery, this mysterious disease pursued him, without once relaxing its stealthy hold, to the close of his life, March 18, 1860, over nine months before the expiration of his gubernatorial term, at the early age of 48 years. He died in the faith of the Roman Catholic Church, of which he had been a member since 1854.

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OF THE




John Wood





# John Wood.



JOHN WOOD, Governor 1860-1, and the first settler of Quincy, Ill., was born in the town of Sempronius (now Moravia), Cayuga Co., N. Y., Dec. 20, 1798. He was the second child and only son of Dr. Daniel Wood. His mother, *nee* Catherine Crause, was of German parentage, and died while he was an infant. Dr. Wood was a learned and skillful physician, of classical attainments and proficient in several modern languages, who, after

serving throughout the Revolutionary War as a Surgeon, settled on the land granted him by the Government, and resided there a respected and leading influence in his section until his death, at the ripe age of 92 years.

The subject of this sketch, impelled by the spirit of Western adventure then pervading everywhere, left his home, Nov. 2, 1818, and passed the succeeding winter in Cincinnati, Ohio. The following summer he pushed on to Illinois, landing at Shawneetown, and spent the fall and following winter in Calhoun County. In 1820, in company with Willard Keyes, he settled in Pike County, about 30 miles southeast of Quincy, where for the next two years he pursued farming. In 1821 he visited "the Bluffs" (as the present site of Quincy was called, then uninhabited) and, pleased with its prospects, soon after purchased a quarter-section of land near by, and in the following fall (1822) erected near the river a small cabin,

18 x 20 feet, the first building in Quincy, of which he then became the first and for some months the only occupant.

About this time he visited his old friends in Pike County, chief of whom was William Ross, the leading man in building up the village of Atlas, of that county, which was thought then to be the possible commencement of a city. One day they and others were traveling together over the country between the two points named, making observations on the comparative merits of the respective localities. On approaching the Mississippi near Mr. Wood's place, the latter told his companions to follow him and he would show them where he was going to build a city. They went about a mile off the main trail, to a high point, from which the view in every direction was most magnificent, as it had been for ages and as yet untouched by the hand of man. Before them swept by the majestic Father of Waters, yet unburdened by navigation. After Mr. Wood had expatiated at length on the advantages of the situation, Mr. Ross replied, "But it's too near Atlas ever to amount to anything!"

Atlas is still a cultivated farm, and Quincy is a city of over 30,000 population.

In 1824 Mr. Wood gave a newspaper notice, as the law then prescribed, of his intention to apply to the General Assembly for the formation of a new county. This was done the following winter, resulting in the establishment of the present Adams County. During the next summer Quincy was selected as the county seat, it and the vicinity then containing but four adult male residents and half

that number of females. Since that period Mr. Wood resided at the place of his early adoption until his death, and far more than any other man was he identified with every measure of its progress and history, and almost continuously kept in public positions.

He was one of the early town Trustees, and after the place became a city he was often a member of the City Council, many times elected Mayor, in the face of a constant large opposition political majority. In 1850 he was elected to the State Senate. In 1856, on the organization of the Republican party, he was chosen Lieutenant Governor of the State, on the ticket with Wm. H. Bissell for Governor, and on the death of the latter, March 18, 1860, he succeeded to the Chief Executive chair, which he occupied until Gov. Yates was inaugurated nearly ten months afterward.

Nothing very marked characterized the administration of Gov. Wood. The great anti-slavery campaign of 1860, resulting in the election of the honest Illinoisan, Abraham Lincoln, to the Presidency of the United States, occurred during the short period while Mr. Wood was Governor, and the excitement and issues of that struggle dominated over every other consideration,—indeed, supplanted them in a great measure. The people of Illinois, during all that time, were passing the comparatively petty strifes under Bissell's administration to the overwhelming issue of preserving the whole nation from destruction.

In 1861 *ex-Gov.* Wood was one of the five Delegates from Illinois to the "Peace Convention" at Washington, and in April of the same year, on the breaking out of the Rebellion, he was appointed

Quartermaster-General of the State, which position he held throughout the war. In 1864 he took command as Colonel of the 137th Ill. Vol. Inf., with whom he served until the period of enlistment expired.

Politically, Gov. Wood was always actively identified with the Whig and Republican parties. Few men have in personal experience comprehended so many surprising and advancing local changes as vested in the more than half century recollections of Gov. Wood. Sixty-four years ago a solitary settler on the "Bluffs," with no family, and no neighbor within a score of miles, the world of civilization away behind him, and the strolling red-man almost his only visitant, he lived to see growing around him, and under his auspices and aid, overspreading the wild hills and scraggy forest a teeming city, second only in size in the State, and surpassed nowhere in beauty, prosperity and promise; whose people recognize as with a single voice the proverbial honor and liberality that attach to the name and lengthened life of their pioneer settler, "the old Governor."


Gov. Wood was twice married,—first in January, 1826, to Ann M. Streeter, daughter of Joshua Streeter, formerly of Salem, Washington Co., N. Y. They had eight children. Mrs. W. died Oct. 8, 1863, and in June, 1865, Gov. Wood married Mrs. Mary A., widow of Rev. Joseph T. Holmes. Gov. Wood died June 4, 1880, at his residence in Quincy. Four of his eight children are now living, namely: Ann E., wife of Gen. John Tillson; Daniel C., who married Mary J. Abernethy; John, Jr., who married Josephine Skinner, and Joshua S., who married Annie Bradley. The last mentioned now resides at Atchison, Kansas, and all the rest are still at Quincy.



11.2.1984



*Rich. Yates*



## Richard Yates.



RICHARD YATES, the "War Governor," 1861-4, was born Jan. 18, 1818, on the banks of the Ohio River, at Warsaw, Gallatin Co., Ky. His father moved in 1831 to Illinois, and, after stopping for a time in Springfield, settled at Island Grove, Sangamon County. Here, after attending school, Richard joined the family. Subsequently he entered Illinois College at Jacksonville, where, in 1837, he graduated with first honors. He chose for his profession the law, the Hon. J. J. Hardin being his instructor. After admission to the Bar he soon rose to distinction as an advocate.

Gifted with a fluent and ready oratory, he soon appeared in the political hustings, and, being a passionate admirer of the great Whig leader of the West, Henry Clay, he joined his political fortunes to the party of his idol. In 1840 he engaged with great ardor in the exciting "hard cider" campaign for Jefferson. Two years later he was elected to the Legislature from Morgan County, a Democratic stronghold. He served three or four terms in the Legislature, and such was the fascination of his oratory that by 1850 his large Congressional District, extending from Morgan and Sangamon Counties north to include LaSalle, unanimously tendered him the Whig nomination for Congress. His Democratic opponent was Maj. Thomas L. Harris, a very popular man who had won distinction at the battle of Cerro Gordo, in the Mexican War, and who had beaten Hon. Stephen T. Logan for the same position,

two years before, by a large majority. Yates was elected. Two years later he was re-elected, over John Calhoun.

It was during Yates' second term in Congress that the great question of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise was agitated, and the bars laid down for reopening the dreaded anti-slavery question. He took strong grounds against the repeal, and thus became identified with the rising Republican party. Consequently he fell into the minority in his district, which was pro-slavery. Even then, in a third contest, he fell behind Major Harris only 200 votes, after the district had two years before given Pierce 2,000 majority for President.

The Republican State Convention of 1860 met at Decatur May 9, and nominated for the office of Governor Mr. Yates, in preference to Hon. Norman B. Judd, of Chicago, and Leonard Swett, of Bloomington, two of the ablest men of the State, who were also candidates before the Convention. Francis A. Hoffman, of DuPage County, was nominated for Lieutenant Governor. This was the year when Mr. Lincoln was a candidate for President, a period remembered as characterized by the great whirlpool which precipitated the bloody War of the Rebellion. The Douglas Democrats nominated J. C. Allen of Crawford County, for Governor, and Lewis W. Ross, of Fulton County, for Lieutenant Governor. The Breckenridge Democrats and the Bell-Everett party had also full tickets in the field. After a most fearful campaign, the result of the election gave Mr. Yates 172,196 votes, and Mr. Allen 159,253. Mr. Yates received over a thousand more votes than did Mr. Lincoln himself.

Gov. Yates occupied the chair of State during the

most critical period of our country's history. In the fate of the nation was involved that of each State. The life struggle of the former derived its sustenance from the loyalty of the latter; and Gov. Yates seemed to realize the situation, and proved himself both loyal and wise in upholding the Government. He had a deep hold upon the affections of the people, won by his moving eloquence and genial manners. Erect and symmetrical in person, of prepossessing appearance, with a winning address and a magnetic power, few men possessed more of the elements of popularity. His oratory was scholarly and captivating, his hearers hardly knowing why they were transported. He was social and convivial. In the latter respect he was ultimately carried too far.

The very creditable military efforts of this State during the War of the Rebellion, in putting into the field the enormous number of about 200,000 soldiers, were ever promptly and ably seconded by his excellency; and he was ambitious to deserve the title of "the soldier's friend." Immediately after the battle of Shiloh he repaired to the field of carnage to look after the wounded, and his appeals for aid were promptly responded to by the people. His proclamations calling for volunteers were impassioned appeals, urging upon the people the duties and requirements of patriotism; and his special message in 1863 to the Democratic Legislature of this State pleading for material aid for the sick and wounded soldiers of Illinois regiments, breathes a deep fervor of noble sentiment and feeling rarely equaled in beauty or felicity of expression. Generally his messages on political and civil affairs were able and comprehensive. During his administration, however, there were no civil events of an engrossing character, although two years of his time were replete with partisan quarrels of great bitterness. Military arrests, Knights of the Golden Circle, riot in Fulton County, attempted suppression of the *Chicago Times* and the usurping State Constitutional Convention of 1862, were the chief local topics that were exciting during the Governor's term. This Convention assembled Jan. 7, and at once took the high position that the law calling it was no longer binding, and that it had supreme power; that it represented a virtual assemblage of the whole people of the State, and was sovereign in the exercise of all power necessary to effect a peaceable revolution of the State Government

and to the re-establishment of one for the "happiness, prosperity and freedom of the citizens," limited only by the Federal Constitution. Notwithstanding the law calling the Convention required its members to take an oath to support the Constitution of the State as well as that of the general Government, they utterly refused to take such oath. They also assumed legislative powers and passed several important "laws!" Interfering with the (then) present executive duties, Gov. Yates was provoked to tell them plainly that "he did not acknowledge the right of the Convention to instruct him in the performance of his duty."

In 1863 the Governor astonished the Democrats by "proroguing" their Legislature. This body, after a recess, met June 2, that year, and soon began to waste time upon various partisan resolutions; and, while the two houses were disagreeing upon the question of adjourning *sine die*, the Governor, having the authority in such cases, surprised them all by adjourning them "to the Saturday next preceding the first Monday in January, 1865!" This led to great excitement and confusion, and to a reference of the Governor's act to the Supreme Court, who decided in his favor. Then it was the Court's turn to receive abuse for weeks and months afterward.

During the autumn of 1864 a conspiracy was detected at Chicago which had for its object the liberation of the prisoners of war at Camp Douglas, the burning of the city and the inauguration of rebellion in the North. Gen. Sweet, who had charge of the camp at the time, first had his suspicions of danger aroused by a number of enigmatically worded letters which passed through the Camp postoffice. A detective afterward discovered that the rebel Gen. Marmaduke was in the city, under an assumed name, and he, with other rebel officers—Grenfell, Morgan, Cantrell, Buckner Morris, and Charles Walsh—was arrested, most of whom were convicted by a court-martial at Cincinnati and sentenced to imprisonment,—Grenfell to be hung. The sentence of the latter was afterward commuted to imprisonment for life, and all the others, after nine months' imprisonment, were pardoned.

In March, 1873, Gov. Yates was appointed a Government Director of the Union Pacific Railroad, in which office he continued until his decease, at St. Louis, Mo., on the 27th of November following.

1927

1927



*R. J. Oglesby*





## Richard J. Oglesby.

**R**ICHARD J. OGLESBY, Governor 1865-8, and re-elected in 1872 and 1884, was born July 25, 1824, in Oldham Co., Ky.,—the State which might be considered the "mother of Illinois Governors." Bereft of his parents at the tender age of eight years, his early education was neglected. When 12 years of age, and after he had worked a year and a half at the carpenter's trade, he removed with an uncle, Willis Oglesby, into whose care he had been committed, to Decatur, this State, where he continued his apprenticeship as a mechanic, working six months for Hon. E. O. Smith.

In 1844 he commenced studying law at Springfield, with Judge Silas Robbins, and read with him one year. He was admitted to the Bar in 1845, and commenced the practice of his chosen profession at Sullivan, the county seat of Moultrie County.

The next year the war with Mexico was commenced, and in June, 1846, Mr. Oglesby volunteered, was elected First Lieutenant of Co. C, Fourth Illinois Regiment of Volunteers, and participated in the battles of Vera Cruz and Cerro Gordo.

On his return he sought to perfect his law studies by attending a course of lectures at Louisville, but on the breaking out of the California "gold fever" in 1849, he crossed the plains and mountains to the new Eldorado, driving a six-mule team, with a com-

pany of eight men, Henry Prather being the leader.

In 1852 he returned home to Macon County, and was placed that year by the Whig party on the ticket of Presidential Electors. In 1856 he visited Europe, Asia and Africa, being absent 20 months. On his return home he resumed the practice of law, as a member of the firm of Gallagher, Wait & Oglesby. In 1858 he was the Republican nominee for the Lower House of Congress, but was defeated by the Hon. James C. Robinson, Democrat. In 1860 he was elected to the Illinois State Senate; and on the evening the returns of this election were coming in. Mr. Oglesby had a fisticuff encounter with "Cerro Gordo Williams," in which he came out victorious, and which was regarded as "the first fight of the Rebellion." The following spring, when the war had commenced in earnest, his ardent nature quickly responded to the demands of patriotism and he enlisted. The extra session of the Legislature elected him Colonel of the Eighth Illinois Infantry, the second one in the State raised to suppress the great Rebellion.

He was shortly entrusted with important commands. For a time he was stationed at Bird's Point and Cairo; in April he was promoted Brigadier General; at Fort Donelson his brigade was in the van, being stationed on the right of General Grant's army and the first brigade to be attacked. He lost 500 men before re-inforcements arrived. Many of these men were from Macon County. He was engaged in the battle of Corinth, and, in a brave charge at this place, was shot in the left lung with an ounce ball, and was carried from the field in expectation of im-

mediate death. That rebel ball he carries to this day. On his partial recovery he was promoted as Major General, for gallantry, his commission to rank from November, 1862. In the spring of 1863 he was assigned to the command of the 16th Army Corps, but, owing to inability from the effects of his wound, he relinquished this command in July, that year. Gen. Grant, however, refused to accept his resignation, and he was detailed, in December following, to court-martial and try the Surgeon General of the Army at Washington, where he remained until May, 1864, when he returned home.

The Republican, or Union, State Convention of 1864 was held at Springfield, May 25, when Mr. Oglesby was nominated for the office of Governor, while other candidates before the Convention were Allen C. Fuller, of Boone, Jesse K. Dubois, of Sangamon, and John M. Palmer, of Macoupin. Wm. Bross, of Chicago, was nominated for Lieutenant Governor. On the Democratic State ticket were James C. Robinson, of Clark, for Governor, and S. Corning Judd, of Fulton, for Lieutenant Governor. The general election gave Gen. Oglesby a majority of about 31,000 votes. The Republicans had also a majority in both the Legislature and in the representation in Congress.

Gov. Oglesby was duly inaugurated Jan. 17, 1865. The day before the first time set for his installation death visited his home at Decatur, and took from it his only son, an intelligent and sprightly lad of six years, a great favorite of the bereaved parents. This caused the inauguration to be postponed a week.

The political events of the Legislative session of 1865 were the election of ex-Gov. Yates to the United States Senate, and the ratification of the 13th amendment to the Constitution of the United States, abolishing slavery. This session also signalized itself by repealing the notorious "black laws," part of which, although a dead letter, had held their place upon the statute books since 1819. Also, laws requiring the registration of voters, and establishing a State Board of Equalization, were passed by this Legislature. But the same body evinced that it was corruptly influenced by a mercenary lobby, as it adopted some bad legislation, over the Governor's veto, notably an amendment to a charter for a Chicago horse railway, granted in 1859 for 25 years, and now sought to be extended 99 years. As this measure was promptly passed over his veto by both branches of the Legislature, he deemed it useless further to attempt to check their headlong career. At this session no law of a general useful character or public interest was perfected, unless we count such the turning over of the canal to Chicago to be deepened. The session of 1867 was still more productive of private and special acts. Many omnibus bills were proposed, and some passed. The contests over the location of the Industrial College, the Capital, the

Southern Penitentiary, and the canal enlargement and Illinois River improvement, dominated everything else.

During the year 1872, it became evident that if the Republicans could re-elect Mr. Oglesby to the office of Governor, they could also elect him to the United States Senate, which they desired to do. Accordingly they re-nominated him for the Executive chair, and placed upon the ticket with him for Lieutenant Governor, John L. Beveridge, of Cook County. On the other side the Democrats put into the field Gustavus Koerner for Governor and John C. Black for Lieutenant Governor. The election gave the Republican ticket majorities ranging from 35,334 to 56,174,—the Democratic defection being caused mainly by their having an old-time Whig and Abolitionist, Horace Greeley, on the national ticket for President. According to the general understanding had beforehand, as soon as the Legislature met it elected Gov. Oglesby to the United States Senate, whereupon Mr. Beveridge became Governor. Senator Oglesby's term expired March 4, 1879, having served his party faithfully and exhibited an order of statesmanship beyond criticism.

During the campaign of 1884 Mr. Oglesby was nominated for a "third term" as Executive of the State of Illinois, against Carter H. Harrison, Mayor of Chicago, nominated by the Democrats. Both gentlemen "stumped" the State, and while the people elected a Legislature which was a tie on a joint ballot, as between the two parties, they gave the jovial "Dick" Oglesby a majority of 15,018 for Governor, and he was inaugurated Jan. 30, 1885. The Legislature did not fully organize until this date, on account of its equal division between the two main parties and the consequent desperate tactics of each party to checkmate the latter in the organization of the House.

Gov. Oglesby is a fine-appearing, affable man, with regular, well defined features and rotund face. In stature he is a little above medium height, of a large frame and somewhat fleshy. His physical appearance is striking and prepossessing, while his straight-out, not to say bluff, manner and speech are well calculated favorably to impress the average masses. Ardent in feeling and strongly committed to the policies of his party, he intensifies Republicanism among Republicans, while at the same time his jovial and liberal manner prevents those of the opposite party from hating him.

He is quite an effective stump orator. With vehement, passionate and scornful tone and gestures, tremendous physical power, which in speaking he exercises to the utmost; with frequent descents to the grotesque; and with abundant homely comparisons or frontier figures, expressed in the broadest vernacular and enforced with stentorian emphasis, he delights a promiscuous audience beyond measure.

WE CAN


NUMBER 100



*John R. Peen*



## JOHN M. PALMER



JOHN Mc AULEY PALMER, Governor 1869-72, was born on Eagle Creek, Scott Co., Ky., Sept. 13, 1817. During his infancy, his father, who had been a soldier in the war of 1812, removed to Christian Co., Ky., where lands were cheap. Here the future Governor of the great Prairie State spent his childhood and received such meager schooling as the new and sparsely settled country afforded. To this he added materially by diligent reading, for which he evinced an

early aptitude. His father, an ardent Jackson man, was also noted for his anti-slavery sentiments, which he thoroughly impressed upon his children. In 1831 he emigrated to Illinois, settling in Madison County. Here the labor of improving a farm was pursued for about two years, when the death of Mr. Palmer's mother broke up the family. About this time Alton College was opened, on the "manual labor" system, and in the spring of 1834 young Palmer, with his elder brother, Elihu, entered this school and remained 18 months. Next, for over three years, he tried variously coopering, peddling and school-teaching.

During the summer of 1838 he formed the acquaintance of Stephen A. Douglas, then making his

first canvass for Congress. Young, eloquent and in political accord with Mr. Palmer, he won his confidence, fired his ambition and fixed his purpose. The following winter, while teaching near Canton, he began to devote his spare time to a desultory reading of law, and in the spring entered a law office at Carlinville, making his home with his elder brother, Elihu. (The latter was a learned clergyman, of considerable originality of thought and doctrine.) On the next meeting of the Supreme Court he was admitted to the Bar, Douglas being one of his examiners. He was not immediately successful in his profession, and would have located elsewhere than Carlinville had he the requisite means. Thus his early poverty was a blessing in disguise, for to it he now attributes the success of his life.

From 1839 on, while he diligently pursued his profession, he participated more or less in local politics. In 1843 he became Probate Judge. In 1847 he was elected to the State Constitutional Convention, where he took a leading part. In 1852 he was elected to the State Senate, and at the special session of February, 1854, true to the anti-slavery sentiments bred in him, he took a firm stand in opposition to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and when the Nebraska question became a party issue he refused to receive a re-nomination for the Senatorship at the hands of the Democracy, issuing a circular to that effect. A few weeks afterward

however, hesitating to break with his party, he participated in a Congressional Convention which nominated T. L. Harris against Richard Yates, and which unqualifiedly approved the principles of the Kansas-Nebraska act. But later in the campaign he made the plunge, ran for the Senate as an Anti-Nebraska Democrat, and was elected. The following winter he put in nomination for the United States Senate Mr. Trumbull, and was one of the five steadfast men who voted for him until all the Whigs came to their support and elected their man.

In 1856 he was Chairman of the Republican State Convention at Bloomington. He ran for Congress in 1859, but was defeated. In 1860 he was Republican Presidential Elector for the State at large. In 1861 he was appointed one of the five Delegates (all Republicans) sent by Illinois to the peace congress at Washington.

When the civil conflict broke out, he offered his services to his country, and was elected Colonel of the 4th Ill. Vol. Inf., and participated in the engagements at Island No. 10; at Farmington, where he skillfully extricated his command from a dangerous position; at Stone River, where his division for several hours, Dec. 31, 1862, held the advance and stood like a rock, and for his gallantry there he was made Major General; at Chickamauga, where his and Van Cleve's divisions for two hours maintained their position when they were cut off by overpowering numbers. Under Gen. Sherman, he was assigned to the 14th Army Corps and participated in the Atlanta campaign. At Peach-Tree Creek his prudence did much to avert disaster. In February, 1865, Gen. Palmer was assigned to the military administration of Kentucky, which was a delicate post. That State was about half rebel and half Union, and those of the latter element were daily fretted by the loss of their slaves. He, who had been bred to the rules of common law, trembled at the contemplation of his extraordinary power over the persons and property of his fellow men, with which he was vested in his capacity as military Governor; and he exhibited great caution in the execution of the duties of his post.

Gen. Palmer was nominated for Governor of Illinois by the Republican State Convention which met at Peoria May 6, 1868, and his nomination would probably have been made by acclamation had he not persistently declared that he could not accept a can-

didature for the office. The result of the ensuing election gave Mr. Palmer a majority of 44,707 over John R. Eden, the Democratic nominee.

On the meeting of the Legislature in January, 1869, the first thing to arrest public attention was that portion of the Governor's message which took broad State's rights ground. This and some minor points, which were more in keeping with the Democratic sentiment, constituted the entering wedge for the criticisms and reproofs he afterward received from the Republican party, and ultimately resulted in his entire alienation from the latter element. The Legislature just referred to was noted for the introduction of numerous bills in the interest of private parties, which were embarrassing to the Governor. Among the public acts passed was that which limited railroad charges for passenger travel to a maximum of three cents per mile; and it was passed over the Governor's veto. Also, they passed, over his veto, the "tax-grabbing law" to pay railroad subscriptions, the Chicago Lake Front bill, etc. The new State Constitution of 1870, far superior to the old, was a peaceful "revolution" which took place during Gov. Palmer's term of office. The suffering caused by the great Chicago Fire of October, 1871, was greatly alleviated by the prompt responses of his excellency.

Since the expiration of Gov. Palmer's term, he has been somewhat prominent in Illinois politics, and has been talked of by many, especially in the Democratic party, as the best man in the State for a United States Senator. His business during life has been that of the law. Few excel him in an accurate appreciation of the depth and scope of its principles. The great number of his able veto messages abundantly testify not only this but also a rare capacity to point them out. He is a logical and cogent reasoner and an interesting, forcible and convincing speaker, though not fluent or ornate. Without brilliancy, his dealings are rather with facts and ideas than with appeals to passions and prejudices. He is a patriot and a statesman of very high order. Physically he is above the medium height, of robust frame, ruddy complexion and sanguine-nervous temperament. He has a large cranial development, is vivacious, social in disposition, easy of approach, unostentatious in his habits of life, democratic in his habits and manners and is a true American in his fundamental principles of statesmanship.

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*John L. Beveridge*





## John E. Beveridge.



JOHN LOWRIE BEVERIDGE, Governor 1873-6, was born in the town of Greenwich, Washington Co., N. Y., July 6, 1824. His parents were George and Ann Beveridge. His father's parents, Andrew and Isabel Beveridge, before their marriage emigrated from Scotland just before the Revolutionary War, settling in Washington County. His father was the eldest of eight brothers, the youngest of whom was 60 years of age when the first one of the number died. His mother's parents, James and Agnes Hoy, emigrated from Scotland at the close of the Revolutionary War, settling also in Washington Co., N. Y., with their first-born, whose "native land" was the wild ocean. His parents and grandparents lived beyond the time allotted to man, their average age being over 80 years. They belonged to the "Associate Church," a seceding Presbyterian body of

America from the old Scotch school; and so rigid was the training of young Beveridge that he never heard a sermon from any other minister except that of his own denomination until he was in his 19th year. Later in life he became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which relation he still holds.

Mr. Beveridge received a good common-school education, but his parents, who could obtain a livelihood only by rigid economy and industry, could not send him away to college. He was raised upon a farm, and was in his 18th year when the family removed to De Kalb County, this State, when that section was very sparsely settled. Chicago had less than 7,000 inhabitants. In this wild West he continued as a farm laborer, teaching school during the winter months to supply the means of an education. In the fall of 1842 he attended one term at the academy at Granville, Putnam Co., Ill., and subsequently several terms at the Rock River Seminary at Mount Morris, Ogle Co., Ill., completing the academic course. At this time, the fall of 1845, his parents and brothers were anxious to have him go to college, even though he had not money sufficient; but, not willing to burden the family, he packed his trunk and with only \$40 in money started South to seek his fortune

Poor, alone, without friends and influence, he thus entered upon the battle of life.

First, he taught school in Wilson, Overton and Jackson Cos., Tenn., in which experience he underwent considerable mental drill, both in book studies and in the ways of the world. He read law and was admitted to the Bar, in the South, but did not learn to love the institution of slavery, although he admired many features of Southern character. In December, 1847, he returned North, and Jan. 20, 1848, he married Miss Helen M. Judson, in the old Clark-Street M. E. church in Chicago, her father at that time being Pastor of the society there. In the spring of 1848 he returned with his wife to Tennessee, where his two children, Alla May and Philo Judson, were born.

In the fall of 1849, through the mismanagement of an associate, he lost what little he had accumulated and was left in debt. He soon managed to earn means to pay his debts, returned to De Kalb Co., Ill., and entered upon the practice of his profession at Sycamore, the county seat. On arrival from the South he had but one-quarter of a dollar in money, and scanty clothing and bedding for himself and family. He borrowed a little money, practiced law, worked in public offices, kept books for some of the business men of the town, and some railroad engineering, till the spring of 1854, when he removed to Evanston, 12 miles north of Chicago, a place then but recently laid out, under the supervision of the Northwestern University, a Methodist institution. Of the latter his father-in-law was then financial agent and business manager. Here Mr. Beveridge prospered, and the next year (1855) opened a law office in Chicago, where he found the battle somewhat hard; but he persevered with encouragement and increasing success.

Aug. 12, 1861, his law partner, Gen. John F. Farnsworth, secured authority to raise a regiment of cavalry, and authorized Mr. Beveridge to raise a company for it. He succeeded in a few days in raising the company, of course enlisting himself along with it. The regiment rendezvoused at St. Charles, Ill., was mustered in Sept. 18, and on its organization Mr. B. was elected Second Major. It was attached, Oct. 11, to the Eighth Cavalry and to the Army of the Potomac. He served with the regiment until November, 1863, participating in some 40 bat-

tles and skirmishes: was at Fair Oaks, the seven days' fight around Richmond, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. He commanded the regiment the greater part of the summer of 1863, and it was while lying in camp this year that he originated the policy of encouraging recruits as well as the fighting capacity of the soldiery, by the wholesale furlough system. It worked so well that many other officers adopted it. In the fall of this year he recruited another company, against heavy odds, in January, 1864, was commissioned Colonel of the 17th Ill. Cav., and skirmished around in Missouri, concluding with the reception of the surrender of Gen. Kirby Smith's army in Arkansas. In 1865 he commanded various sub-districts in the Southwest. He was mustered out Feb. 6, 1866, safe from the casualties of war and a stouter man than when he first enlisted. His men idolized him.

He then returned to Chicago, to practice law, with no library and no clientage, and no political experience except to help others into office. In the fall of 1866 he was elected Sheriff of Cook County, serving one term; next, until November, 1870, he practiced law and closed up the unfinished business of his office. He was then elected State Senator; in November, 1871, he was elected Congressman at large; in November, 1872, he was elected Lieutenant Governor on the ticket with Gov. Oglesby; the latter being elected to the U. S. Senate, Mr. Beveridge became Governor, Jan. 21, 1873. Thus, inside of a few weeks, he was Congressman at large, Lieutenant Governor and Governor. The principal events occurring during Gov. Beveridge's administration were: The completion of the revision of the statutes, begun in 1869; the partial success of the "farmers' movement"; "Haines' Legislature" and Illinois' exhibit at the Centennial.

Since the close of his gubernatorial term ex-Gov. Beveridge has been a member of the firm of Beveridge & Dewey, bankers and dealers in commercial paper at 71 Dearborn Street (McCormick Block), Chicago, and since November, 1881, he has also been Assistant United States Treasurer: office in the Government Building. His residence is still at Evanston.

He has a brother and two sisters yet residing in De Kalb County—James H. Beveridge, Mrs. Jennet Henry and Mrs. Isabel French.






John M. Hamilton



## John M. Hamilton.



JOHN MARSHALL HAMILTON, Governor 1883-5, was born May 28, 1847, in a log house upon a farm about two miles from Richwood, Union County, Ohio. His father was Samuel Hamilton, the eldest son of Rev. Wm. Hamilton, who, together with his brother, the Rev. Samuel Hamilton, was among the early pioneer Methodist preachers in Ohio. The mother of the subject of this sketch was, before her marriage, Mrs. Nancy McMorris, who was born and raised in Fauquier or Loudoun County, Va., and related to the

two large families of Youngs and Marshalls, well known in that commonwealth; and from the latter family name was derived the middle name of Gov. Hamilton.

In March, 1854, Mr. Hamilton's father sold out his little pioneer forest home in Union County, O., and, loading his few household effects and family (of six children) into two emigrant covered wagons, moved to Roberts Township, Marshall Co., Ill., being 21 days on the route. Swamps, unbridged streams and innumerable hardships and privations met them on their way. Their new home had been previously selected by the father. Here, after many long years of toil, they succeeded in paying for the land and making a comfortable home. John was, of course,

brought up to hard manual labor, with no schooling except three or four months in the year at a common country school. However, he evinced a capacity and taste for a high order of self-education, by studying or reading what books he could borrow, as the family had but very few in the house. Much of his study he prosecuted by the light of a log fire in the old-fashioned chimney place. The financial panic of 1857 caused the family to come near losing their home, to pay debts; but the father and two sons, William and John, "buckled to" and persevered in hard labor and economy until they redeemed their place from the mortgage.

When the tremendous excitement of the political campaign of 1860 reached the neighborhood of Roberts Township, young Hamilton, who had been brought up in the doctrine of anti-slavery, took a zealous part in favor of Lincoln's election. Making special efforts to procure a little money to buy a uniform, he joined a company of Lincoln Wide-Awakes at Magnolia, a village not far away. Directly after the ensuing election it became evident that trouble would ensue with the South, and this Wide-Awake company, like many others throughout the country, kept up its organization and transformed itself into a military company. During the ensuing summer they met often for drill and became proficient; but when they offered themselves for the war, young Hamilton was rejected on account of his youth, he being then but 14 years of age. During the winter of 1863-4 he attended an academy at Henry, Marshall County,

and in the following May he again enlisted, for the fourth time, when he was placed in the 141st Ill. Vol. Inf., a regiment then being raised at Elgin, Ill., for the 100-day service. He took with him 13 other lads from his neighborhood, for enlistment in the service. This regiment operated in Southwestern Kentucky, for about five months, under Gen. Paine.

The following winter, 1864-5, Mr. Hamilton taught school, and during the two college years 1865-7, he went through three years of the curriculum of the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio. The third year he graduated, the fourth in a class of 46, in the classical department. In due time he received the degree of M. A. For a few months he was the Principal of Marshall "College" at Henry, an academy under the auspices of the M. E. Church. By this time he had commenced the study of law, and after earning some money as a temporary Professor of Latin at the Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington, he entered the law office of Weldon, Tipton & Benjamin, of that city. Each member of this firm has since been distinguished as a Judge. Admitted to the Bar in May, 1870, Mr. Hamilton was given an interest in the same firm, Tipton having been elected Judge. In October following he formed a partnership with J. H. Rowell, at that time Prosecuting Attorney. Their business was then small, but they increased it to very large proportions, practicing in all grades of courts, including even the U. S. Supreme Court, and this partnership continued broken until Feb. 6, 1883, when Mr. Hamilton was sworn in as Executive of Illinois. On the 4th of March following Mr. Rowell took his seat in Congress.

In July, 1871, Mr. Hamilton married Miss Helen M. Williams, the daughter of Prof. Wm. G. Williams, Professor of Greek in the Ohio Wesleyan University. Mr. and Mrs. H. have two daughters and one son.

In 1876 Mr. Hamilton was nominated by the Republicans for the State Senate, over other and older competitors. He took an active part "on the stump" in the campaign, for the success of his party, and was elected by a majority of 1,640 over his Democratic-Greenback opponent. In the Senate he served on the Committees on Judiciary, Revenue, State Institutions, Appropriations, Education, and on Miscellany; and during the contest for the election of a U. S. Senator, the Republicans endeavoring to re-

elect John A. Logan, he voted for the war chief on every ballot, even alone when all the other Republicans had gone over to the Hon. E. B. Lawrence and the Democrats and Independents elected Judge David Davis. At this session, also, was passed the first Board of Health and Medical Practice act, of which Mr. Hamilton was a champion, against so much opposition that the bill was several times "laid on the table." Also, this session authorized the location and establishment of a southern penitentiary, which was fixed at Chester. In the session of 1879 Mr. Hamilton was elected President *pro tem.* of the Senate, and was a zealous supporter of John A. Logan for the U. S. Senate, who was this time elected without any trouble.

In May, 1880, Mr. Hamilton was nominated on the Republican ticket for Lieutenant Governor, his principal competitors before the Convention being Hon. Wm. A. James, ex-Speaker of the House of Representatives, Judge Robert Bell, of Wabash County, Hon. T. T. Fountain, of Perry County, and Hon. M. M. Saddler, of Marion County. He engaged actively in the campaign, and his ticket was elected by a majority of 41,200. As Lieutenant Governor, he presided almost continuously over the Senate in the 32d General Assembly and during the early days of the 33d, until he succeeded to the Governorship. When the Legislature of 1883 elected Gov. Cullom to the United States Senate, Lieut. Gov. Hamilton succeeded him, under the Constitution, taking the oath of office Feb. 6, 1883. He bravely met all the annoyances and embarrassments incidental upon taking up another's administration. The principal events with which Gov. Hamilton was connected as the Chief Executive of the State were, the mine disaster at Braidwood, the riots in St. Clair and Madison Counties in May, 1883, the appropriations for the State militia, the adoption of the Harper high-license liquor law, the veto of a dangerous railroad bill, etc.

The Governor was a Delegate at large to the National Republican Convention at Chicago in June, 1884, where his first choice for President was John A. Logan, and second choice Chester A. Arthur; but he afterward zealously worked for the election of Mr. Blaine, true to his party.

Mr. Hamilton's term as Governor expired Jan. 30, 1885, when the great favorite "Dick" Oglesby was inaugurated.





*J. W. Fisher*





Joseph W. Fifer.

**J**OSEPH WILSON FIFER. This distinguished gentleman was elected Governor of Illinois November 6, 1888. He was popularly known during the campaign as "Private Joe." He had served with great devotion to his country during the Rebellion, in the Thirty-third Illinois Infantry. A native of Virginia, he was born in 1840. His parents, John and Mary (Daniels) Fifer, were American born, though of German descent. His father was a brick and stone mason, and an old

Henry Clay Whig in politics. John and Mary Fifer had nine children, of whom Joseph was the sixth, and naturally, with so large a family, it was all the father could do to keep the wolf from the door, to say nothing of giving his children anything like good educational advantages.

Joseph attended school for a while in Virginia, but it was not a good school, and when his father removed to the West, in 1857, Joseph had not advanced much further than the "First Reader." Our subject was sixteen then and suffered a great misfortune in the loss of his mother. After the

death of Mrs. Fifer, which occurred in Missouri, the family returned to Virginia, but remained only a short time, as during the same year Mr. Fifer came to Illinois. He settled in McLean County and started a brickyard. Here Joseph and his brothers were put to work. The elder Mr. Fifer soon bought a farm near Bloomington and began life as an agriculturist. Here Joe worked and attended the neighboring school. He alternated farm-work, and brick-laying, going to the district school for the succeeding few years. It was all work and no play for Joe, yet it by no means made a dull boy of him. All the time he was thinking of the great world outside, of which he had caught a glimpse when coming from Virginia, yet he did not know just how he was going to get out into it. He could not feel that the woods around the new farm and the log cabin, in which the family lived, were to hold him.

The opportunity to get out into the world was soon offered to young Joe. He traveled a dozen miles barefoot, in company with his brother George, and enlisted in Company C, Thirty-third Illinois Infantry, he being then twenty years old. In a few days, the regiment was sent to Camp Butler, and then over into Missouri, and saw some vigorous service there. After a second time helping to chase Price out of Missouri, the Thirty-third Regi-

ment went down to Milliken's Bend, and for several weeks "Private Joe" worked on Grant's famous ditch. The regiment then joined the forces operating against Port Gibson and Vicksburg. Joe was on guard duty in the front ditches when the flag of surrender was run up on the 4th of July, and stuck the bayonet of his gun into the embankment and went into the city with the vanguard of Union soldiers.


The next day, July 5, the Thirty-third joined the force after Johnston, who had been threatening Grant's rear; and finally an assault was made on him at Jackson, Miss. In this charge "Private Joe" fell, terribly wounded. He was loading his gun, when a minie-ball struck him and passed entirely through his body. He was regarded as mortally wounded. His brother, George, who had been made a Lieutenant, proved to be the means of saving his life. The Surgeon told him that unless he had ice his brother could not live. It was fifty miles to the nearest point where ice could be obtained, and the roads were rough. A comrade, a McLean County man, who had been wounded, offered to make the trip. An ambulance was secured and the brother soldier started on the journey. He returned with the ice, but the trip, owing to the roughness of the road, was very hard on him. After a few months' careful nursing, Mr. Fifer was able to come home. The Thirty-third came home on a furlough, and when the boys were ready to return to the tented field, young Fifer was ready to go with them, for he was determined to finish his term of three years. He was mustered out in October, 1864, having been in the service three years and two months.

"Private Joe" came out of the army a tall, tanned, and awkward young man of twenty-four. About all he possessed was ambition to be somebody—and pluck. Though at an age when most men have finished their college course, the young soldier saw that if he was to be anybody he must have an education. Yet he had no means to enable him to enter school as most young men do. He was determined to have an education, however, and that to him meant success. For the following four years he struggled with his books. He en-

tered Wesleyan University January 1, 1865. He was not a brilliant student, being neither at the head nor at the foot of his class. He was in great earnest, however, studied hard and came forth with a well-stored and disciplined mind.

Immediately after being graduated, he entered an office at Bloomington as a law student. He had previously read law a little, and as he continued to work hard, with the spur of poverty and promptings of ambition ever with him, he was ready to hang out his professional shingle in 1869. Being trustworthy, he soon gathered about him some influential friends. In 1871 he was elected Corporation Counsel of Bloomington. In 1872 he was elected State's Attorney of McLean County. This office he held eight years, when he took his seat in the State Senate. He served for four years. His ability to perform abundance of hard work made him a most valued member of the Legislature.

Mr. Fifer was married in 1870 to Gertie, daughter of William J. Lewis, of Bloomington. Mr. Fifer is six feet in height and is spare, weighing only one hundred and fifty pounds. He has a swarthy complexion, keen blackeyes, quick movement, and possesses a frank and sympathetic nature, and naturally makes friends wherever he goes. During the late gubernatorial campaign his visits throughout the State proved a great power in his behalf. His faculty of winning the confidence and good wishes of those with whom he comes in personal contact is a source of great popularity, especially during a political battle. As a speaker he is fluent, his language is good, voice clear and agreeable, and manner forcible. His manifest earnestness in what he says, as well as his tact as a public speaker, and his eloquent and forceful language, make him a most valuable campaign orator and a powerful pleader at the bar. At the Republican State Convention, held in May, 1888, Mr. Fifer was chosen as its candidate for Governor. He proved a popular nominee, and the name of "Private Joe" became familiar to everyone throughout the State. He waged a vigorous campaign, was elected by a good majority, and in due time assumed the duties of the Chief Executive of Illinois.




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*McCallum*



## SHELBY M. CULLOM.



**S**HELBY M. CULLOM, Governor 1877-83, is the sixth child of the late Richard N. Cullom, and was born Nov. 22, 1829, in Wayne Co., Ky., where his father then resided, and whence both the Illinois and Tennessee branches of the family originated. In the following year the family emigrated to the vicinity of Washington, Tazewell Co., Ill., when that section was very sparsely settled. They located on Deer Creek, in a grove at the time occupied by a party of Indians, attracted there by the superior hunting and fishing afforded in that vicinity. The following winter was

known as the "hard winter," the snow being very deep and lasting and the weather severely cold; and the family had to subsist mainly on boiled corn or hominy, and some wild game, for several weeks. In the course of time Mr. R. N. Cullom became a prominent citizen and was several times elected to the Legislature, both before and after the removal of the capital from Vandalia to Springfield. He died about 1873.

Until about 19 years of age young Cullom grew up on agricultural pursuits, attending school as he had opportunity during the winter. Within this time, however, he spent several months teaching school.

and in the following summer he "broke prairie" with an ox team for the neighbors. With the money obtained by these various ventures, he undertook a course of study at the Rock River Seminary, a Methodist institution at Mt. Morris, Ogle County; but the sudden change to the in-door life of a student told severely upon his health, and he was taken home, being considered in a hopeless condition. While at Mt. Morris he heard Hon. E. B. Washburne make his first speech.

On recovering health, Mr. Cullom concluded to study law, under the instruction of Abraham Lincoln, at Springfield, who had by this time attained some notoriety as an able lawyer; but the latter, being absent from his office most of the time, advised Mr. Cullom to enter the office of Stuart & Edwards. After about a year of study there, however, his health failed again, and he was obliged to return once more to out-door life. Accordingly he bought hogs for packing, for A. G. Tyng, in Peoria, and while he regained his health he gained in purse, netting \$400 in a few weeks. Having been admitted to the Bar, he went to Springfield, where he was soon elected City Attorney, on the Anti-Nebraska ticket.

In 1856 he ran on the Fillmore ticket as a Presidential Elector, and, although failing to be elected as such, he was at the same time elected a Representative in the Legislature from Sangamon County, by a local coalition of the American and Republican parties. On the organization of the House, he received the vote of the Fillmore men for Speaker. **Practicing**

law until 1860, he was again elected to the Legislature, as a Republican, while the county went Democratic on the Presidential ticket. In January following he was elected Speaker, probably the youngest man who had ever presided over an Illinois Legislature. After the session of 1861, he was a candidate for the State Constitutional Convention called for that year, but was defeated, and thus escaped the disgrace of being connected with that abortive party scheme to revolutionize the State Government. In 1862 he was a candidate for the State Senate, but was defeated. The same year, however, he was appointed by President Lincoln on a Government Commission, in company with Gov. Boutwell of Massachusetts and Charles A. Dana, since of the New York *Sun*, to investigate the affairs of the Quartermaster's and Commissary Departments at Cairo. He devoted several months to this duty.

In 1864 he entered upon a larger political field, being nominated as the Republican candidate for Congress from the Eighth (Springfield) District, in opposition to the incumbent, John T. Stuart, who had been elected in 1862 by about 1,500 majority over Leonard Swett, then of Bloomington, now of Chicago. The result was the election of Mr. Cullom in November following by a majority of 1,785. In 1866 he was re-elected to Congress, over Dr. E. S. Fowler, by the magnificent majority of 4,103! In 1868 he was again a candidate, defeating the Hon. B. S. Edwards, another of his old preceptors, by 2,884 votes.

During his first term in Congress he served on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Expenditures in the Treasury Department; in his second term, on the Committees on Foreign Affairs and on Territories; and in his third term he succeeded Mr. Ashley, of Ohio, to the Chairmanship of the latter. He introduced a bill in the House, to aid in the execution of law in Utah, which caused more consternation among the Mormons than any measure had previously, but which, though it passed the House, failed to pass the Senate.

The Republican Convention which met May 25, 1876, nominated Mr. Cullom for Governor, while the other contestant was Gov. Beveridge. For Lieutenant-Governor they nominated Andrew Shuman, editor of the Chicago *Journal*. For the same offices the Democrats, combining with the Anti-Monopolists, placed in nomination Lewis Steward, a wealthy

farmer and manufacturer, and A. A. Glenn. The result of the election was rather close, Mr. Cullom obtaining only 6,800 majority. He was inaugurated Jan. 8, 1877.

Great depression prevailed in financial circles at this time, as a consequence of the heavy failures of 1873 and afterward, the effect of which had seemed to gather force from that time to the end of Gov. Cullom's first administration. This unspeculative period was not calculated to call forth any new issues, but the Governor's energies were at one time put to task to quell a spirit of insubordination that had been begun in Pittsburg, Pa., among the laboring classes, and transferred to Illinois at Chicago, East St. Louis and Braidwood, at which places laboring men for a short time refused to work or allow others to work. These disturbances were soon quelled and the wheels of industry again set in motion.

In May, 1880, Gov. Cullom was re-nominated by the Republicans, against Lyman Trumbull, by the Democrats; and although the former party was somewhat handicapped in the campaign by a zealous faction opposed to Grant for President and to Grant men for office generally, Mr. Cullom was re-elected by about 314,565, to 277,532 for the Democratic State ticket. The Greenback vote at the same time was about 27,000. Both Houses of the Legislature again became Republican, and no representative of the Greenback or Socialist parties were elected. Gov. Cullom was inaugurated Jan. 10, 1881. In his message he announced that the last dollar of the State debt had been provided for.

March 4, 1883, the term of David Davis as United States Senator from Illinois expired, and Gov. Cullom was chosen to succeed him. This promoted Lieutenant-Governor John M. Hamilton to the Governorship. Senator Cullom's term in the United States Senate will expire March 4, 1889.

As a practitioner of law Mr. C. has been a member of the firm of Cullom, Scholes & Mather, at Springfield; and he has also been President of the State National Bank.

He has been married twice,—the first time Dec. 10, 1855, to Miss Hannah Fisher, by whom he had two daughters; and the second time May 5, 1863, to Julia Fisher. Mrs. C. is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which religious body Mr. C. is also in sympathy.



Lee County

Illinois.

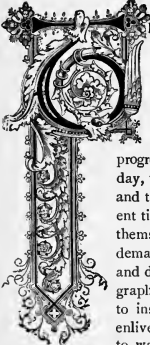








# INTRODUCTORY.



HE time has arrived when it becomes the duty of the people of this county to perpetuate the names of their pioneers, to furnish a record of their early settlement, and relate the story of their progress. The civilization of our day, the enlightenment of the age and the duty that men of the present time owe to their ancestors, to themselves and to their posterity, demand that a record of their lives and deeds should be made. In biographical history is found a power to instruct man by precedent, to enliven the mental faculties, and to waft down the river of time a

safe vessel in which the names and actions of the people who contributed to raise this country from its primitive state may be preserved. Surely and rapidly the great and aged men, who in their prime entered the wilderness and claimed the virgin soil as their heritage, are passing to their graves. The number remaining who can relate the incidents of the first days of settlement is becoming small indeed, so that an actual necessity exists for the collection and preservation of events without delay, before all the early settlers are cut down by the scythe of Time.

To be forgotten has been the great dread of mankind from remotest ages. All will be forgotten soon enough, in spite of their best works and the most earnest efforts of their friends to preserve the memory of their lives. The means employed to prevent oblivion and to perpetuate their memory has been in proportion to the amount of intelligence they possessed. The pyramids of Egypt were built to perpetuate the names and deeds of their great rulers. The exhumations made by the archeologists of Egypt from buried Memphis indicate a desire of those people

to perpetuate the memory of their achievements. The erection of the great obelisks were for the same purpose. Coming down to a later period, we find the Greeks and Romans erecting mausoleums and monuments, and carving out statues to chronicle their great achievements and carry them down the ages. It is also evident that the Mound-builders, in piling up their great mounds of earth, had but this idea—to leave something to show that they had lived. All these works, though many of them costly in the extreme, give but a faint idea of the lives and characters of those whose memory they were intended to perpetuate, and scarcely anything of the masses of the people that then lived. The great pyramids and some of the obelisks remain objects only of curiosity; the mausoleums, monuments and statues are crumbling into dust.

It was left to modern ages to establish an intelligent, undecaying, immutable method of perpetuating a full history—immutable in that it is almost unlimited in extent and perpetual in its action; and this is through the art of printing.

To the present generation, however, we are indebted for the introduction of the admirable system of local biography. By this system every man, though he has not achieved what the world calls greatness, has the means to perpetuate his life, his history, through the coming ages.

The scythe of Time cuts down all; nothing of the physical man is left. The monument which his children or friends may erect to his memory in the cemetery will crumble into dust and pass away; but his life, his achievements, the work he has accomplished, which otherwise would be forgotten, is perpetuated by a record of this kind.

To preserve the lineaments of our companions we engrave their portraits, for the same reason we collect the attainable facts of their history. Nor do we think it necessary, as we speak only truth of them, to wait until they are dead, or until those who know them are gone: to do this we are ashamed only to publish to the world the history of those whose lives are unworthy of public record.

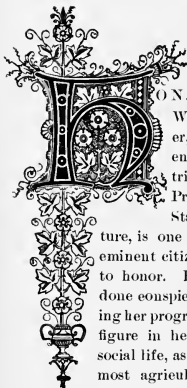


THE UNITED  
PROFESSIONAL MEN



Sam Lyard

# BIOGRAPHICAL.



**D**ON. SAMUEL DYSART,

World's Fair Commissioner, representing the Seventh Congressional District of Illinois, and Vice-President of the Illinois State Board of Agriculture, is one of Lee County's most eminent citizens, whom she delights to honor. For many years he has done conspicuous service in promoting her progress, and is a well-known figure in her public, political and social life, as well as one of her foremost agriculturists and stockmen.

He was one of the first to introduce thoroughbred stock in Lee County, and is conducting an extensive business as a breeder of horses, cattle and swine of the highest standards on his finely appointed stock farm on section 14, China Township.

A native of Huntingdon County, Pa., our subject was born September 14, 1834. His father, James Dysart, was also a Pennsylvanian by birth, and was born in Lancaster County, in 1788. He was married to Elizabeth Roller in Huntingdon County, of which she was a native, and they passed many years of their wedded life there. In 1855 they came to Illinois and settled among the pioneers of Lee County in the vicinity of Franklin Grove, where they lived greatly respected until they passed from life. They were the parents of

ten children, eight sons and two daughters. Our subject was their seventh child in order of birth. The father was a man of forceful character, who had decided opinions of his own, strongly imbued with the principles of truthfulness and honesty. His face was set against oppression of any kind; he championed all just causes, and was one of the pioneer abolitionists of his day. With other leaders in the anti-slavery movement he organized the Free Soil convention at Buffalo, N. Y., in 1848, and nominated Van Buren for the Presidency.

Our subject is of mingled German and Irish ancestry, and comes of a long-lived, vigorous family from whom he inherits a strong constitution and fine physique. He passed the first twenty years of his life in his native State, whence he emigrated to Lee County in the spring of 1855, and has ever since been closely identified with its highest interests. He has made farming and stock-raising his chief occupation. Always a great admirer of fine horses, he early learned to distinguish the good points of a horse and to judge of the merits of cattle, swine, and even in boyhood had a keen desire to raise thoroughbred stock. In 1855 he settled on section 14, China Township, where he has since developed a farm of four hundred acres, widely known as the "Pines Stock Farm." The improvements that he has made are of a high order and include a well-arranged set of buildings, of an appropriate and handsome style of architecture.

Mr. Dysart has had a wide experience in

ing stock of all kinds, has made a careful study of the subject, and perhaps no man in this section is more thoroughly posted in regard to stock matters than he. To him and other leading stockmen Lee County is indebted for raising the standard of horses, cattle and hogs now grown within its limits, as he was among the first to introduce thorough-breds here. He has given much attention to the breeding of Berkshire and Poland China swine and Short-horn cattle, and has a fine herd of Short-horns, from which he derives a neat income. From one cow and her descendants of that breed, which cost him \$250, he sold \$11,000 worth of stock in fifteen years. Mr. Dysart has always been very much interested in forestry, and is an enthusiastic advocate of preserving the forests now standing as far as possible, and of extending the area of growing timber by constantly planting trees. He has carried out that idea in his own domains, and beautiful ornamental, shade and fruit trees, singly, in groups, or in groves, adorn his farm, and furnish more wood and timber than he can use.

The first two or three years after Mr. Dysart came to this county he lived in single blessedness, but at the end of that time he returned to his native State to claim his promised bride, Miss Margaret J. Henderson, and on the 24th of February, 1858, they were wedded. They were friends of long standing, their parents being neighbors. In babyhood they had often been rocked in the same cradle, had played together as boy and girl, and as they grew up side by side had learned the old, old story which resulted for them in a true marriage. Among its blessings are the nine children born to them as follows: Harry W., who married Miss Etta Girton; Lilly V., who died when twelve years old; Lola W., who died at the age of three years; U. Grant, who married Miss Eliza Nelles; Drusilla D.; Horace H.; Jesse R.; Birdie B.; and Mary Jeanette. Mrs. Dysart was born in Huntingdon County, Pa., September 11, 1834, the seventh of the nine children, five sons and four daughters of David and Margaret (Conrad) Henderson. Her father was born in Center County, Pa., June 30, 1797, and died October 7, 1882. Her mother was born in Huntingdon County, Pa., in 1800, and died in April, 1878.

His frank and genial manner and courteous treatment of all with whom he comes in contact render Mr. Dysart very popular, and he numbers among his friends men in all walks in life. He is a man of progressive spirit, practical mind, keen and critical knowledge of men and affairs, and his business tact, administrative and executive ability have gained him prominence both as a civic official and as a private citizen. Although from time to time he has accepted important public positions, he is not an office seeker, and has refused legislative honors, as well as nominations to various other offices. From the first he identified himself with the educational interests of China Township, and during thirty-five of the thirty-seven years that he has lived here has held some school office, as that of director or trustee.

We have referred to Mr. Dysart's activity in advancing the farming interests of Lee County, and we find that he was one of the first members of the Lee County Agricultural Association, which he has also served as President. In 1874 he was elected Vice-President of the State Board of Agriculture, and has been a continuous member of the Board since that date. In the fall of 1886 he was elected President of the Board, acted in that capacity two years, 1889 and 1890 served as ex-President, and in the fall of 1890 he was again made its Vice-President, which position he still holds. His influence and zeal have been potent in making this organization useful in advancing the interests of the farmers of Illinois by diffusing a more scientific knowledge of agriculture among the people and encouraging the adoption of the most approved modern methods of tilling the soil and raising stock. In the summer of 1888, as President of the Board of Agriculture, he visited Europe in its interest, and was absent about four months, his time being spent mostly in France investigating the breeding of French draft horses. He had previously gone thither as Live-stock Commissioner to the Paris Exposition of 1878, having been appointed by President Hayes in February of that year, and sailing in the month of May, spent six months very profitably in various European countries.

Besides attending to his numerous interests, public and private, Mr. Dysart has been Secretary of

the Bradford Mutual Fire Insurance Company, for twenty years, and has enhanced the prosperity of the company by his connection with it. He has a thorough knowledge of the political issues of the day and has followed the fortunes of the Republican party since its organization, steadfastly supporting its principles by voice and vote. He is a leading member of the Masonic fraternity, having joined that order July 2, 1858. He has served as Master Mason, has been a Chapter Mason for twenty years, and High Priest of Franklin Grove Chapter and has belonged to the Scottish Rite Consistory since February 22, 1867. He has been a member of the Dixon Commandery, Knight Templars, since 1878.

July 1, 1891, Governor Fifer appointed Mr. Dysart one of the Illinois World's Fair Commissioners for the Seventh Congressional District. His friends and constituents are highly gratified at his selection for this important office, for which they deem him eminently fitted, and they know that he will devote his whole energies to the work before him, sparing neither time or labor to insure a successful representation of the varied interests of this section at the Columbian Exposition of 1893. Since receiving his commission he has been made Chairman of the Committee on Architecture, Drawings, Topographical Surveys, Maps, etc. He is also one of the Committee on Grounds and Exterior Ornamentation, the Printing Committee, and the Committee for Collecting Exhibits for the Seventh Congressional District.

The lithographic portrait of Mr. Dysart accompanies this sketch.



**T**HOMAS J. BUCKALOO, who owns and operates one hundred and forty-one acres of land on section 15, Dixon Township, is a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families of the county. His parents here located in an early day, more than half a century having passed since they became residents of Dixon Township. His father, Joseph Buckaloo, was born in the Keystone State, Pennsylvania, of Dutch

parentage, and after attaining to mature years, wedded Miss Eliza Kerr, who was born in the same locality as her husband, but was of Irish descent. In 1889, with their two children, they emigrated Westward by way of the water route to Savanna, Ill., and from thence came to Lee County. A few years after their arrival Mr. Buckaloo purchased the farm on which our subject now resides, and it continued to be his home until his death in 1852, at the age of forty years. His widow died January 11, 1892, being seventy-six years of age. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church. The surviving members of the family are T. J., of this sketch; and Amanda H. and George W., who are living in Dixon.

Mr. Buckaloo, whose name heads this sketch, has spent his entire life in this locality. He was born near his present farm on the 17th of March, 1842, and has ever followed agricultural pursuits with the exception of two years, when he worked at the trade of a carpenter. He was only ten years old when his father died, but with his mother he remained until his marriage. In Ogle County he formed a matrimonial alliance with Miss Maggie A. Craddock, a native of Hagerstown, Washington County, Md., and a daughter of John and Amelia Craddock, the former born in England, and the latter in Maryland. About the time he attained his majority, her father crossed the briny deep to this country, and as a farmer began life in America. After his marriage he determined to try his fortune in the West, and with his family located in Ogle County, Ill., settling in Pine Creek Township, where he established one of the first mills in that section. He was doing a good business when he went to Peru, where he contracted the cholera, which was then epidemic. He had barely time to reach home before his death occurred. Mr. Craddock was an industrious and energetic man, and had the respect of all who knew him. His wife survived him some time, and died about the close of the war in July, 1865, in Buffalo Grove Township. Her only son that lived to be grown was a soldier of the late war, and died in Chicago, in July, 1890. Three daughters are yet living, one of the number being the wife of our subject.

Five children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs.

Buckaloo, Clinton C., who was educated in the Dixon schools and the Normal College, and is now teaching; Mabel E., who is successfully engaged in teaching; Graec A., Libby and Allen T., are at home. Mr. Buckaloo and his wife have many friends throughout the community, who esteem them highly for their sterling worth, knowing them to be upright people, possessing many excellencies of character. In politics he is a Republican, but takes no active part in public affairs, preferring to give his entire attention to his business. He has made of his life-work a signal success, and is now the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and forty-one acres, improved with all the necessary buildings, and stocked with good horses and cattle, while its fields are well tilled and yield to him a golden tribute.



**S**CHUYLER RANSOM located in the township of Nelson more than a quarter of a century ago, and since that time has worked his way up to a leading position among its farmers and stock-raisers. Coming here in poverty, and by his untiring labors, conducted systematically, with business tact and foresight, gathering together a valuable property, the possession of which makes him one of the solid moneyed men of this vicinity. He owns a quarter of section of land that he has transformed into one of the finest and best appointed farms in the State.

Mr. Ransom was born June 25, 1822, in Vienna Township, Oneida County, N. Y., a son of Elijah Ransom, who was a native of Washington County, that State. His father was reared to the life of a farmer, and when a young man went to Oneida County, where he was married to Miss Mary Dunton, a native of Massachusetts. She was of Massachusetts parentage, while he was of Welsh descent. After marriage they began life on a small farm in that county, living for many years in Camden Township, and when elderly people came to Illinois, settling in Ogle County, where the wife died a few years later when a little past

fifty years' old. Her husband afterwards went to Kansas, and died there when upwards of eighty years of age in the home of his son, Bradley V., who had resided in the Sunflower State since the days of the excitement over the discovery of gold on Pike's Peak. The parents of our subject were strong Presbyterians in their religious faith and members of the church.

Schuyler Ransom early became acquainted with the pioneer life of Northern Illinois, as he left home when twenty years old to seek fortune's favors in what was then regarded as the "Wild West." He was by no means a capitalist at that time, as he did not have money enough to leave the State. But his cousin kindly made up the deficiency by lending him some cash. He arrived in Chicago September 26, 1842, and from there went to Rockford with a teamster. Fifty cents was all the money that he had left when he got there. He, however, made his way to Byron, in Ogle County, nothing discouraged by his lack of funds, and there worked for a year at \$10.00 a month. He managed to get together a team of oxen, with which he began to break raw prairie, and he turned many hundred acres of sod, working hard to obtain the means to get a good start as a farmer. He also drove a team all over the northern part of the State, his principal route being from Chicago to Galena and to Dubuque, Iowa. He thus had a good opportunity to see the country while much of it was still in its primitive wildness, with but few signs of the coming civilization, and he can compare its past with its present condition as a witness of the wonderful change that has been effected by the hand of man since he first trod these prairies. The land over which he rode when engaged as a teamster was then wild and often swampy, where are now smiling farms and thriving cities. Frequently on his journeys the roads would be so bad that he would get stuck in some mud hole, and at times would have to work two hours to extricate his team.

Our subject experienced all the hardships and trials of pioneer life in a newly settled country, but his struggles with the adverse forces of nature were at length crowned with success. In 1863 he rented a farm in Nelson Township, and by careful



economy was able, in a few years, to purchase the farm that he had rented, but did not have cash enough to pay the whole price at once. He now has nearly the whole of it under a high state of cultivation, has cleared off the encumbrance, freeing himself entirely from debt, and has made many fine improvements, including a very large barn, built in 1885, and a handsome residence, erected in 1883. His farm is one of the most attractive places in this vicinity, everything about it being kept up to a high standard, showing the presence of a master mind and hand.



**W**ILLIAM H. ACKER, one of the farmers whose place, by virtue of its well-tilled acres, its neat buildings and general appearance of prosperity, proclaims him to be a man who is not satisfied with mere existence, is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch, and who is at the present time making his home on section 11, Amboy Township. He was born in Rensselaer County, N. Y., January 2, 1832, where he remained until reaching his fifth year, when his parents removed to Orleans County. In the latter named place our subject received his education and grew to man's estate, being of great help to his father while remaining under the parental roof.

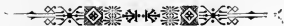
When reaching his majority William H. Acker determined to see what fortune would do for him in the West, and accordingly came to Fayette County, Ind., where he made his home for the succeeding three years, and thinking that he could still better his prospects, made his advent into the Prairie State and located in this county, choosing May Township as his abiding place. This was in 1857, and he remained in that township for fourteen years when he made another removal, this time moving into Amboy Township, where he has been a resident since the spring of 1871.

The gentleman whose name heads this sketch was united in marriage March 27, 1871, soon after his removal into this township, the lady of his

choice bearing the maiden name of Miss Mary Calkins, a native of Palmer, Mass., her birth occurring there February 23, 1849. Her union with Mr. Acker has been productive of four children, only two of whom are living, namely:—George H. and Mary Eunice. Those deceased are Bertha and Emma, both of whom died in childhood. Mrs. Acker is a very worthy lady and is much esteemed in her neighborhood.

William H. Acker has always been interested in educational affairs, which fact is manifested by his having been elected to serve his township on the School Board for several years. In politics the Republican party considers him as one of its most active members. Mrs. Acker worships with the members of the Baptist Church where she is a regular attendant.

Our subject's father was Frederick Acker and a native of the Empire State, while the mother, who bore the maiden name of Miss Hannah Green, was born in Rhode Island. The former passed from this life in Fayette County, Ind., and the mother died in May Township, this county. They were aged respectively seventy-five and sixty years. The father of Mrs. Mary Calkins, bore the name of Dudley Calkins and claimed Massachusetts as his native State. Her mother was Mary E. (Shaw) Calkins, also a native of Massachusetts. On coming West her parents first located in Will County, this State, but later came to this county, settling in 1865 in May Township, which they made their home until 1871, when they came to Amboy Township. In the spring of 1882 they went to Holt County, Neb., and there spent their last days, dying greatly esteemed by all who were honored with their acquaintance.



**H**ON. GEORGE RYON, M. D., of Amboy, was born at Elkland, Tioga County, Pa., June 5, 1827. He traces his ancestry to Ireland, whence his great-grandfather, John Ryon, emigrated to the United States and settled in New England. His grandfather, also named John, was born in Connecticut and was a soldier in

the Revolutionary War, serving during the entire eight years of the conflict and being mustered out with the rank of Orderly Sergeant of his company. James Ryon, father of our subject, was born in Luzerne County, Pa., and was a farmer by occupation. In his native State he was married to Miss Sarah Place, and in 1837 with his young wife removed to Illinois, settling in that part of La Salle County which now forms Kendall County, and there improved a farm. In the home he there made his wife died in 1848.

In 1861 James Ryon removed to Woodland, in the Sacramento Valley, Cal., and there resided with a son until 1866 when he returned to this State and passed his remaining years with his children at Streator. His death occurred August 8, 1872, when he was seventy years of age. In early life he was a Democrat in his political principles, but when the Republican party was formed he became its staunch supporter. He and his wife had a family comprising ten children, all of whom attained to years of maturity. Our subject, who was the fifth in order of birth, was a mere lad when he accompanied his parents to Illinois; he assisted on the farm during the summer season, while in the winter he was a pupil at an academy in Kendall County. Later he utilized his excellent education as a teacher in the district schools during one winter.

The profession of medicine early engaged the attention of Mr. Ryon, who, having made it his choice for a life work, studied with Dr. Isaac Ives, of Pavilion, Ill., as preceptor, and later read with Drs. Wheeler and Holden, also of Kendall County. He took two courses of lectures at Rush Medical College, Chicago, after which, his funds being exhausted, he engaged in teaching school one winter to replenish his depleted account and then commenced the practice of his profession in Paw Paw, this county. Subsequently he was graduated from the Rush Medical College and thus thoroughly equipped for his profession, engaged in the practice of the same with considerable success.

Six or seven years after commencing the practice of medicine, the Doctor was seized with a desire to become a lawyer and, in pursuance of that wish, he took up the study of Coke and Blackstone. In 1858 he was admitted to the bar at

Dixon and while engaged in legal practice was drawn into politics. In 1860 he was chosen to represent Lee and Whiteside Counties in the Legislature, and in that responsible position did all in his power to advance the interest of his constituents. After the breaking out of the Civil War, he raised a company of volunteers, in August, 1862, for the Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry and at its organization was elected Colonel. However, he had served but a short time when on account of ill health he was obliged to resign his commission after the battle of Perryville.

On his return to Paw Paw, the Doctor resumed the practice of medicine which he continued until 1866. At that time he was again elected to the State Legislature, his district embracing Lee County alone, and he served with credit to himself and constituents. The year 1869 marked his arrival in Amboy and the organization of a private bank which he continued to manage until 1873. Removing then to Streator, he formed a partnership with his two brothers, Hiram N. and Francis M., and organized the Streator Coal Company, with a capital stock of \$200,000. The company developed the coal business of that city and maintained a creditable reputation as reliable and successful financiers. The Doctor removed from Streator to Chicago in 1876 and, associated with Dr. F. B. Ives, resumed the practice of medicine. Three years later he returned to Amboy where he has since continued to reside, engaged in the practice of his first chosen profession—medicine.

The Doctor was married in 1852 to Ruth A., the daughter of Isaac and Mehetable Ives, of whom further mention will be found in the sketch of W. E. Ives, on another page. Dr. and Mrs. Ryon were blessed in their union by the birth of one daughter, named Carrie S., who early gave promise of an unusually brilliant womanhood. Her parents spared no pains in giving her good advantages and at the age of nineteen, in the Class of '80, she was graduated from the Chicago University. She died August 31, 1886, greatly mourned by the host of warm friends to whom she had been deeply attached, but especially is her loss mourned by the loving and devoted parents who idolized their only child.

In his political belief the Doctor is a thorough Republican, using his influence in behalf of that party. Besides the offices above mentioned, he has served on the Board of Supervisors several years and has been Mayor of Amboy several terms. His wife is a member of the Baptist Church, and he gives liberally of his means to the support of worthy measures. He has written occasional articles for medical periodicals, reporting such cases as come under his notice which he deems of interest to the fraternity. Besides his pleasant home in Amboy he own two fine farms, comprising three hundred acres, all of which represent his unaided efforts since he came to this State.



CORNELIUS VROOM is contributing to the continued prosperity of Nelson Township as an industrious farmer, who is profitably carrying on his calling on his well-tilled farm of eighty acres of land, which is provided with good improvements, and is in a pleasant locality, advantageously situated just east of Nelson Station, on sections 16, 17 and 20, his residence being on the first mentioned section.

Mr. Vroom was born on Staten Island, April 28, 1840, coming of the old Dutch stock that peopled New York in Colonial times. His father, Henry Vroom, was a native of New York, and spent the most of his long life on Staten Island, dying there in 1889, at the age of eighty-five years. He was a shoemaker and a farmer, devoting his latter years to agricultural pursuits. His wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Christopher, survives him, and is still living on the old homestead. She is now eighty-three years of age, and her life has been wholly spent on the island where she was born. She is a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as was her husband. He was an old-line Whig in his politics until the formation of the Republican party, when he transferred his allegiance to that great political organization.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Henry Vroom, Sr., was a native of the Empire State, and

the blood of Holland ancestry ran in his veins. He always lived in the State of his nativity, the most of his life being passed as a small farmer on Staten Island, where he died at the home of his son Henry, at the age of eighty-three years. His wife was also a native of New York, and she died on Staten Island when very old. Both were strong Methodists in religion, and he was a Whig in politics.

Our subject is the third child of a family of four sons and a like number of daughters, of whom seven are yet living, and are all married. He is the only one residing in Illinois. He was reared under wholesome home influences, principles of right doing being early instilled into his mind, and when he went forth into the world, a youth of nineteen years, he was well-equipped for life's battles. It was then, in 1859, that he came to this county, and has since lived in Nelson Township. He was poor in purse, but his sturdy spirit, ability to work, and thrifty habits have placed him in an independent position. In 1869 he had sufficient means to purchase his present farm, and then began farming and stock-raising on his own account. He has placed every foot of his land under a high state of cultivation, and has his place fitted up with every convenience for carrying on his operations successfully. He is a man of steady habits and stable character, always strictly honest in money matters, and his neighbors and associates have a high opinion of him. He and his wife are attendants at the Methodist Church, giving liberally of their means to its support, and heartily co-operating with its pastor and other members of the congregation in promoting all plans for social or moral improvement of the community. In politics, he is a Republican.

By his marriage in Union City, Branch County, Mich., with Miss Libby, daughter of Henry and Harriet (Swift) Trear, our subject secured a wife who is devoted to his interests, and is a cheerful and capable helpmate. She was born in Erie County, Ohio, April 27, 1840, but she was mostly reared and educated in Branch County, Mich., whither her parents removed when she was a child of six years. Her father was born in Germany, and came to the United States when twenty-seven

years of age. He was married after coming to this country, his wife being a native of New York. After the birth of all their children, they left the home that they had established in Ohio, and settled on a farm in Branch County, Mich., where they lived until death removed them from the scene of their labors at a ripe age, he being seventy-one and she seventy-four when they passed away. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and were truly good people. He was a Republican in his politics. Mrs. Vroom is the fifth of the family of four sons and three daughters born to her parents, of whom but one, the youngest son is dead, all the others, with the exception of Mrs. Vroom, still living in Michigan.



**G**EORGE F. STAINBROOK, the efficient County Sheriff of Lee County, is one of the wide-awake and ambitious young men of Dixon who will undoubtedly make of life a success, as he is possessed of energy, industry and a perseverance that overcomes all obstacles. He claims the honor of being a native of the county, his birth having occurred in Viola Township, September 11, 1858. His father, Isaiah Stainbrook, a native of Meadville, Crawford County, Pa., comes of an old Pennsylvania family of German origin. His grandfather, Fred Stainbrook, was born and reared in the Keystone State, and is yet living in PawPaw, Ill., at the advanced age of ninety years. The infirmities of age, however, rest lightly upon him, he still retaining much of the physical and mental vigor of middle life. His father, the great-grandfather of our subject, a Revolutionary hero, lived and died in Pennsylvania, and was a son of the founder of the family in America, a German emigrant who on leaving the Fatherland crossed the Atlantic and settled in Crawford County, Pa., where his descendants have now lived for several generations. The family have been a farming people.

In the usual manner of farmer lads, Isaiah Stainbrook was reared to manhood, and in an

early day accompanied his parents to Illinois, the family locating in Willow Creek Township, Lee County where he attained his majority. In Viola Township, he formed a matrimonial alliance with Isabel Davidson, who was born in Canada. On her father's side she was of Scotch descent, and on her mother's side was of Scotch-Irish lineage. During her girlhood she accompanied her parents to New York, and from thence the family came to Illinois, locating on a farm in Viola Township, where both her father and mother spent their remaining days. They were members of the Presbyterian Church. After his marriage Isaiah Stainbrook enlisted for the late war in August, 1864, as a member of the Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry, and was assigned to Company F. The regiment served with the armies of the Cumberland and Tennessee, and Mr. Stainbrook was with his command in all the engagements in which it participated. He was never wounded or taken prisoner, but still suffers from rheumatism caused by exposure. When the war was over he was honorably discharged, and at once returned to his home in Viola Township, where he has since engaged in agricultural pursuits. He is one of the successful farmers and well-known citizens of that community, and exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party. His parents were members of the Methodist Church, and he and his wife attend its services. Our subject is the eldest of their four children, two sons and two daughters. The second son, William, wedded Rosa Johnson and is a resident farmer of Viola Township; Mary is the wife of Charles Stout, also a farmer of that township; and Jennie married William Phillips, an agriculturist of Viola Township.

George F. Stainbrook acquired a good practical education in the public schools, and early became acquainted with the labors of the farm from whence his experiences of life in early years were all obtained. He possesses a nature extremely practical yet progressive, and is ambitious. To farm work he devoted his energies until a little more than eight years ago when he was made Deputy Sheriff of Lee County, and removed to Dixon. He proved one of the most faithful and efficient

public servants, and for eight years filled that office. In 1890 he was elected Sheriff, and is now discharging the duties of that position with promptness and fidelity. He is the youngest Sheriff that Lee County ever had, a fact which speaks well for the confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens and also for his personal popularity.

A marriage ceremony, performed in Dixon on the 16th of October, 1890, united the destinies of Mr. Stainbrook and Miss Anna B. Mulkins. Her parents, Lemuel and Helen Mulkins, are residents of this city, where their daughter was born on the 6th of September, 1863. She is an intelligent and cultured lady and possesses no small artistic skill, her landscape and portrait paintings both being worthy of high commendation. Mr. and Mrs. Stainbrook attend the Methodist Church. He is connected with several civic societies, being a member of the United Workmen, the Modern Woodmen, and the Illini Tribe of Red Men. In politics he is a stalwart Republican, and takes considerable interest in political affairs, keeping himself well informed on the issues of the day.



**D**ENNIS C. HARDEN farms, raises stock and carries on a profitable dairy business in Nelson Township, of which he is a leading citizen. His farm comprises a quarter of a section of land, which is well improved, is supplied with a good set of buildings, convenient in their arrangements and roomy in dimensions, and it is fully stocked with cattle, horses and swine of excellent breeds.

Born October 4, 1849, our subject first took up the burden of life in the State of Pennsylvania. His father, Jacob Harden, a well-known pioneer and honored citizen of Nelson Township, is likewise a Pennsylvanian by birth, born and reared in Somerset County, his parents being also natives of Pennsylvania. After attaining manhood Jacob Harden selected a wife in the person of Miss Catherine Cook, who has since shared his fortunes and has been of real help to him in securing the comfortable competency which they are now enjoying

together, in the declining years of lives well spent. Catherine Cook was a daughter of one of the respected old families of the Keystone State, where she had her birth and up-bringing. After four children had been born unto them, of whom our subject is the eldest, Mr. and Mrs. Harden emigrated to this State to begin life anew on its wild prairies. They located on a tract of Government land on section 23, Nelson Township, and Mr. Harden labored long and hard to transform it into the fine farm that it is to-day. He and his good wife still make it their home and are surrounded by every comfort that heart can desire. They are Christians of the staunch Lutheran type and are members of that church.

Dennis C. Harden was a child of four years when his parents brought him to this county in 1853, and he has ever since lived in Lee County. His boyhood days were passed on his father's farm, where he learned many a useful lesson that afterward helped him to success when he began the life of a farmer on his own account. In 1873 he purchased the farm which is still his home, and has greatly increased its value by the fine improvements he is constantly making. He is systematic in carrying on his work, employs the methods of cultivation best adapted to the soil, wherein lies the secret of his success in a great measure, and he understands how to handle his stock to the best advantage. He is well fitted out for the dairy business, which is a source of profit as he conducts it.

Mr. Harden was married in this township to Miss Kate McCleary, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of William and Salinda (Morehead) McCleary, who were pioneers of Lee County. Her parents were born in Pennsylvania but were of Scotch lineage. They came hither when she was young, and at first lived on a farm in Nachusa Township. Later the father purchased a farm in Nelson Township, to which he removed his family and here he died in 1884 at the age of three-score years and ten. Religiously, he was a Presbyterian and, politically, he was a Democrat. Mrs. Harden was fourteen years old when the family came to this State, and she remained one of the parental household until her marriage. She died here in the home in whose upbuilding she had assisted her

husband, December 3, 1889, at the age of thirty-eight, and was mourned far beyond the home circle, as she was a woman of rare merit, of a sweet and wholesome nature, and all who came under her influence found her to be kind and true. By her death the Lutheran Church lost one of its most esteemed members. She was a devoted wife and fond mother, and her happy marriage with our subject that was saddened only by her death, was blessed to them by three children: Eva J., at home with her father; William J., and Lawrence D., who is being reared by an aunt.

Mr. Harden is a whole-souled, warm-hearted, genial man, of generous impulses and frank, even temper, who is a general favorite throughout the township where he is well known; and not only this but he is honorable and manly, and irreproachable in his personal habits. He has held the various local offices, and always manifested proper public spirit in regard to all feasible plans for the improvement of township or county. In religion he is a Lutheran. His political sympathies are with the Republican party.



**S**TEWART WILSON, who is engaged in general farming and stock-raising on sections 29 and 30, Palmyra Township, is a native of the Keystone State. Blair County was the place of his birth and the date January 14, 1849. His paternal grandfather, James Wilson, was also born in Pennsylvania, and was of Scotch lineage. He became a well-to-do farmer and spent his entire life in Blair County, reaching the allotted years of three-score and ten. His wife died when Franklin Wilson, father of our subject, was born. There were only two sons in the family, and the brother died in Pennsylvania. In the county of his nativity Franklin Wilson was reared to manhood and married Miss Susan, daughter of Philip and Mary Bridenbaugh. Her parents were of German descent and were members of the German Reformed Church. The Wilsons were Presbyterians in religious faith.

Five children, three sons and two daughters, were

born unto Franklin Wilson and his wife during their residence in Altona Township, Blair County, Pa. They left the East in 1856, and with their family came to Lee County, Ill., spending the first two years after their arrival in Dixon Township. The father then purchased a farm in Palmyra Township, which is now the property of our subject, and began its development. By his labors, the once barren tract was transformed into rich and fertile fields, which yielded to him a golden tribute. In politics, he was a supporter of Democratic principles, and was a member of the Presbyterian Church. He passed from this life November 4, 1870, at the age of forty-six years. His widow still survives him and is now living with her daughter, Mrs. C. C. Fisk, of Sterling, at the age of sixty-three years. She, too, is a member of the Presbyterian Church and is a lady whose upright and consistent life has won her the warm regard of all with whom she has come in contact.

The first eleven years of his life, Stewart Wilson spent in the county of his nativity. It was in 1860 that he came with his parents to Illinois, since which time he has made his home in Lee County. In 1870, on attaining his majority, he purchased his present farm, which comprises one hundred and eighty-eight acres of productive land. The entire amount is under a high state of cultivation, with the exception of about twenty-eight acres, and bounteous harvests reward the care and labor he bestows upon it. In many respects this is a model farm. The home is a comfortable brick residence, and good barns and outbuildings afford shelter for his stock which is all of superior grades. He is now engaged quite extensively in the breeding of Shetland ponies and many fine specimens may be seen in his stables.

In Palmyra Township, Mr. Wilson formed a matrimonial alliance with Miss Emma A. Fisk, one of Lee County's fair daughters, born in that township in 1855. Her parents were E. H. and Amelia (Sprout) Fisk, natives of Massachusetts, where the days of their childhood were passed and their marriage was celebrated. On coming to Illinois, they took up their residence on a farm in Palmyra Township, where Mr. Fisk passed away in 1888, at

the age of sixty-six years. His widow, now sixty-three years, is living with her daughters. Both were well known people in this community, being highly respected by their many friends and acquaintances.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson has been brightened by the presence of a daughter, Lorena A., who is now fourteen years of age. The parents are both members of the Presbyterian Church in Sterling. In politics, our subject is a Democrat and is now filling the office of Road Commissioner. Fair and honest in all his dealings, he has not only won the confidence of those with whom business relations have brought him in contact, but has also made a handsome property and is ranked among the well-to-do citizens of the community.



JACOB ASCHENBRENNER, who is a dealer in coal in Amboy, dates his residence in this county from July, 1855. He was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, August 6, 1825. His parents, Jacob and Caroline Aschenbrenner, were natives of Germany, and spent their entire lives in their native country. They had a family of four children as follows: Conrad, who died in Bradford Township, this county, leaving a family; Carl died in Germany; Mena, who became the wife of George Schaffer, died in this county; and our subject, Jacob, who is the only survivor. The father was married a second time by which union six children were born, namely: John, George, Elizabeth, Eliza, Frederick and William, all of whom came to the United States and settled in Iowa, where the eldest, John, is a clergyman in the Evangelical Church. Our subject learned the trade of a plasterer in his native land, and served in the German army for ten years, four years in active service, and six on the reserve force. During this time he participated in engagements in the Revolution of 1848, and in the year 1849 in Holstein. He came to the United States in the year 1855, settling in Lee County, in July of that year, in which place he rented land and carried on

farming until 1862, then removing to Amboy, where he worked two years for the Illinois Central Railroad. After this he followed draying for two years, since which time he has been engaged in his present business.

Our subject has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Elizabeth Dehnhalt, to whom he was united in 1853. She died in 1860, leaving three children: Christina was married to Jacob Thiel, of Amboy; Conrad married Miss Bertla Fickensher, and resides in Amboy; Elizabeth was married to Frank Estie, and died at Amboy.

Mr. Aschenbrenner was a second time married in 1861, the maiden name of his wife being Fredericka Hess. She was born in Baden, Germany. She emigrated to the United States in 1856, and resided in Chicago until her marriage. No children have been born to this union. Mr. Aschenbrenner is a Democrat, and has held a prominent place in local politics. His fellow-citizens have shown their confidence in him by the gift of various offices, he having served as Alderman two terms, and for nine years as a member of the Board of Education. The family attend the Lutheran Church, of which he was one of the organizers, and are highly respected members of society.



JACOB HEPPERLIN left the German Fatherland in the prime of early manhood to seek a new home in America, and after journeying thousands of miles over sea and land, found himself in the heart of a strange country, among an unknown people, with but little in this world that he could call his own. He, however, had that within him that would overcome all difficulties in his pathway, as was proved by his subsequent career, and to-day he is living retired from farming or other active business in his comfortable home in Paw Paw.

Mr. Hepperlin was born in the village of Neidlingen, near Wurtemberg, Germany, July 26, 1827. His father, John Hepperlin, was also born in that place and was the son of another John Hepperlin, who was a farmer

and a life-long resident of that locality. The father of our subject was bred to the life of a farmer and always followed that occupation, with the exception of the time when he was serving in the German army, in accordance with the laws of the land. He accompanied Napoleon in the campaign against Moscow, and suffered some of the terrible horrors of the retreat from that Russian city. He died in the land of his nativity in 1856. He was the father of seven children, of whom only two came to America, his daughter Katherine Gseler and our subject, and three of his grandsons and two of his granddaughters.

The subject of this sketch passed his early life in his native land and received a very good education in its schools. He at last decided to emigrate to America, whither so many of his countrymen had gone to seek the competence denied them at home, and in May, 1854, he set sail from Havre, and thirty-seven days later disembarked in New York City. He came directly to Illinois, and at Princeton found work on a farm, being employed by the month. He had but little spare cash when he went there, but he worked hard, and in time saved money enough to buy a farm seven miles northwest of that town. In 1874 he sold that place, and coming to Paw Paw, bought village property and established himself in the furniture business. He was thus engaged until 1877, when he resumed farming. Six years later he abandoned agricultural pursuits, and has since lived retired, in the enjoyment of an income amply sufficing for all his wants. He has a comfortable property, including a double brick block in Paw Paw, which came into his possession in 1882, through his exchanging land that he owned in Iowa for it, and he has a farm of two hundred and thirty-four acres in Willow Creek Township, that is well improved.

Mr. Hepperlin was first married in Bureau County in 1859, to Miss Rebecca Duestin, a native of Ohio. She departed this life in 1865. His second marriage was in 1867 to Miss Maggie Mercer, a native of Bureau County. She died in 1868. In 1869 our subject was wedded to Mrs. Cynthia (Mercer) Baker, widow of the Rev. D. S. Baker, and unto them has been born one son, Jesse Ellis. Mrs. Hepperlin by her former marriage had one

daughter, Leonora. She married J. A. McCulloch, and they have one child, Ada C. Mr. and Mrs. Hepperlin are among the most worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are held in high consideration in the community.

Mrs. Hepperlin comes of the pioneer stock of this State. She is a native of Belmont County, Ohio, and a daughter of Ellis Mereer, who was born in Virginia, and was a son of the Rev. Edward Mercer, who was also a Virginian. The father of the latter, who was of Scottish birth and ancestry, came to America at the time of the Revolution and secured quite a large tract of land near Williamsport, Va., and ended his days there. He was a Quaker in religion. Mrs. Hepperlin's grandfather was reared and married in the Old Dominion, and subsequently went from there to Greene County, Pa., and a few years later went to Belmont County, Ohio, making the removal with a team. He was a millwright and carpenter by trade, but after marriage he studied medicine, and became a practicing physician. He was also somewhat noted as a preacher of the Methodist Protestant Church, and did good service as a missionary in Belmont County. After his arrival in that section he had bought land ten miles from Claresville, and lived there until 1836, when he again became a pioneer, journeying to Illinois through the intervening wilderness, and locating at Princeton, where death found him at a ripe age.

Mrs. Hepperlin's father was very young when his parents went to Pennsylvania, and he was fourteen years of age when he accompanied them on their migration to Ohio. He worked at the trades of millwright and carpenter in that State until he came to this one in 1836. He was accompanied by his wife and four children, and they traveled to their destination on the waters of the Ohio, Mississippi and Illinois Rivers to Hennepin, and thence by team to Bureau County. At that time Northern Illinois was sparsely settled, and the greater part of the land was owned by the Government, and has since been sold at \$1.25 an acre. Mr. Mercer entered two hundred and forty acres of land three miles southwest of Princeton, and he bought a squatter's claim to a part of a grove, in which there was a set of log buildings and wig-

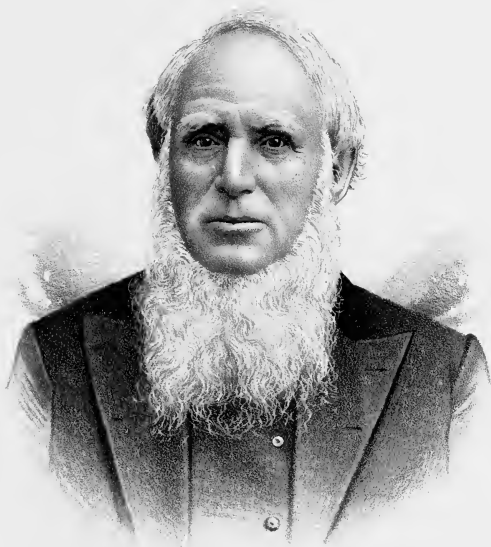


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AMANDA M. POWERS.



ABIJAH POWERS.

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wams still standing there, showed the recent presence of the Indians, while deer and other kinds of game denoted that the country was but little advanced in civilization. Mr. Mercer improved his land, and after living on it a quarter of a century he sold it, and passed his remaining years in Webster County, Iowa. The maiden name of his wife was Nancy Bush, and she was a native of Pennsylvania. Her father, William Bush, was a native of England; and her mother, Mary (Larwood) Bush, was born of English parents in the State of Delaware. Mr. Mercer died in Bureau County.

Mrs. Hepperlin was nine years old when she came to Illinois with her parents, and she made her home with them until her first marriage in her twenty-first year to the Rev. Dennis Stephen Baker. Mr. Baker was a native of New York, and was educated for the ministry of the Methodist Protestant Church. On account of ill health he had to abandon his profession, and he turned his attention to farming in Bureau County, where he died in 1865.



**H**ON. ABIJAH POWERS, was for many years one of the most prominent citizens of Palmyra Township. He died at his home on the 24th of July, 1891, aged seventy-six years, and no death in the community has been more deeply regretted on the part of many friends, for he was widely and favorably known throughout the entire county. He has here resided since the spring of 1838, and in the long years had formed an extensive acquaintance and secured the regard of all with whom he came in contact.

Born in Greenwich, Hampshire County, Mass., December 16, 1814, Mr. Powers belonged to that family of which Hiram Powers, the sculptor, is a member. His grandfather, Col. Thomas Powers, was also born in the Bay State and was quite prominent in public affairs in Hampshire County. He lived and died in Massachusetts, passing away at the advanced age of four score years. His business through much of his life was that of the construction of turnpikes. He married a Massachu-

setts lady, Miss Hines, who was of Irish descent, although her parents were born in America. She died in Massachusetts at an advanced age.

The father of our subject, Joseph Powers, was one of the younger members of a large family, and in the usual manner of farmer lads was reared to manhood. While residing in Hampshire County, Mass., he had the misfortune to lose his property by signing notes for supposed friends and this led him to seek a home in the West. In the county of his nativity he married Sallie Powers, who was descended from the same family as her husband, although the relationship was not very near. In the spring of 1838, Joseph Powers, and his son, Abijah, our subject, started to the West together, and the expenses of the journey were paid with the money which the latter had earned as a day laborer. His father having lost his property, it was in the hope of retrieving in a measure his lost possessions that they left their old home.

Together they traveled to Milwaukee, Wis., and then separated, the father going to Chicago with their baggage, while the son traveled through Southern Wisconsin and down the Rock River. They later met in Rock Island, and thence came up the river to Dixon's Ferry, now the city of Dixon, where they decided to locate. In the wilds of Palmyra Township they took up their residence and with their son, Joseph Powers and his wife resided until called to their final rest. His death occurred April 28, 1853, at the age of sixty-seven years. His wife survived him some time and died at the age of seventy-six. They were industrious people, upright and honorable in all things, but in later life misfortune overtook them. With the Congregational Church they held membership, and in the early days, Mr. Powers was a Whig. Ever a strong opponent of slavery, on its organization he joined the Republican party, which was formed to prevent the further extension of that institution. Generous and kind-hearted, he was a friend to the poor and needy and wherever known was held in warm regard. He made friends wherever he went, and few indeed were his enemies. The last of the family, a son, who resided in Worcester, Mass., died in February, 1892.

Abijah Powers had only \$5 in his pocket when

he reached Lee County. He thus began life in the West a very poor man, and for some time worked by the month as a farm hand. He entered land in the fall of 1838, and when it came into market was enabled to purchase it, having by his industry and economy acquired a sufficient sum, but it was some time afterward ere he located upon it. All unbroken was the tract, not a furrow having been turned or an improvement made, but with characteristic energy he began its development and in course of time had one of the finest farms in the county. It is situated on section 31, Palmyra Township, and comprises three hundred acres of valuable land, whereon might be found the improvements of a model farm. At the time of his death he also owned five hundred and sixty acres in Jordan Township, Whiteside County, which yielded to him a golden tribute.

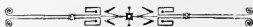
After making some preparations for securing a home, Mr. Powers returned to his native county in the fall of 1839, and in September wedded Miss Ananda M. Sprout, who was born in Greenwich, Mass., in 1819, and is a daughter of Ezra and Dency (Newland) Sprout, who were farming people of the Bay State. Her father died in Greenwich, Mass., after which Mrs. Sprout came to Illinois and died at the home of her daughter in Sterling at the age of nearly ninety years. She was a member of the Baptist Church and her husband held membership with the Congregational Church. In politics, he was a Whig, and afterward a Republican with strong anti-slavery views. Two of his sons served in the War of the Rebellion and Elmer was killed at the battle of the Wilderness. Three others are still living in Massachusetts.

Mrs. Powers spent the days of her maidenhood in her parent's home, and has become one of the faithful and noble wives and mothers whom all delight to honor. In the family were six children, but two are now deceased—Alfred A., who died at the age of six years; Helen became the wife of Anson Thummel, of Palmyra Township, and died in 1889, leaving five children. Of the surviving members of the family, Elvira is the wife of Capt. Charles Eckles, who wore the blue in the late war and is now a prominent farmer near Marshalltown, Iowa; Mary is the wife of J. C. Nickerson, a com-

mission merchant at No. 91 South Water Street, Chicago; Warren F., who wedded Mary Miller, of Whiteside County, now operates the farm in that county which was owned by his father; Austin, who married Adella Tallman, operates the home farm and completes the family.

In politics, Mr. Powers was a Republican and held a number of local offices, including that of Town Supervisor, which he filled for five years. In 1876, he was elected to represent his district in the Thirtieth General Assembly of Illinois, where he proved an able officer, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. His public and private life were alike above reproach. Genial by nature and kindly in disposition he easily won friends and their high regard was never forfeited by an unworthy act. He was a faithful member of the Congregational Church, of Prairieville, and was its Deacon at the time of his death, having filled the office for some years previous. Mrs. Powers is also a member of that church. She still resides upon the farm where she has made her home for more than half a century since she was brought there a bride by her honored husband.

Our readers will be pleased to notice in connection with this sketch the lithographic portraits of the late Mr. Powers and his estimable wife, as well as a view of the pleasant homestead where Mrs. Powers is quietly passing the twilight of her life.



**W**ILLIAM H. HILLES, deceased, was born in Western Pennsylvania, and died at his home in Dixon, on the 7th of November, 1882, at the age of seventy-three years. His father, Hugh Hilles, came of a very intelligent Quaker family of the Keystone State. He followed the trade of milling throughout the greater part of his life. From Pennsylvania he removed to Ohio, and in later years was a resident of Jay County, Ind., where he owned large tracts of land. His death occurred in that county when past the age of sixty years. His life had been a busy and useful one and his efforts met with a just reward in the shape of a handsome competence. His wife,

who was also descended from a highly respected family belonging to the Friends Society, also died in Indiana.

Oursubject was an infant when, with his parents, he removed from the Keystone State to Columbiana, Ohio, where he was reared to manhood and acquired his education. Most of his life was spent in his father's mill, and in the early '40s he emigrated westward, locating in LaSalle County, Ill., where he improved a good farm, making it his home for about ten years. He was there residing at the time of the great storm, never to be forgotten, which visited that section. The storm continued for about two months and was a blizzard the greater part of the time. As many people in the community had built only temporary houses, expecting to erect better ones later on, they were ill protected from the cold and there was considerable loss of life. Much stock was also frozen, and that long period of stormy weather was one which will never be effaced from memory by those who experienced it.

Returning to the State of Ohio, Mr. Hilles wedded Miss Mary A. French, who was born among the beautiful hills surrounding Gillhampton, N. H. She came of one of the old and highly respected New England families. Her parents were Joseph and Mary (Stewart) French, also natives of New Hampshire. The grandmother of Mrs. French was a sister of President John Adams, but her father was of Scotch descent. Amidst the hills of their native State, Joseph French and his wife were reared to manhood and womanhood, and in the vicinity of Newburyport their marriage was celebrated. There, and at Concord, N. H. they spent the greater part of their lives but in their declining years followed their children to the West and passed their last days in the town of Painesville, Ohio. Throughout his life, Mr. French was a member and an active worker in the Congregational Church, and for many years filled its offices. The upright, honorable lives of himself and wife won them the highest regard of all with whom they came in contact and, when called to their final home, their loss was sincerely mourned by many friends.

Mrs. Hilles, wife of our subject, received good

practical educational advantages and is a lady of marked individuality. She inherits some of the best characteristics of her New England ancestors and is a refined and accomplished lady. In early years she was zealous in church work and her labors in its behalf have been productive of much good. But on account of conflicting views she withdrew from the church in 1835, and since that time has been connected with no religious organization. In her early life, she was much interested in the cause of abolition and bent her whole energies to aid in the work. When only eighteen years of age, she became identified with the movement, although it was in opposition to the stand which her church had taken, and from that time forward worked untiringly in the interest of the slaves until their freedom was declared. She possesses a remarkable memory and can recall many incidents of early history in this community which are very entertaining. Out of the kindness of her heart she has reared and educated several children and aided others in starting in life. Kindness, generosity and warm-heartedness have won her many friends whose high regard she will retain to the last.

In 1853, Mr. Hilles sold his farm in LaSalle County and came to Lee County, where he purchased the farm he owned at his death. In every instance he set out good orchards as he was a lover of horticultural work. At the time of his death, he owned four hundred acres, highly cultivated land, and was quite well-to-do. Although he began life empty-handed, he worked his way upward, overcoming all obstacles until he had gained a competency. Mr. Hilles was a man of superior intelligence and was always well informed on the questions of the day. He was reared under the auspices of the Society of Friends and in accordance with its teachings lived an honest, upright life. His influence was great and he exerted it ever in the cause of right. During slave days, he spent many hundred dollars in the cause of freedom, and when the war broke out, in every possible way supported the cause of the Union and the administration. He lived to see much improvement in Lee County and not a little of the growth and development was due to his efforts. His life was well and worthily spent and he left

behind him many friends to mourn his death. At the age of seventy-three, wishing to live retired, he removed to Dixon and on the following day died from a stroke of paralysis.



IRA S. SMITH. Were mention to be made of the farmers of Amboy Township without giving a prominent place to this gentleman, certainly an injustice would be done both to himself and the community. His fine farm, comprising one hundred and sixty-three acres, is located on section 26, and contains a fine set of farm buildings, well adapted to their varied uses. Although he has resided on the place but a short time, he has already introduced many improvements, and evidences of his thrifty management may be seen on every hand.

A native of New Hampshire, Mr. Smith was born in Enfield, Grafton County, March 11, 1829. His parents, Clement and Lucy (Farnham) Smith, were natives of the Granite State, where both died in Enfield. Their family consisted of eleven children, of whom Ira S. was the eighth in order of birth. He was reared to manhood upon a farm in Grafton County, where he resided until 1848. At that date he removed to Boston, Mass., and secured employment as a clerk in a grocery store, where he remained several years. When the gold fever was raging at its height, he went to the Pacific Slope, in the fall of 1851, and engaged in mining in California. After an absence of about one year, he returned to Boston, having met with fair success in his mining operations.

Soon after his return to the East, Mr. Smith once more started on a prospecting tour, this time coming to Illinois, where in Springfield he found employment as a fireman on what is now the Wabash Railroad, eighteen miles east of the city. While thus engaged, on December 21, 1854, the boiler exploded and he was blown into the air, alighting two hundred feet in the rear of the place where the explosion occurred. He was badly scalded and injured, his left shoulder and the ribs

on his right side being broken. It was some time before he recovered from the effects of that terrible accident, and when he did so he removed to Iowa and purchased a farm in Madison County, there engaging in agricultural pursuits for six years.

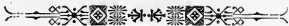
Then selling the place, which he had greatly improved, Mr. Smith returned to Illinois and for nearly a year lived in Bureau County, whence, in the spring of 1863, he removed to Amboy, and procured employment in the machine shop of the Illinois Central Railroad. After following that business ten years, he next opened a meat market in Amboy and continued thus engaged for six years. His fellow-citizens about that time elected him City Marshal and retained him in that place three years, after which he sold his interests in the city and removed to Morton County, Kan., there engaging in farming. For a time he was also employed as a machinist in the St. Louis & San Francisco shops in Anthony, Harper County, Kan., where he resided two years.

In June, 1896, Mr. Smith returned to Lee County, purchased his present estate and has since engaged exclusively in farming pursuits. During his residence in Springfield, Ill., he was married, April 19, 1853, to Miss Elizabeth Pearl. This lady was born in Oxford County, Me., July 8, 1831, and is the daughter of Benjamin and Susan (Otis) Pearl, natives respectively of Maine and New Hampshire, both of whom died in Porter, Me. They had a family of seven children, Mrs. Smith being the youngest. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Smith, two children have been born: Winslow C. and Edgar Otis. The former married Ella Spencer and they have five children: Pearl E., Henry W., Carrie D., Hollis S. and Edna B. The latter married Julia Duffey, and three children have been born of their union: Ada I., Minnie E. and Hazel P.

In the public life of the community Mr. Smith has always been greatly interested and has contributed as much as possible toward its success. For several terms he served as Collector, and while a member of the School Board for nine years, promoted the educational interests of the district. As a member of the Amboy City Council, he aided



in its deliberations and assisted in the plans for promoting the progress of the place. He has taken considerable interest in political affairs and is a decided Republican. His wife is a member of the Advent Church, while he contributes in that direction liberally of his means. Socially he holds membership in the Masonic fraternity.



**G**EORGE S. AND ELLIOTT S. McCLEARY are profitably engaged in business as dairy-men and farmers, and each has a well-stocked and finely equipped dairy farm in Nelson Township. These gentlemen are natives of Lawrence County, Pa., the first-mentioned born February 15, 1848. George McCleary's farming interests are centered on section 13, where he owns one hundred and thirty-eight acres of excellent farming land, that is finely adapted to stock-raising purposes, and is one of the best dairy farms of the neighborhood. It is stocked to its fullest capacity with cattle of good breeds, and for the past two years Mr. McCleary has kept a herd of thirty dairy cows and by his able management has made this branch of agriculture a paying business. He and his brother came to this county with their parents and other members of the family in the spring of 1865 and have since been numbered among its most desirable citizens. He spent the first eighteen months after his arrival in Dixon Township, and since then has been a resident of Nelson Township, becoming the owner of his present farm in 1876.

The marriage of George McCleary with Miss Mary A. Alcorn was solemnized in his native county. She was also a Pennsylvanian by birth, born in Beaver County, in 1855, and was ten years old when her parents, Henry and Catherine (Baker) Alcorn, removed to Lawrence County, where they now live retired, having formerly been engaged in farming. May 29, 1889, death crossed the threshold of the home of our subject and took from him his beloved wife, who had filled in a perfect measure her position as daughter, wife and mother, and was truly a home-maker. She was a

member of the Presbyterian Church, and her Christian spirit was evinced in her daily life. Four children were born of her marriage with our subject, all of whom are with him and are named as follows: Edna, Iva P., Charles N. and Frances C.

Elliott S. McCleary has won a fine reputation as a farmer of much ability, who employs modern methods in conducting his operations, keeps his farm up to a high standard in point of cultivation and improvement, and is raising first-class stock. His homestead lies on sections 12 and 13, Nelson Township, and here he and his family live very pleasantly. He gives much attention to the dairy business and has thirty-five cows of the finest breed for that purpose, which net him a good yearly income.

He has found in his wife, formerly Miss Melinda Gruver, a capable eoadjutor in the making of a home. Their marriage was celebrated in Nelson Township, where Mrs. McCleary was reared and educated, coming here with her parents when a child. She, like her husband, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Columbia County in 1853, and is a daughter of Uriah Gruver, a wealthy farmer, living in Dixon.

Our subjects are sons of William McCleary, who was a native of the same Pennsylvania county in which they were born. He in turn was a son of Samuel McCleary, who was a native of the North of Ireland, and came to this country when he was twelve years old, with his parents, who were of Scotch-Irish stock. The family first settled in Westmoreland County, Pa., and when Samuel was a young man removed from there to what is now New Castle, the county seat of Lawrence County, that city now being built upon the farm that the grandfather of our subjects developed from the dense growth of primeval forest that then prevailed in that section of the country. Samuel McCleary spent his remaining days in the home that he made there, dying at the age of fifty-six. He was prominent in promoting the growth of New Castle and lived to see it a flourishing town. He was one of its pioneer merchants and one of its principal business men in his day. Besides running a mercantile establishment he did an extensive business as a drover, taking stock to Philadel-

phia, and with the proceeds of the sales buying goods to sell at home. He and his wife were great workers in church matters, and they helped to organize the Presbyterian Church in their town.

Samuel McCleary was married in New Castle to Nancy Gorden, who was born on the Atlantic Ocean when her parents were emigrating to this country from their ancestral home in Scotland. They were a branch of the celebrated Gorden family so well known in the history of Scotland. They settled first in Westmoreland County, Pa., after their arrival in America, and thence removed to Mercer County in the early days of its settlement, and were pioneers of the country around New Castle, where they hewed out a farm from the wilderness. Some of them served as privates in the War of 1812. They were staunch Presbyterians in religion and were Whigs in politics, while the old stock of McClearys were Democrats. Mrs. Samuel McCleary survived her husband many years and died during the Rebellion when nearly eighty years of age. She was a large woman, of fine physique, and retained her bodily and mental faculties to the last.

William McCleary, as the eldest of ten children, looked after the large farm, owned by his father, after he attained manhood. He was married in New Castle to Miss Selinda Moorehead, who was born and reared at that place, her parents, who were of Pennsylvania birth and of Scotch-Irish blood, having been early settlers of Lawrence County, moving there from Westmoreland County. Mr. and Mrs. McCleary lived in New Castle many years after their marriage, and there all their children were born. In 1865 they came to Illinois and established a new home in Lee County, in which the father passed the rest of his days. He died in the fall of 1880, at the age of sixty-seven, leaving behind him the record of a well-filled life and the legacy of a good name, which his children and children's children hold in reverence. He was an active member of the Presbyterian Church and was deeply interested in every movement for the moral uplifting of the community. In politics he was thoroughly in sympathy with the Democratic party. His wife, who survives him and makes her home with her children, was born June

30, 1816, yet old age has not dimmed her faculties. She is a noble Christian woman and is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

Of the seven daughters and two sons born to the McClearys, one daughter and two sons are now dead. James enlisted in October, 1861, in Company B, of the famous Cooper's Battery, in the First Pennsylvania Artillery, and fell while bravely fighting for his country at the battle of Gettysburg; John C., the eldest son, a farmer in Palmyra Township, married Mary Gruver, of Nelson; Mary is the wife of Jerry Hetler, a farmer of Dixon Township; George S. is the third son of the family; Kate, now deceased, was the former wife of D. C. Harden, of whom a biography appears in this work; William, a farmer in Carroll County, married Amanda Mason; Elliott S. is the next in order of birth; Joseph, who married Ida Long, is a member of the firm of McCleary & Long, boot and shoe merchants of Dixon. All the brothers are very successful in business. All but two of them are Presbyterians, and all of them are stalwart Democrats in politics.



**W**ILLIAM BURD, though not one of the earliest settlers of Lee County, may well be classed among its pioneers, as he has done valuable work in helping his fellow-farmers to redeem the rich, virgin soil of this part of Illinois from its former wild condition, since he settled within its precincts not far from forty years ago, and he has a farm that compares with the best in its equipments and improvements, its fertile fields neatly fenced, its buildings well-kept and conveniently arranged, and its surroundings made attractive by the beautiful shade and choice fruit trees carefully planted by his own hands.

Our subject was born May 17, 1827, in Hampshire County, W. Va. His father, whose name is Peter Burd, was born in Hunterdon County, N. J., and when a young man went from his native State to that part of Virginia now included in Hampshire County, W. Va. He bought a tract of wild land seven or eight miles from Romney,

built a log cabin on his place and entered heartily into the hard pioneer task of improving his land, on which he made his home until his untimely death, in 1839, when his community lost a good citizen, the people among whom he had lived a kind neighbor, and his family a good husband and father. His widow, whose maiden name was Julia Ann Willard, and who was born in Bucks County, Pa., a daughter of Jacob Willard, was left with seven children to care for. Nobly did she perform her duty, and kept her offspring together on the old homestead until they were grown to manhood and womanhood, and then came to Illinois and spent her last years a welcome inmate of their homes. Four of her children are still living.

Our subject was a strong, self-reliant lad of twelve years when his father died, and was already of much use on the farm. At the age of fourteen he was bound out to learn the trade of a tanner, and received his board and clothes in recompense for his services. At the end of seven years he was given \$50, and with that, and a good knowledge of his trade, he began life on his own account. He went to Bucks County, Pa., and carried on the tannery business there the ensuing three years. He then went back to his native State, and was a resident of West Virginia until the fall of 1852, when he came to Illinois, traveling by the most convenient route at that time, and journeying by rail, by stage, or on foot. After seven days he arrived at Twin Grove, in what is now Willow Creek Township. At that time Nature had it pretty nearly her own way in this part of the country, as but few settlers had ventured here. There was no railway in this part of the State for two years after he came here, and deer and other kinds of wild game were plentiful, and furnished an agreeable addition to the fare of the pioneers.

Mr. Burd began life here on a farm in some one's else employ for a year, and then bought a land warrant for a quarter of a section of land, which comprises his present farm in Willow Creek Township. The warrant cost him \$150, and there was an additional expense of \$4, making the total cost of the homestead \$154. Buying the land exhausted his finances, so he was obliged to resort to

renting improved land for the next two years in order to earn his livelihood. At the expiration of that time he entered vigorously upon the work before him of reclaiming a farm from the wilderness, and the success that has met his efforts has been recorded in the first part of this biography.

Our subject is eminently a self-made man, and through the sheer force of industrious habits, close attention to his work, and by exercising close calculation in the management of his affairs, no less than by fair and honest dealings in all his transactions, he has risen to be one of the substantial farmers of the township with whose interests his own have so long been identified.

Since 1867, when he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Frances Thompson, he has had the active co-operation of a wife who is a true helpmate. Mrs. Burd is also a native of Hampshire County, W. Va., and is a daughter of Robert and Zulimma Thompson, of whom an account appears in the biography of R. J. Thompson. Three children have blessed the union of our subject and his wife: Mary F., James W. and Nettie May.



**P**ETER KREITER. The life of Mr. Kreiter affords a splendid illustration of the power of patience and perseverance in promoting the prosperity of the individual and crowning his labors with complete success. He is one of the most influential citizens of Amboy Township and the owner of one hundred and seventy-five acres in this county. His farm, with its neat buildings, well-kept fences and cultivated fields, presents an air of thrift and prosperity. The supervision and cultivation of the place devolves largely upon Mr. Kreiter's sons, for his attention has been principally occupied as a machinist and miller.

The native home of Mr. Kreiter was on the Rhine in Germany, and the date of his birth November 4, 1824. He was reared to mature years in the Fatherland and after the good old custom of that country, which renders it necessary for every

lad to learn a trade, he served an apprenticeship at the trade of a machinist, following it until he came to America in 1847. When about twenty-three years old, having decided to seek a home in the United States, he left his native land, and crossing the ocean, landed in New Orleans.

Thence Mr. Kreiter proceeded up the Mississippi to Memphis, Tenn., where for one year he was employed in a machine shop. From that place he removed to St. Louis and carried on business in a machine shop and brass foundry between five and six years. Then coming to Illinois, he followed his trade in Peoria about a year and for perhaps the same length of time was employed in a small place in Tazewell County on the Maackinaw River. Next he was employed in Bloomington, this State, and there worked at his trade. After being unable for two years to engage in business on account of ill health, he entered the employ of the Chicago & Alton Railway Company and was for nineteen years in their employ as a machinist.

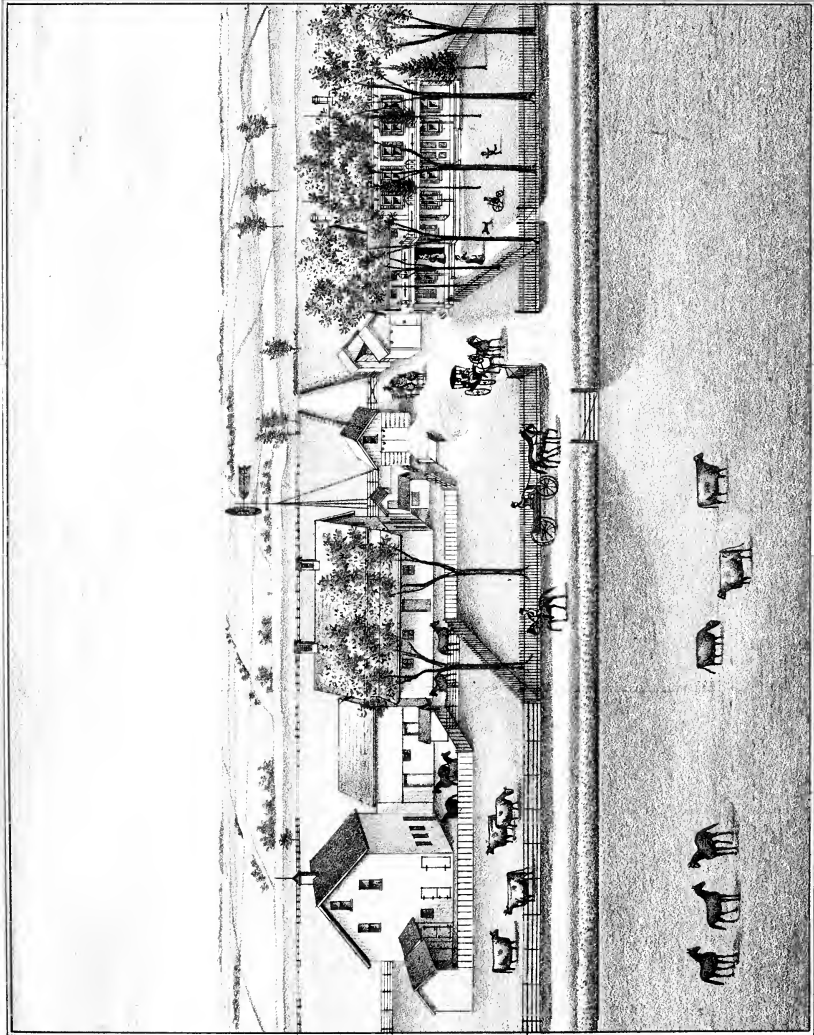
Upon leaving Bloomington, Mr. Kreiter came to Lee County and purchased a farm in Amboy Township, on section 25, where he has since resided. However, he has not engaged in farming pursuits, but has always followed his trade of a machinist, and the farm has been operated by his sons. Mr. Kreiter was married in St. Louis to Miss Augusta Wenzel, who was born in Germany, October 22, 1830. They have become the parents of eight children, namely: Amila, who was the wife of Frank Moellex and died in Chicago; Louis, who married Louisa Bateh and resides in Chicago; Anna, wife of James Guard; Gussie, who is the wife of John Stilz; Theodore, a member of the firm of Kreiter Bros., millers in Binghampton; William, who married Carrie Naglesmith and belongs to the firm of Kreiter Bros.; Minnie, the wife of A. Tuttle; and Edwin, who is one of the firm.

In politics, Mr. Kreiter and his sons maintain an independence of belief and cast their ballots for the candidates whom they believe best fitted for the office in question, irrespective of party ties. Mr. Kreiter and his wife are members of the Evangelical Church, but their children are identified with the Methodist Church. When the mills were started at Binghampton, they were operated by Kreiter &

Sons for one year, after which they were given in charge of Kreiter Bros., who have operated them since March, 1889. Mr. Kreiter has filled the office of School Director, as well as other positions of local importance, and has contributed his quota toward the progress of the community.



**E**LIJAH WALKER enjoys a good reputation as an honorable, hard-working farmer, who is profitably engaged in agriculture, and the fine condition of his farm on sections 24 and 25, Nelson Township, with its substantial buildings and well-tilled acres, gives ample proof of his thorough acquaintance with the best methods of carrying on his calling. He is a Pennsylvanian by birth, and in the township of Summit, Somerset County, he was born March 19, 1832, a scion of the old stock of that vicinity, the old farm upon which he first opened his eyes to the light of the world having been the native place of his father, Peter P. H. Walker, and of his grandfather, Philip Walker, his great-grandfather, Henry Walker, a native of the Keystone State, having purchased it from the Government in Colonial times, when it was a part of the primeval forest. He died thereon when an old man, having spent his life as a frugal, thrifty farmer. His father was a German who had come to this country and had located in Pennsylvania in the early days of its settlement. The old homestead is still in possession of the family, a brother of our subject being its present owner. Philip Walker spent his entire life on the old home farm, dying at the age of sixty-six, his wife, who was a Somerset County lady, also dying there when past seventy years of age. Both were Lutherans in religion, and he was a Democrat in politics. They were the parents of six children, four sons and two daughters, all of whom are now deceased. Their son Peter inherited the old homestead, and lived on it until he closed his eyes in death eighty-one years after his birth thereon. He was a very successful farmer, a prominent man in his community, to whom his fellow-citizens often looked for guidance and



RESIDENCE OF THE LATE ABIJAH POWERS, SEC. 31., PALMYRA TP., LEE CO., ILL.



counsel. He was a sturdy Democrat in his politics, and a sound Lutheran in his religion. His wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Will, and who was born in Somerset Township in October, 1800, died on the old farm May 11, 1889, their wedded life having been of more than half a century's duration. She, too, was a faithful Lutheran.

Our subject is one of a family of eight sons and three daughters, of whom six sons and one daughter are still living, and all married and prospering. He was educated in the common schools, grew to a stalwart manhood in the place of his birth, and in due time selected a wife to help him in the making of a home, marrying in his native township Miss Joanna Frickey. She was born in the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, July 29, 1832, and was ten years old when she came to this country with her mother and stepfather, Fred Haupt. They settled first in Somerset County, Pa., living on a farm there for some years, and then came to Lee County, locating in Nelson Township, where Mr. Haupt died December 29, 1863, aged sixty-seven years. He was a Lutheran in religion. His wife, whose maiden name was Doretta Just, died in this township November 5, 1875, when past sixty-eight years old. She was a truly good woman, a kind wife and loving mother, a sincere Christian, and a member of the Lutheran Church. Her father was Frederick Just, who died in the Kingdom of Hanover while yet in life's prime. Mr. and Mrs. Walker are blessed in their happy marriage by these three children: Iiram P., a farmer in York County, Neb., who married Miss Ella Troutman; Sadie E., wife of J. G. Wiuter, an expressman in Davenport, Neb.; and Minerva, who is the comfort and stay of her parents at home.

Mr. Walker made his first purchase of land in this county in 1860, buying at that time eighty acres of his present farm, to which he has since added more land, and now has two hundred and forty acres, or which nearly the whole is highly improved. It is supplied with a good class of buildings and fine farming machinery, and has all the facilities for carrying on farming advantageously, and besides is well stocked with cattle, horses and hogs, which are the source of a com-

fortable income. Our subject has not only contributed to the material well-being of his adopted township by his good work as a farmer during the last thirty and more years, but he has taken a keen interest in its welfare in other directions. He has been Assessor for over twelve years, and has held other local offices. In politics he is an intelligent follower of the Democratic party. In religion he has not departed from the faith of his ancestors, and both he and his wife are valued members of the Lutheran Church.



JOHN L. GEIGER has played an important part in the development of the agricultural resources of this county, and while thus adding to its wealth has acquired a handsome property, whereby he is enabled to live retired, although he still retains his beautiful and well-ordered farm, on section 14, Nelson Township, and makes it his home. Mr. Geiger was born in Somerset County, Pa., January 21, 1826, coming of the old Dutch stock of that State. His father, Richard Geiger, spent his whole life in Pennsylvania, dying there on the farm on which he had settled after attaining manhood, and which he had improved, his age at the time of his death being sixty-six years. He was sound in his religion and in his politics, a true Lutheran as regards the former, and a Republican in respect to the latter. He married a Somerset County lady, Mary Hess by name, who was descended from some of the early settlers of that part of Pennsylvania. She survived her husband some years, rounding out a useful life at the age of three-score years and ten. She too was a member of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject is one of eleven children, all but one of whom grew to maturity, and six of whom are still living. He lived on his father's farm until he became of age, and the experience that he gained in all kinds of farm work was of value to him in his after career. He was ambitious and energetic by nature, with a faculty for hard and unremitting work, and wisely thinking that the broad prairies of Illinois, with their rich virgin

soil, would afford an excellent field for his labors, he came hither in the fall of 1853 and identified himself with the pioneers who had previously settled in Lee County. He entered eighty acres of wild, uncultivated land, improved it and sold it advantageously, and then purchased his present farm, or a portion of it, afterward increasing it to its present size by buying additional land. In the busy years that followed, he made it into one of the best landed estates in Nelson County. It has an area of two hundred and eighty acres, but very little of which is not under the plow, and two good sets of comfortable and roomy farm buildings adorn the place.

Mr. Geiger has gained his wealth since he came to this county, and has earned for himself a place among our moneyed men. Besides his farm he has a valuable property on the corner of Hennepin and Ninth Streets, in Dixon, and recently spent four years in his residence in that pleasant locality. He is looked up to with great respect by his neighbors and all who know him, as his whole life bespeaks him to be a man of steadfast purpose, of good principles, and one who has kept his reputation unspotted in all his financial transactions. The Republicans of this section claim him as one of their number, while his religious affiliations are with the Lutheran Church, which he and his wife attend regularly.

Mr. Geiger was married after coming to this State in the town of Sterling to Miss Anna Gregory, and in her he has a wife who fills in a perfect measure the office of helpmate, companion and friend. Three children have added to their wedded happiness and make their home attractive by their presence, namely: Nellie E., a bright and well educated young lady; and two sons, Thomas L., and Walter W.

Mrs. Geiger was born in Sullivan County, N. Y., March 9, 1852, a daughter of Ives and Mary (Davidge) Gregory, natives respectively of Hartford, Conn., and of England. Her mother had come to the United States when five years of age with her parents, who settled in Sullivan County, where she grew to womanhood and married. After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Gregory lived in that county on a farm near Liberty for thirty-

five years. At the end of that time, in 1869, they migrated to Illinois, and lived in Whiteside County, near Rock Falls, and there the father died February 21, 1881, when nearly seventy-five years of age. He was a Democrat in politics, and a Baptist in religion, as was his wife who survived him, dying in November, 1891, and notwithstanding her advanced age, still took a deep interest in the affairs of the church. She was eighty years old March 31, 1891, and was at the time of her death quite sound physically and mentally. She made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Winfield Cone, at Thompson, Whiteside County. Mrs. Geiger is the youngest of nine children, of whom six are living, and all are married. She has four sisters, all of whom have been teachers, and one sister, who is a graduate of the Illinois State Normal School, was prominent in her profession in this State some years prior to her marriage. Mrs. Geiger was finely educated in the New York Normal School at Liberty, near her birthplace, and is a woman of superior culture. She, too, was successfully engaged in teaching before her marriage, entering upon her professional career at the age of seventeen years.



**M**ERRITT MILLER, of the firm of Miller & Emmett, dealers in grain and agricultural implements in the village of Steward, is not only prominent as a business man, but he has a high record as one of the successful farmers of Lee County, and the proprietor of one of its finely improved farms. He is also honored as one of the brave citizen-soldiers of the late war, who devoted the opening years of his manhood to his country's service.

Our subject was born in Lackawanna Township, Luzerne County, Pa., October 4, 1842, and is the oldest son of Adam and Mary (Neyhart) Miller, of whom a sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. His early education was conducted in the public schools of Wyoming County, in his native State. He was reared to habits of industry, commencing



when very young to be self-supporting, working out by the month on a farm, and later assisting his father in the mill. He came to Lee County with his parents in 1857, and resided with them until 1862. He watched with eager interest the course of the Rebellion, and August 14, of that year, though he had not then attained his majority, he was allowed to enlist, and he became a member of Company K, Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry. He served faithfully until after the close of the war, and in the engagements in which he fought he showed that he had in him the stuff of which true soldiers are made. He took an active part in the battles of Perryville and Stone River, and soon after the latter was placed in detached service as head clerk to the Assistant Adjutant-General, a position for which he was peculiarly fitted by reason of his quick insight into business, despatch in the discharge of his duties, and promptness in obeying orders. He went with the command in Sherman's Atlanta campaign, and after the fall of Atlanta returned to Nashville, where he became clerk at headquarters in the Quartermaster's department. He was honorably discharged with his regiment at Chicago, in June, 1865.

After he left the army, Mr. Miller returned to this county and purchased two hundred and forty acres of prairie land on sections 16 and 21, of Alto Township. The place was but very little improved, but he wrought a great change in a few years, placing the land in a high state of cultivation, planting choice fruit and shade trees, and erecting a fine set of frame buildings; he has added to his landed estate, and his farm now contains three hundred and twenty acres of land, constituting one of the best places in this part of the county. Our subject continued to carry on general farming and stock-raising until 1886, when he formed a partnership with W. H. Emmett, and they have since engaged in the grain business together, and also in the sale of agricultural implements, and are conducting a large and profitable trade in both lines.

In 1866 Mr. Miller married Miss Carrie Norton, a native of Conneaut, Ohio, and a daughter of Sprowell Norton. Mrs. Miller is a member of the Congregational Church, and is one of its most ear-

nest Christian workers. She is a true homemaker, and coziness and comfort reign in the home over which she presides.

Mr. Miller is well known and popular, as he is frank, generous and manly in his intercourse with others, and always ready to do any one a kindness or to help any one in trouble. He is a member of the following organizations: Horicon Lodge, No. 244, A. F. & A. M.; Rochelle Chapter, No. 158, R. A. M.; Crusader Commandery, No. 17, K. T.; Steward Camp, No. 294, M. W. A.; Garrison Lodge, No. 16, Knights of the Globe; and of Rochelle Post No. 546, G. A. R. He joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Rochelle, and was demitted to Steward Lodge, of which he remained a member until it was dissolved. In politics, he is a Republican and is unswerving in his allegiance to his party.



**S**AMUEL A. BENDER, who is engaged in general farming on section 25, Nachusa Township, where he has made his home since 1874, although he has been a resident of the county since 1861, claims Pennsylvania as the State of his nativity. Franklin County is the place of his birth and the date is June 5, 1843. His paternal grandfather, Henry Bender, was a native of Germany, and when a young man bade good-by to the Fatherland. He sailed for America and settled in Franklin County, Pa., where he improved a large farm of two hundred and forty acres. In the Keystone State he was married, and himself and wife spent the remainder of their lives upon the farm which he purchased. Mr. Bender died at the age of seventy-four years, and his wife was also well advanced in life. They were both members of the Lutheran Church and had a family of eleven children, all of whom are yet living, with the exception of John Bender, the father of our subject.

John Bender was the second child and Pennsylvania was the State of his nativity. He became a carpenter by trade and followed that occupation throughout his life. His death occurred in

Gilford Township, Franklin County, August 15, 1876, at the age of sixty-four years. His widow, whose maiden name was Margaret Miller, was born, reared, and is yet living in Franklin County, and also came of German lineage. She makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Lotta Mull, and is eighty years of age. She is a member of the German Baptist Church, to which Mr. Bender also belonged. Five children graced the union of this worthy couple and all are yet living, have married and are at the head of families.

Samuel Bender, whose name heads this sketch, gained his experience of life, prior to 1861, in Franklin County, Pa., where he was reared and educated. In the year above mentioned he came to Illinois, locating in Lee County. The Civil War was then in progress and in August, 1862, he became one of the boys in blue of Company G, Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry. The regiment was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland and at once marched to the front. The first battle in which it participated was at Prairieville, where it sustained heavy losses. This was followed by the battle of Murfreesboro and from this time on the regiment saw much hard fighting. Among the battles in which Mr. Bender participated were those of Chattanooga, Mission Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Franklin, Tenn., and those of the siege of Atlanta. He was very fortunate in that he escaped all injury. A faithful soldier, he was ever found at his post and was never absent from his regiment except on special duty. He enlisted as a private and was honorably discharged from the service as Sergeant of his company at the close of the war.

Mr. Bender at once returned to Lee County, and was united in marriage with Miss Millie Hart, a native of Luzerne County, Pa., and a sister of Levi Hart, in whose sketch, on another page of this work, is given her family history. She died at her home in Nachusa Township, in 1886, in the faith of the United Brethren Church, of which she was a consistent member. She left four children: Frank, Bessie, Mabel and Effie, all of whom are yet at home, and three children preceded her to the land beyond—Ruth, Pearl and William, all of whom died in early childhood. Mr. Bender was

again married in Dixon, his second union being with Miss Mary Blackman, a native of England, who, in her early girlhood, came to the United States with her father, J. F. Blackman, who was also born in England. Her father died in this county some years ago, but his widow still survives him and is yet living on the old homestead.

Mr. and Mrs. Bender are members of the Methodist Church. They are held in high regard by all who know them, and their home is a hospitable one, where their many friends delight to congregate. It is situated on section 25, Nachusa Township, in the midst of a highly improved farm of eighty acres, whose neat appearance indicates the thrift and enterprise of the owner. In political sentiment, Mr. Bender is a staunch Republican, and socially is a member of the Grand Army Post of Dixon.



**R**ICHARD F. MILLER has already won a good record as an enterprising farmer and stock-raiser, although he is yet a young man, and his farm in China Township compares favorably in point of importance and tillage with others of its size in Lee County. Our subject is the eleventh of the twelve children of Moses W. and Catherine (Livengood) Miller, and he was born in Somerset County, Pa., June 22, 1860. He was eight years old when he came to Lee County in 1868 with his father, and the most of his life has been passed here.

He was reared to agricultural pursuits on the old homestead in China Township, and when he arrived at years of discretion selected farming as his life-work. When he entered upon his career, he was well grounded in the principles of agriculture, and has shown by what he has accomplished that he selected his occupation wisely, as none of the young farmers of this vicinity has been more successful than he in tilling the soil. His farm comprises two hundred acres of very productive land, neatly divided into convenient fields by good fences, amply supplied with roomy and substantial

buildings for all necessary purposes, and the best modern machinery is used in cultivating and harvesting the crops.

Mr. Miller was happily married in China Township December 5, 1879, to Miss Anna R. Hartzell, a daughter of J. C. W. and Catherine J. (Trostle) Hartzell, natives of Pennsylvania, and now well-known residents of Nachusa Township. Mrs. Miller is the eldest of five children, and was born in Nachusa Township April 3, 1857. She is the mother of five children: Rosa F., Alfred T., Clifford B., Kate B. and Cora Ety. She understands well how to make home cozy and attractive, and cordially seconds her husband's genial hospitality, so that all who cross their threshold are sure of a pleasant welcome.

Our subject is a wide-awake, active young man, prompt in carrying out whatever he undertakes, and quick to take advantage of all honorable means of increasing his possessions. His habits are good, and his standing is of the best. He is somewhat prominent in local political affairs, and gives his allegiance to the Republican party. He has been School Director, and while an incumbent of that office acted for the best interests of his township in educational matters.



**G**EORGE STENGER is one of the substantial and highly respected citizens of Sublette Township, where he is engaged in farming. He is a native of Bavaria, Germany, and was born near Frankfort April 23, 1825, his parents being John A. and Agnes Stenger. The latter died in Germany in 1834. She was the mother of eight children, of whom only two grew to maturity, our subject and his sister Agnes. Agnes came to the United States, married Michael Shilling, and died in Peoria, Ill. The father of our subject had one son by a former marriage, Frank, who died in Peoria. By a third marriage he had a son named John, who now resides in Utah.

The father of our subject came to this country in 1836, landed at Baltimore, and from there made

his way to Zanesville, Ohio, where he at once took legal steps to become a citizen of the United States so as to share in the defense as well as in the protection of his chosen country. In 1838 he returned to Germany to receive some money which he had inherited, and after he came back to America he continued to live in Ohio until 1841, when he came to Illinois and settled in Woodford County, where he died the following year, thus depriving that section of the services of a loyal citizen in its upbuilding.

He of whom this biography is written was a stalwart lad of eleven years when he crossed the ocean with his father in 1836 to become a citizen of the United States of America in due time. His father's death a few years later left him almost alone in the world, and thus early thrown on his own resources he sought and found work as a farm hand. He was thus engaged in Woodford, Peoria and McLean Counties until 1845, when he went to Princeton and for five years was engaged in a brickyard. He saved his earnings, and in 1851 was enabled to purchase eighty acres of land and establish himself in the manufacture of brick, which business he carried on successfully the ensuing seven years. In 1858 he purchased his present farm on section 28, Sublette Township. It was then merely a tract of wild prairie, and though he made some improvements on it, he did not then locate there, not moving his family to their new home until 1860. He has erected neat buildings, has had his land under the best of tillage and amply supplied with good farming machinery and every convenience for carrying on agriculture.

Mr. Stenger and Miss Elizabeth Gosse were united in marriage in 1851, and five children have blessed their wedded life, named as follows: Andrew, Elizabeth J., Mary, Joseph and Frank. Mrs. Stenger was born April 19, 1825, in Alsace, Germany, when it was under French dominion. In 1831 she came to this country with her parents, Frank and Mary Gosse, who first settled near Detroit, Mich., and later removed to Princeton, Ill., where Mrs. Stenger first met her future husband.

In our subject the Democratic party has a faithful follower. In religion he is a firm adherent of the Roman Catholic Church. He has been School

Director and has done what he can for the educational interests of his adopted township, as well as in other matters, and is one of the public-spirited men of his community.



**A**DOLPHUS FISHER, who is a farmer of much enterprise and ability, is prosperously pursuing his calling in Wyoming Township, where he owns a well-ordered and well-managed farm. He was born October 2, 1847, six miles west of the State House at Columbus, Ohio, coming of one of the early pioneer families of that part of the country. His father, Jacob Fisher, was born in Pennsylvania, and it is supposed that his father, Thomas Fisher, who was of German ancestry, was also born in that State. He removed from there to Ohio in the early days of its settlement, and was one of the first settlers in Franklin County. He bought one hundred acres of forest-covered land and erected a log cabin as a dwelling-place for his family, splitting boards to cover the roof and for the floor, and using wooden pins instead of nails in the construction of the building. For a time there was no door, but a blanket was hung over the entrance to keep out the wolves, for they were plentiful, as well as deer and other wild animals. In one instance the grandfather of our subject was caught out after dark, and being pursued by timber wolves, he took refuge in a vacant cabin, and clambering onto the sleepers overhead, had to stay there until morning dawned, as the wolves howled at him beneath all night. Indians still inhabited that section of the country and were frequent callers at his house, and he had but few white neighbors. He struggled with the hardships of pioneer life, worked at his trade a part of the time, and cleared his land when not otherwise engaged, so that by years of hard toil he evolved a farm from the wilderness, upon which he resided until 1856. In that year the old man came to Illinois to spend the remainder of his life with

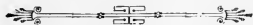
his children at Jefferson Grove, Ogle County, and there death found him in the fullness of time.

Jacob Fisher passed his early years in Pennsylvania, and when his father removed to Ohio he accompanied him to the new home in the forest wilds. He bought one hundred acres of timber land, cleared quite a tract of it, and then sold it at an advance and bought other land, upon which he erected the substantial double log house which was the birthplace of our subject. In 1852 he sold that place, and coming to Illinois, was a pioneer of this county. He was accompanied by his wife and ten children, and by his brother and his wife and three children, the entire journey across the intervening country being made wholly by land. He stopped a short time at Jefferson Grove, and then bought land at Twin Grove, in what is now Willow Creek Township, this county. His purchase included two hundred and forty acres of land, of which thirty-five acres were timber and the remainder open prairie. There was a small frame house on the place, also a small log stable, and seventy acres of the land were under cultivation. At that time there were no railways in the county, and but little improvement had been made throughout the length and breadth of this beautiful farming region that is to-day the scene of so many smiling homes and highly developed farms. Mr. Fisher soon showed himself to be a practical, capable pioneer, but he was not destined to tarry long in this promised land, where he sought to build up a new home, as death removed him from the scenes of his labors three years after his settlement here. His widow, who was a native of Pennsylvania, her maiden name Ruth Carleton, continued to live on the farm at Twin Grove many years, until her death at a venerable age in 1889. At her husband's death she was left with a family of ten children, whom she reared carefully.

Adolphus Fisher was but a child when his parents came to this county, and here he grew up to a self-reliant, energetic manhood. He attended school in his youth, and when not so doing assisted in carrying on the farm. He lived with his mother until he was twenty-two years old,

and then began his independent career as a farmer on rented land in Ogle County. He farmed as a renter six years, and at the expiration of that time was enabled to invest in land of his own, and bought one hundred and thirty-eight acres at Jefferson Grove. He was busily engaged in its improvement until 1882, when he sold that and bought the farm where he now resides in Wyoming Township. He has one hundred and seventy-five acres of fine land, of exceptional fertility and under excellent tillage, and provided with a substantial set of frame buildings and all the necessary farming machinery for carrying on agriculture after the best methods.

Mr. Fisher was married, in 1873, to Miss Dolly Siglin, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of Amos and Catherine Siglin, of whom a sketch appears on another page of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher enjoy life in a cozy home, which is the seat of an abundant hospitality, which they dispense with a free hand to friend or stranger who may cross their threshold. They have two children living, Elsie and Amos.



**C**HARLES JONES came to Lee County with his parents more than forty years ago, who were among its pioneers, and since he entered upon his career as a farmer he has had a hand in its development, inasmuch as he has improved a good farm in Wyoming Township. He is a Pennsylvanian by birth, born in Exeter Township, Luzerne County, May 17, 1832. His father, Lord Jones, was born in the same township July 5, 1805, a son of Lewis Jones, who was a native of the State of New York. When a young man, the latter had taken up his residence in Luzerne County, and was married at Pittston to Sarah Benedict, who, so far as known, was born in Pennsylvania. He bought a partly improved farm in Exeter, and his remaining days were passed upon it.

The father of subject grew up on the farm which was his birthplace. He worked with an elder brother and became a carpenter under his instruction. He pursued his trade in Exeter until 1848, and

then determined to avail himself of the larger opportunities offered by what was at that time considered the "Far West." In his migration to Illinois he was accompanied by his wife and seven children, and he founded his new home on a tract of Government land on what is now section '8, Wyoming Township. He was one of its early settlers and did an important work as a pioneer in advancing its growth. He erected a small frame building on his land as a temporary shelter, and some years later he replaced it by a more substantial brick residence. He devoted the most of his time to the improvement of his farm, and lived upon it until 1877, when he sold it at a good price, and from that time until his death, September 21, 1887, lived in honorable retirement. He was married in Exeter, his native town, January 6, 1830, to Phebe Goble, and their wedded life was of unusual duration, extending over a period of more than fifty-seven years. It was a felicitous union, and was blessed with children, of whom they reared eight to useful lives, namely: Theodore S., Charles, Orlando B., Ira D., Ann Elizabeth (wife of William Eddy), Benjamin A., Gilbert W., and Sarah (wife of J. W. McIlale). Early in their married life, Mr. and Mrs. Jones united with the Baptist Church, she joining in April, 1834, and he in January, 1835. She survives her husband, and though in her eighty-third year, is sound of mind and body. She was born in Kingston, Luzerne County, Pa., July 29, 1809, a daughter of Ezekiel Goble.

The maternal grandfather of our subject was a native of New Jersey, and was a son of Ezekiel Goble, who, for aught that is known to the contrary, was also born in that State, and was a descendant of early English ancestry. He removed from New Jersey to Kingston, Penn., with his family in 1795, and there his life was brought to a close in 1811 on the farm that he purchased when he first located in that place. The maiden name of his wife, whose death occurred on the farm in 1809, was Phebe Peck. The grandfather of our subject was nineteen years of age when the family went to Pennsylvania, and he was married in that State to Margaret Thompson, a native of Bucks County, and a daughter of James and Susanna Beck. He

bought a farm in Kingston and lived there until 1815, when he sold it and took up his abode in Exeter Township, whence he came in 1847 to Illinois. He made his home thereafter with his sons Ezekiel and Charles, and departed this life May 2, 1849. His wife survived him until September 12, 1859, when she too passed away.

The subject of this biographical record was educated in his native State. He was a youth of sixteen years when the family left the old home to begin life anew on the frontier. That memorable journey across the intervening country was made with teams, and they were four weeks on the way. A tent and sheet iron stove formed part of their equipment, and at night they camped by the wayside and cooked their food. Upon their arrival at the scene of their new home, they found a wild, sparsely settled country, where deer and other kinds of game flourished, and there were no railroads or means of communication with the outside world, except over rough roads, or no roads at all. Chicago, many miles distant, was the nearest market for the sale of produce or where supplies could be obtained. The greater part of the land was still in the hands of the Government, and was held for sale at \$1.25 an acre.

Mr. Jones resided with his father until he married and established a home of his own on the farm in Wyoming Township, where he still resides. He has not only been a witness of the wonderful transformation that has taken place in this section since he came here, but he has helped to bring it about. His farm is highly productive, and compares favorably with the others in its vicinity in all respects.

Our subject was married February 14, 1854, to Miss Martha E. Harris, who is to him all that the word wife implies. Mrs. Jones was born in the town of Summer Hill, Cayuga County, N. Y., September 15, 1833, to Daniel and Miriam (Page) Harris. For her parental history see sketch of D. M. Harris. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have four children living, of whom the following is the record: Laverne Fountain was born April 17, 1855, Ada Eveline, June 14, 1858; Loren E., October 23, 1860; Maud Albertie, May 13, 1862. Laverne married Miss Minnie Berkland, and they have one

daughter, whose name is Mattie. Ada married Frank B. Bryant, and they have four children—Tessie, Emma, Carl and Wilson. Maud married John Adrian, of Viola Township, and they have three children: Ethel, Robert S. and Ada.



**M**RS. CATHERINE E. ASCHENBRENNER. This lady, who is the owner of one of the finest places in Bradford Township, and which is situated on section 30, is an old settler in this county, and is highly esteemed in the community in which she has so long made her home. Her maiden name was Catherine E. Reinhart, and she was born in Germany, October 24, 1832. When she was twelve years of age her parents Christian and Christina (Denhardt) Reinhart, emigrated to America, coming to Illinois and settling in China Township, this county, in 1845 where they both died.

Our subject was reared to womanhood in China Township and lived there until her marriage with Oman Hillison. Mr. Hillison was a native of Norway and emigrated to America when he was nineteen years old, being one of the earliest settlers in Lee County. He built the first farm house between Melugon's Grove and Dixon, and which was a favorite stopping place for many of the pioneers on their journey to their new homes in the Western States. By this marriage our subject became the mother of two children, Henry W., and Betsey J., the latter being the wife of C. Brandau.

After the death of the first husband which took place in Bradford Township, our subject was married to John J. Aschenbrenner, of which union three children were born, Christian, Reinhart and Andrew. Mrs. Aschenbrenner is an intelligent, go-ahead woman, and is in possession of an excellent property, comprising four hundred and eleven acres of land, improved with first-class buildings and all the conveniences so essential to rural life. She is an estimable woman and conducts her extensive estates in an admirable manner.

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*T. H. Stetter M.D.*



**T**HOMAS H. STETLER, M. D., of Paw Paw, is not only one of the leading physicians of Lee County, whose reputation for skill and success in his profession is very high, but he is prominent in its social and political life, and his public-spirited and enterprise have been potent agents in its progress since he became a citizen of this section of Illinois.

The Doctor, whose portrait is presented on the opposite page, is a native of Pennsylvania, and was born in Wilkesbarre, Luzerne County. His father, John Stetler, was also a native of the Keystone State, his birthplace in Columbia County. He married Julia Lazarus, a native of Pennsylvania, and they settled in Wilkesbarre, and spent their remaining days in that place, he being engaged in teaming and boating.

A thorough student, our subject laid the foundation of a good education in the public schools of his native town, and at the age of eighteen, when he commenced to teach, he was well equipped for that vocation, to which he devoted himself the ensuing five years. When twenty-three years old, he turned his attention to the study of medicine with T. D. Palmer, of Paw Paw. He made rapid progress in his studies, and afterward entered the Chicago Medical College, from which he graduated March 21, 1876. He immediately opened an office at Paw Paw, and in the course of time has built up an excellent practice in the village and surrounding country, early winning the confidence of the people, as in his treatment of the various diseases with which he has had to cope, he has displayed an accurate knowledge of medicine, has always given his patients every needed attention, and has shown himself to be a sagacious and careful physician, who keeps well abreast of the times in his profession.

Dr. Stetler by no means confines his attention solely to his profession, but, as he is wide-awake and progressive, endowed with an active mind, a forceful character, and an enterprising spirit, he interests himself in what concerns his adopted county, as a true citizen should, and is a prominent member of various social organizations. He is one of the foremost leaders of the Republican party in this section, standing high in its council

as Chairman of the County Central Committee. He is a valued member of the North Central Illinois Medical Society, and has been appointed delegate to the State and National Medical Society. He belongs to Corinthian Lodge, No. 205, F. & A. M.; Mendota Chapter, No. 79, R. A. M., and Bethany Commandery, K. T. The Doctor has an inherent love for a horse, and is the fortunate possessor of several high-bred animals.

In 1870 Dr. Stetler was married to Miss Libbie Rosenkrans, a native of Luzerne County, Pa., and a daughter of Abram and Betsy Rosenkrans, of whom mention is made in the sketch of Andrew J. Rosenkrans on another page of this volume. The Doctor and his amiable wife have a pleasant home, whose attractiveness is enhanced by their charming hospitality, which is often enjoyed by their friends, of whom they have many. Their household is completed by their one child, Orla Nettie.



**W**ILLIAM H. FISCEL, deceased, is numbered among the early settlers of Lee County, of 1849, and here he made his home for forty years or until his death April 23, 1889. A native of Adams County, Pa., he was born May 14, 1832, and came of old families of the Keystone State. His ancestors were farming people who resided in York and Adams Counties. His parents were David and Mary A. (Herbst) Fiscei, natives of Adams County, where after their marriage they resided for some years. Later they removed to Washington County, Md., and in 1849, with teams, started overland for Lee County, Ill. The three years succeeding their arrival were spent in China Township, after which Mr. Fiscei purchased a tract of land from the Government on section 32, Nachusa Township, where, devoting his attention to agricultural pursuits, he spent the remainder of his days. His death occurred in 1865, at the age of forty-nine years. He was a successful farmer, who by his industry, perseverance and good management accumulated a handsome property. In his political views he was a Democrat and with

the German Baptist Church he held membership. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Fisceel has resided with her children and is now living with the wife of our subject. Although she has reached the allotted age of three-score years and ten, she yet retains her health in a remarkable degree and her mental faculties are little impaired.

William H. Fisceel was the eldest in a family of four sons and three daughters, and his brother and sisters are all yet living, five being residents of Iowa. With his parents he came to Lee County, in 1849, and with them removed from China Township to Nachusa Township in 1852. He aided in the laborious task of developing a new farm and at length became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 32, where he had a comfortable home. The many improvements there to be seen stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise, for he was an energetic and progressive man who labored untiringly in whatever line of work he undertook.

In the township where his widow still resides, Mr. Fisceel was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Miss Elizabeth Stambaugh, a native of Adams County, Pa., born December 25, 1846. She was a young maiden when she came West with her parents, George and Christina (Wolf) Stambaugh, the family settling in Nachusa Township, Lee County, where the father and mother spent the remainder of their days. They were only a little past middle life when called to their final rest. In politics Mr. Stambaugh was a Democrat and his wife was a member of the German Baptist Church. Their union was blessed with six sons and four daughters, and the family circle is yet unbroken. The children are now all married and have families.

Unto Mr. and Fisceel were born three children, E. Franklin, Ray W. and Leroy, who are still at home with their mother. Our subject was a lifelong member of the German Baptist Church, and in politics was a stalwart supporter of the Republican party. He lived a quiet, unassuming life, taking no prominent part in public affairs, content rather to devote his energies to his business and spent his leisure time in the enjoyment of home. In his death the county lost one of its best citizens

and his family a loving and faithful husband and father. Mrs. Fisceel manages the farm which is located on section 32, Nachusa Township, and in its care displays considerable executive ability. She is a lady of high social standing and, like her husband, has been a member of the German Baptist Church from her childhood.



**H**ENRY C. BROOKNER was a master mechanic and builder of more than usual ability, and in that capacity occupied important positions in the employ of the Illinois Central and the Big Four railways at different times. During the latter part of his life he settled on his farm in the vicinity of the city of Dixon, which he had owned for many years, and superintended its improvement.

Mr. Brookner was born in Osnabruck, Hanover, Germany, June 15, 1827, a son of George and Maria (Engle) Brookner. His father was a renowned contractor and builder, and was architect to the king. He and his wife spent their entire lives in the German Fatherland. They reared a family of six sons of whom these three came to America: Henry C., Edward H., who settled in Dixon, but he and his wife are now in Hamburg, Germany, educating their two children, and Charles J., a resident of Rochester, Minn., who is married, and has two children.

Our subject attended school constantly in his native town during his boyhood. At the age of nineteen, ambitious to see something of the world, and to try his fortunes in America, he left the parental home, and crossing the Atlantic on a sailing vessel, six weeks later he landed at New Orleans. His outlook was not very encouraging as he was in ill health, and the expenses of the voyage had left him but \$4. With true manliness he at once sought employment whereby he could turn an honest penny, and found a situation in a hotel in the Crescent City. He remained there a few months and then made his way to St. Louis, and became a clerk in a hardware store in that city, continuing in that occupation until 1847. In the month of

August, that year, he came to Dixon, and commenced work with his uncle Christopher Brookner, who was a carpenter. He evinced great aptitude for the trade, quickly mastering it in every detail, and in no very long time became a builder on his own account. The Illinois Central Railway Company engaged him to superintend the construction of bridges, and he remained with them nine years, resigning at the end of that time to accept the position of roadmaster and master builder with the Indiana & St. Louis Railroad Company, now known as the "Big Four." He retained that situation ten years, making his headquarters at Litchfield. In 1879 he retired to Lee County and located on his farm, which he had bought in 1856, which is a mile and a half south of Dixon. He busied himself with its improvement during the remainder of his life, which was brought to a close January 10, 1889. In dying he left behind him a high reputation as a man whose conduct at all times and in all places showed that his life was guided by Christian principles, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which he connected himself early in life, found in him an exemplary member, who was esteemed for his unswerving honesty and veracity.

During his residence in Litchfield Mr. Brookner was married to Miss Emma R. Keithley, their union being solemnized April 4, 1875. She was tenderly watchful of his interests and comfort, made his last years the best, and reverently cherished his memory. She is a woman of sterling worth, and is a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which she united when she was young. Her marriage with our subject brought them these three children—Mae Adella, Paul, and George Keithley.

Mrs. Brookner, who was born in Greenville, Ind., is a daughter of Seth M. Keithley, who was born at Elizabethtown, Ky., in 1812. His father was John Keithley, and he was a native of Maryland coming of German ancestry. He removed from that State to Kentucky in the early days of its settlement, and thence to the Territory of Indiana, where he became one of the early settlers of Floyd County, locating in the primeval forests near Greenville. He bought a tract of heavily timbered land,

erected a log house on it, and before his death had cleared a good farm. The maiden name of his wife was Phebe McCollum. She was a native of Maryland, and of Scotch ancestry. Both she and her husband are quietly sleeping their last sleep in a churchyard near Greenville.

Mrs. Brookner's father was very young when his parents removed to Indiana, and there he grew to manhood under pioneer influences. He learned the trade of a carriage maker and followed it in Greenville some years. In 1857 he came to Illinois with his family, and settled in Litchfield, where he was engaged in manufacturing carriages until 1878 when he retired from active business, making his home with his children in that place until his death March 28, 1887. The maiden name of his wife was Theresa Miller. She was born near Elizabethtown, Ky., was reared in Floyd County, Ind., and died in Litchfield in 1872.



**J**OSEPH TAIT. Following the maxim that "whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing well," in the truth of which he has always believed, Mr. Tait has been remarkably successful in life and is a man of note in Amboy and the surrounding country. Besides the considerable amount of real estate which he holds in the city, he is the owner of five hundred acres of valuable farming land and is an extensive dealer in live stock. His solid reputation has been gained by strenuous application and continuous labor, and he has always been most conscientious in the faithful discharge of every duty which faces him.

Mr. Tait was born in County Durham, England, December 15, 1820, and is the son of John and Mary (Gibson) Tait. The following is noted of the remaining members of the family of eight sons and two daughters, of which he was a member: Mary married Robert Kirk and died in 1890 at Buffalo, N. Y.; John remained in England and died in 1889 in the house in which he was born; Thomas came to the United States and returning to his native land, now resides in Northumberland;

Margaret married and remained in England until her death in 1854; William resides in Bismarck; Iowa; James and Ralph are located in Denver, Col., while George lives in Akron, Ohio.

The son of poor parents, our subject was early in life thrown upon his own resources and commenced to learn a trade. He became a millwright and engaged at his trade until he emigrated in 1841 to the United States. In this country he he traveled over several of the States and worked on the building of the college at Iowa City, Iowa. After spending one year on this side of the Atlantic he returned to England, where he learned the trade of pattern-maker with Jonathan Robinson and the trade of a machinist with George Stevenson, the originator of the locomotive. In 1849 he again came to the United States and on the Hudson River, opposite Newbury, built two locomotives, the "Erie" and the "Mohawk," both of which were in use for many years.

Next Mr. Tait removed to Schenectady, N. Y., where he worked at his trade of a machinist for a few months but he was never paid for the work he did, and thus without money he went to Cleveland, Ohio, where he worked for the Cleveland, Columbus & Cincinnati Railway Company. In 1855 he came to Amboy and was the first machinist in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, with whom he continued for twenty-one years as foreman of the round house or gang foreman. Later he proceeded Westward to Laramie, Wyo., from which place after a sojourn of four years, he returned to Amboy and again entered the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad. After continuing with the company eight years he began to engage in the live stock business and still operates in this way with considerable success.

The marriage of Mr. Tait to Miss Caroline Gasgoine took place December 31, 1840, and brought them mutual happiness until death removed the loving wife, September 27, 1880. Seven children were born of the union: Mary, who married W. Coleman and died in 1873, leaving one daughter, Carrie, now the wife of Frank Calkins; John, a machinist on the Pacific Slope; Thomas G., a machinist and locomotive engineer on the Missouri,

Kansas & Texas Railroad; Joseph R., who has charge of his father's large farm in this county; Ann, who is the wife of Samuel Adams; Carrie, now Mrs. William Gasgoine and Sarah, the wife of Asa Dresbach, of New Louisville, Ark. In political belief Mr. Tait is not a strict partisan but is a friend of protective tariff, and socially belongs to the Masonic fraternity.



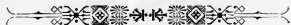
**L**LOYD BURGER is a general farmer owning a fine tract of one hundred and fifty-seven acres, on section 16, Palmyra Township, this county. He has here been a resident since 1881, purchasing land in 1882, and operating the farm on which he now resides since 1888. He was born April 11, 1853, in Columbia County, Pa., and removed to Illinois in 1855, first settling in Whiteside County.

The father of our subject, Isaac Burger, was born in the Blue Mountains in Pennsylvania, but was reared in Columbia County. He came of Pennsylvania parents who were of German descent, and in his native State learned the trades of a cabinet-maker and carpenter, following them for some twenty-two years. After coming to Illinois with his family he settled on a farm in Jordan Township, Whiteside County, where he carried on farming and also worked in his trade as a mechanic until his death, April 9, 1887, when seventy-eight years of age. He was a thorough-going Democrat, and a member of the Presbyterian Church. His wife, the mother of our subject, was a native of Columbia County, Pa., also born of parents of German descent. She was a most excellent woman, and a true wife to her good husband. This worthy couple spent forty-nine years in harmony together, and were separated for only a short time by death, she soon following her husband, her death occurring August 23, in the same year as his, 1887. She was then seventy-six years and six months old. Like her husband, she was an earnest member of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject was the youngest, but one, in a

family of four sons and five daughters. He was reared and educated in Jordan Township, Whiteside County, where he came with his parents when only two years old. He was married near Freeport, Stephenson County, this State, to Miss Hannah M. Swartz, who was born in Center County, Pa., May 21, 1850. She came to Stephenson County when a child with her parents, Michael and Esther (Mensch) Swartz, natives of Pennsylvania. After coming to Illinois with their family of three sons and three daughters, they located in the northern part of Stephenson County, and there purchased and improved a fine farm, where they still reside, both being past seventy years of age. They are members of the Lutheran Church. Mrs. Burger, the wife of our subject, is the third child of this worthy couple.

Our subject and his wife have been the parents of six children, of whom two, Jesse and an infant, are deceased. Those living are Sarah E., Maggie M., Bessie M., Clinton E., all at home. Mr. Burger is an energetic and hard working man and owes much of his success to the assistance of his estimable wife. For nineteen years he operated a thresher in this and Whiteside Counties, and is well known as one of the oldest men in this business in this part of the State. Mrs. Burger is a worthy member of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Burger is a Democrat in politics, and has held local offices in his township.



**W**ILLIAM T. TUTTLE, editor and proprietor of the Franklin Grove Reporter and Principal of the Franklin Grove schools, is a scholar and a gentleman, whose reputation is that of an educator of marked intelligence and progressive views. He is a native of New York, born at Corning, May 9, 1846, a son of Hiram B. and Amanda (Skinner) Tuttle, who were natives of Camden, Oneida County, N. Y.

Hiram B. Tuttle was an experienced lumberman in his early days, and in the '50s was Superintendent of the largest lumber interests in the United States, those of the firm of Langdon, Divin

& Co., of Williamsport, Pa., who at that time owned the largest sawmill in the world. Later in life Mr. Tuttle turned his attention to farming, and was engaged at that occupation in Steuben County, N. Y., until failing health obliged him to abandon it in 1866, and he sought the West in the vain hope of recovery. He located at Grand Mound, Iowa, and there death came to him with its healing balm for all the ills of life. His wife survives him and is a respected resident of New Hampton, Iowa. Ten children were born of their marriage, five sons and five daughters, as follows: Mary, wife of Daniel Sunderlin, a farmer of New Hampton, Iowa; Harriet, wife of William F. Geise, of Jackson, Mich.; Hiram B., now a prosperous merchant at Little Falls, Minn., who was a member of the Fiftieth New York Engineers, and did noble service during the Civil War; William T., our subject; Henry S., manager of St. Louis Furniture Board of Trade, St. Louis, Mo.; Phineas C., a farmer at New Hampton, Iowa; Ella, who lives with her mother at New Hampton; Charles N., a merchant of that town and two who died in infancy.

William T. Tuttle attended school until he was fourteen years old, and then the family moved onto a farm, and his school days were over except two winters in the public school, but his education did not stop there by any means, as he was a bright, thoughtful boy, eager to learn, and having already become well grounded in the common branches, had a good foundation for the knowledge he has since obtained by hard study, by close observation, and by careful reading, and many a college-bred man may envy him his culture.

In 1867 our subject left his native State with his young wife, and after a short stay at Grand Mound, Iowa, came to Illinois, of which he has since been a resident. He worked at the carpenter's trade in and about Sterling for twelve years, and occasionally during that time taught a country school. He was so successful in that line that he decided in 1879 to give his attention entirely to school work. He threw his whole energies into his new profession, and wherever he taught his manner and methods of teaching were highly commended. He had charge of a school at Coleta, in Whiteside County, at one time; from there he wa-

called to Prairieville, Lee County, and thence to the "Mound" school, also in this county, whither his reputation had preceeded him, and during the last year that he taught there his school had the highest marking of any in Lee County in country school gradation. From there he returned to Whiteside County to accept the principalship of the Tampico schools, and held that position until he came to Franklin Grove to take charge of the village school here. This institution of learning is graded, has four departments, and over two hundred pupils are enrolled, and a high standard is maintained under our subject's excellent system of instruction.

March 1, 1891, Mr. Tuttle added to the profession of teacher that of editor, buying on that date the paper known as the *Franklin Reporter*, together with the office in which it is published, and all its appurtenances. He was at first assisted in his editorial work by Miss Rose Kreitzer, an experienced printer. On January 1st, 1892, Mr. Tuttle formed a partnership with George W. Gaver, a gentleman of large experience, and who has charge of the paper and is fully competent to carry it on in all its departments. The *Reporter* is a bright, newsy sheet, with plenty of space devoted to matters of local import that are well written up, and the editorials, which are often trenchant and always to the point, indicate a thorough grasp of the subjects which are of popular interest to-day.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Loretta T. Towsley, took place in 1866, and theirs is a charming home, tasteful and neat in its appointments. One daughter, Mary A., completes their pleasant household. Their other child, Cora E., early exchanged this life for immortality. Mrs. Tuttle was born in Steuben County, N. Y., in 1847, and is a daughter of the late William H. and Roxa (Tubbs) Towsley, who were also natives of Steuben County. Her father was a gallant soldier in a New York regiment during the war, serving under Gen. Sherman. His death occurred in Beloit, Wis., in 1889.

Mr. Tuttle's culture, high-toned character and his pleasing personality have made a favorable impression upon the people in whose midst he is carrying on his professional labors, and he exerts a wholesome influence in the community. He is

an ardent Republican, as was his father before him, and his party find in him an able champion. Socially, he is a prominent member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and occupies the Chair of Council of that society. He has an earnest religious nature, which finds expression in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he and his wife and daughter are members.



CHARLES A. MORRIS, editor and proprietor of the *Paw Paw Herald*, a bright and well-conducted paper, has already won an honorable position in his profession, although one of its younger members. He comes of good old Revolutionary ancestry on one side, and on the other of a family that was well represented in the late Civil War, both his father and father's father, and others of his kin doing gallant service in the Union ranks.

Our subject is a representative native citizen of the county, born in Wyoming Township, April 10, 1863. He is a son of Stephen J. Morris, a well-to-do farmer of Lee County, residing on his farm in Wyoming Township. He was born near Lock Haven, Pa., August 29, 1834, and is a son of William A. Morris, who was a native of Greene County, N. Y. The father of the latter, whose given name was Stephen, was born in that same county, and removed from there to Allegany County in 1834. He bought a tract of timber land in West Almond, and dwelt there upon the fine farm that he cleared from the wilderness until old age compelled him to retire, and he then lived with his son, Josiah, in the same county, and died at his home at the age of ninety-three years. The maiden name of his wife was Phebe Utter. She was born near Boston, Mass., and died at the home of her son Josiah at the advanced age of ninety years. She was a daughter of Josiah Utter, who was a patriotic soldier in the Continental Army, fought in the battle of Bunker Hill, and served with fidelity throughout the entire struggle of the colonists for freedom until the surrender of Cornwall at Yorktown brought the long conflict to an end.

The grandfather of our subject passed his early life in his native State, but when he became a young man he crossed the border into Pennsylvania, and in Clinton County found himself a wife in the person of Elizabeth Quay, a native of that county, and a daughter of John Quay. William Morris continued to live in Clinton County until 1842, when he returned to New York, and renting land in Allegany County, resided there until 1866. In the meantime the rebellion broke out, and not only did the brave old man go to the front to help fight his country's battles, as a member of the 85th New York Infantry, but four of his sons showed that they inherited the patriotism of their sire by enlisting in the Union Army. He served faithfully for two years, and was honorably discharged with a good military record. In 1866 he removed to Kansas with his wife, and they spent their remaining days in Pawnee County, that State.

The father of our subject was a small boy when his father returned to New York, and he grew to a vigorous manhood in Allegany County. He remained with his parents until he attained his majority, and in that year, 1855, came to Illinois. He resided in McHenry County until 1861, and then coming to Lee County, took up his residence here permanently, buying the farm on which he makes his home two years later. He is a good farmer, having a sound knowledge of agriculture, and has done well in the pursuit of his occupation, becoming one of the substantial men of his neighborhood. He took part in the war, enlisting in March, 1865, in Company G, Fifteenth Illinois Infantry. He joined his regiment in North Carolina, marched with it from Richmond to Washington, participated in the Grand Review, and was honorably discharged with his regiment in September, 1865, at Fort Leavenworth, having shown himself to be an efficient soldier during the term of his service. Mr. Morris was married in August, 1861, to Mrs. Rachel (Clark) Hawley, a native of Ohio, daughter of Alexander Clark, and widow of Adolphus Hawley. Their pleasant wedded life has been blessed to them by these three children—Charles A.; Rachel Emma, wife of Harry Strader; and Ida, wife of Elmer D. Holton.

Charles A. Morris, the subject of this brief

biography, began his education in the district school, and subsequently pursued a good course of study in the East Paw Paw Seminary, where he ranked well for scholarship. At the age of eight-teen he commenced to learn the art preservative in the office of the *Lee County Times*. Having become quite an expert type-setter, he entered the office of the *Paw Paw Herald* a year later as a compositor. In 1866 he bought the office, its appurtenances, and the good will of the former proprietor, and has since conducted a good business as job printer, as well as an editor and publisher. The *Herald* is doing well under his management, is a neatly gotten up, well-printed sheet, in which the local news are set forth in an interesting manner, the editorials on topics of common interest sensible and sound, and the general tenor of the paper shows that the editor is desirous of pushing forward whatever will be of benefit to his native county.



**F**RANK KING, who is one of the famous '49ers who sought wealth in the gold fields of California after the discovery of the precious metal in that State, and who afterwards made his fortune as a lumberman in the forests of Washington, near Puget Sound, where he formerly carried on an extensive business in his line, has been identified with the farmers and stockmen of this county since 1881. In that year he purchased a tract of more than two hundred acres of valuable farming land on section 16, Nelson Township, and has placed upon it substantial modern improvements, and stocked it with fine herds of horses, cattle and swine of standard breeds.

Our subject was born on Staten Island, in New York Harbor, and passed the early years of his life amid its pleasant scenes. His father, William King, was a native of England, and was reared and married in the land of his birth, Miss Catherine Simmons becoming his wife. In his youth he became a mechanic, and acquired great skill in his vocation. He was in the prime and vigor of a stalwart

manhood when he decided that the United States promised to be a better field of labor than his old home, and he migrated to this country with his wife and the two children that had previously been born to them. He settled on Staten Island, where he found employment at his trade, and there he passed the remainder of his life in peace and contentment. His wife survived him some years, and was quite aged at the time of her death. She was a woman of true Christian character, and a devoted member of the Church of England.

Our subject is one of twelve children, seven of whom are living, and all are well-to-do, although their sole inheritance from their parents was an untarnished name and thrifty habits. He of whom we write was young when his father died and he has since made his own way in the world. He was a bright manly lad full of spirit and resolution, and though thus early thrown on his own resources made a brave struggle against heavy odds, and ere long was independent. He was but a boy when he left his island home to join the adventurers who were going to cruise to California in search of gold. He secured passage on a vessel bound around Cape Horn to the Golden State, obtaining a situation as cabin boy, and on August 8, 1849, entered the Golden Gate at San Francisco. After landing he accepted a good office to go to the gold fields as a driver of an ox-team up the valley of the Yuba River. He mined some, and afterwards drove team for some time. He had a full experience of all the various phases of frontier life in the mining camp and elsewhere, and during his residence on the Pacific coast occasionally revisited the East returning once by the Isthmus, and making three trips across the plains. He eventually went into the lumber regions in Kitsap County, Wash., near Puget Sound, and for twenty-two years was in the lumber business in that and other counties. He made money by his transactions, and desirous of locating permanently in some more eastward locality, he came to Illinois, and selecting Lee County as the seat of his future home, bought the fine farm that he now occupies in Nelson Township, and is very pleasantly situated here. His farm consists of more than two hundred acres of land that is exceedingly fertile, and under his able

management it has become one of the most valuable estates in the vicinity, and it is also a fine stock farm. Mr. King is a man of high personal standing, and his many genial social qualities have gained him the good will and friendship of the people among whom he has come to make his home. He is a Republican of no uncertain tone, who takes a genuine interest in local politics and he is regarded by his fellow-townsmen as a decided acquisition to the citizenship of this locality.



**J**OSIAH L. GRAY, Deputy Sheriff of Lee County, is now a resident of Dixon, and has made his residence here since December, 1890, when he came here to serve in his present position. He had been living in Lee Center for forty-two years, and was only five years old when he went with his parents to that place. He was born at Leaf River, Ogle County, this State, October 24, 1844, to John and Mary (Powell) Gray, natives of Ireland and Wales respectively. He was variously engaged as a farmer and mechanic at Lee Center, and was a successful house building mechanic for a good many years.

The gentleman of whom we write enlisted in the War of the Rebellion in Company D, Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, and fought with his regiment in Sherman's Army and was with him when he was driving Johnson's Army North and was with him at the Grand Review at Washington City. He was then sent West to Kansas and Nebraska to suppress the Indian troubles, the regiment being stationed at Kearney, and on September 26, 1865, was honorably discharged at Leavenworth, Kan. Since that time he has lived in this county, with the exception of a four years' residence in Iowa.

Mr. Gray is the youngest of ten children, born to his worthy parents, all of whom are yet living but two. The father although born in Ireland, came of English parents, his father, Henry Gray, having been sent there from England as a collecting agent and died there. John Gray had come to Canada when a young man and there



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married his wife and helpmate. In 1841 they came to Ogle County, this State, and in 1849 came to Lee County and bought a farm in Lee Center Township, and there the father passed away in 1889, at the age of ninety-eight years, and the wife died in 1868 at the age of sixty-two years. They were valued and consistent members of the Baptist Church. Mr. Gray served in the War of the Canadian Rebellion while in Canada, and in politics was a sound Republican. The subject of this notice was a stalwart adherent to the Republican party, as were also his five brothers, three of whom served bravely in the late war. John C., of the Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry, served about one year; William H. was in the Seventh Illinois Cavalry for the same length of time; and James was in the Thirteenth Illinois Infantry, in which he served for three years and four months, re-enlisting in the Seventh Illinois Cavalry for one year more. He was badly wounded by a bursting shell and left on the field for dead. He was found and taken care of, and is at present Postmaster at Lee Center. Our subject is one of the prominent and leading members of the Grand Army of the Republic, No. 229, of Dixon, a society in which all old soldiers like to meet their comrades.



**C**OL. ALEX. P. DYSART, who resides on the outskirts of the village of Nachusa, is one of the most widely and favorably known men of this part of the State. His public life as a military officer and a legislator has gained him a wide acquaintance among some of the best and most prominent men of our country. We therefore append his sketch and present his portrait, knowing they will be received with interest by our readers.

The Colonel was born in Huntingdon County, Pa., February 3, 1826, and there resided until his removal to Illinois in 1845. His paternal grand father, Joseph Dysart, was born in Londonderry Ireland, of Scotch-Irish parentage, and came of a family that figured prominently in public affairs,

members of which are yet associated with the politics of that country. His ancestors belonged to the nobility of France and Scotland. When a young man, Joseph Dysart came to America, locating in Lancaster County, Pa., where he married. A few years later he went to Mifflin County, and improved a farm at Newton Hamilton, where he and his wife spent their last days. They were Presbyterians in religious belief.

Of the four children left to mourn their loss, James, the father of our subject was the eldest. A native of Lancaster County, he was reared in Mifflin County, Pa. When a young man he went to Huntingdon County, where he wooed and won Elizabeth Roler, a native of the Keystone State, and a daughter of Philip Roler, who was born in Berks County, of German descent. He married a Scotch lady and they settled in Huntingdon County in an early day, ere the Indians had left that region. In fact, two of the brothers of Philip Roler were killed by the red men. He and his wife continued to reside in Huntingdon County until called to their final home. They too, were Presbyterians.

During the residence of James Dysart and his wife in that county seven sons and two daughters were born unto them and were there reared to mature years. In 1858, the parents followed their children to Illinois and spent their last days in Franklin Grove, Lee County, where Mr. Dysart died at the age of eighty-four years and his wife in her seventy-ninth year. She was a Presbyterian in religious belief and Mr. Dysart was a staunch Whig in politics. He entertained strong abolition principles, and when the Republican party sprang into existence to prevent the further extension of slavery, joined its ranks. He had an uncle who served as colonel in the War of 1812, and three of his sons were numbered among the boys in blue, namely: our subject; Lieut. B. F., who is now Postmaster at Franklin Grove; and Corporal James, who died from disease contracted in the service. Another brother, Joseph, now living in Dysart, Tama County, Iowa, is ex-Lieutenant Governor of that State. Samuel, ex-Commissioner to Paris, is a member of the State Board of Agriculture and resides in China Township.

Col. Dysart was nineteen years of age when he came to Illinois. Farming he has made his life work and has been most successful as an agriculturist and stock-raiser. His first land he purchased from the Government on section 7, Nachusa Township, and thirty acres of this was platted into the village of that name in 1852. He had entered the north half and the southwest quarter of section 6, upon which his home is also located, he having there resided since 1847. Mr. Dysart has also been prominent in official life. He has held all the local offices and for some years prior to the war was Supervisor of China Township, before the town of Nachusa was set off from it. Since the division he has been Supervisor of the latter for about ten years. He was also Justice of the Peace for some years and for two years has been Assessor of his town.

In 1879, he was nominated and elected on the Republican ticket as Representative from the Twelfth District to the Thirty-First General Assembly, and in 1881, was re-elected at which time Lee and Ogle Counties comprised the district. During the former term he was made Chairman of the committee on agriculture, and during the latter was Chairman of the committee on continued expenses, also serving on several other important committees. The drainage law was passed during his first term. So well did he demonstrate his ability as a legislator that the people returned him to office where he faithfully served his constituents and labored earnestly for the best interests of the people in general.

Of his war record Col. Dysart may be justly proud. He had watched with interest the progress of events in the South, and when the blow was struck against the Government in 1861, he raised a company of volunteers, which was mustered into service September 7, 1861, as Company C, of the Thirty-Fourth Illinois Infantry. He was commissioned Captain by the War Governor, Dick Yates, and went at once to the front, joining the command of Gen. Buell, of the Army of the Cumberland. With his troops he participated in the battle of Pittsburg Landing, April 7, 1862, and when the Major was killed early in the day he filled the place of that officer. After the engagement he

was commissioned to that rank and as the result of his efficient service and courage displayed at the battle of Stone River in January, 1863, was promoted to the rank of Colonel, serving as such until the ninth of August following. A special order had been issued requiring a reduction of some of the commissioned officers and it fell upon Col. Dysart to change his place. He was offered a cavalry regiment by Gov. Yates, but not wishing to be stationed where no active interests were looked for, he declined and was honorably discharged. Returning home, he then aided all he could in a local way to further the progress of the war and bring it to a successful termination. He had won for himself much honor and credit as a brave soldier, prompt and fearless in the discharge of duty.

In Huntingdon County, Pa., Col. Dysart married Catherine Grazier, who was born and reared in county, her birth occurring in July, 1826. Her parents were Henry and Margaret (Beck) Grazier, who spent their entire lives in Huntingdon County as farming people. They were members of the German Baptist Church and her brother was a preacher of that society. In the family were four sons and six daughters, five of whom are yet living and are married.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Dysart were born seven children, one of whom is now deceased—Dr. Joseph W., who died in the prime of life in Omaha, Neb., where he had gained a position in the front ranks of the medical profession. James H., who wedded Emma Bender, is a well-known passenger engineer on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad and resides in Chicago; Allison A., married Amanda Miller and their home is in Belvidere, Ill.; he is engineer on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad; Ida M., is the wife of Jesse R. Whitney, a real-estate dealer of Carroll County, Iowa; Carrie J., is the wife of Frank Miller, of Chicago, an engineer on the Northwestern Railroad; Frank E., who wedded Carrie Thorp, is also employed as an engineer on that road, and himself and wife make their home in Chicago; Emma C., the youngest, presides over her father's home.

The Colonel was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife in 1877, her death occurring at her

home in Nachusa Township. He still resides on section 6, where he located so long ago and where he has one of the finest homes in the county. A commodious and substantial residence, supplied with all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life, is situated in the midst of a beautiful ever-green grove, containing more than one thousand trees, all of which were planted by Mr. Dysart. The effect is most beautiful and renders the home one of the most attractive places in this part of the State. In summing up the life of our subject we would say that it has been an honorable one of which he may well be proud. His public and private record are alike above reproach, and in his military career he displayed many of the best qualities of his character. Wherever known he is held in high regard. His intelligence and ability well fit him to be a leader of the people, yet he never assumes that arbitrary power which so often rests upon those who have command of others.



**C**HARLES F. PRESTON, President of the Village Board of Trustees of Paw Paw, is a young man of talent and energy who has already won a fine reputation as a lawyer, and is prominent in the public life of the community. He is a representative of the native-born citizens of this county, who, as professional or business men, and in the various walks of life, have come to the front of late years and given a new impetus to its growth, adding to its wealth and elevating its status.

He was born in Marion Township, January 20, 1860, and is a son of James H. Preston, the well-known editor of the *Amboy News*. His father was born in New York, grew to manhood in his native State, and was there married to Miss Nancy A. Maydole, who was also born in the State of New York. He was well educated, and began teaching when quite young. In 1855 he left his early home and coming to Illinois, located at Amboy in the early years of its settlement. He was for a time manager of a corporation store, but having a taste for agricultural pursuits, he soon rented a farm in

Marion Township, and engaged in farming there for four or five years. Removing to Sublette Township, he carried on the same occupation there until 1865, and then bought an improved farm two and one-half miles from Amboy. In 1879 he took up his residence in Amboy, and has ever since made that city his home. In 1884 he bought the *Amboy News*, and still owns and edits the paper, which under his able management has become one of the leading papers of the county. He and his wife are pleasantly situated in a cozy home. Sorrow has come to them in their wedded life in the death of two of their children, Albert W. and Frances A. Two children remain to bless their declining years—their daughter Addie M., wife of William F. Wolcott, of China Township, and our subject.

Charles F. Preston was given every advantage to secure a liberal education, of which he laid the foundation in the district schools of this, his native county. He attended the State Normal School, at Normal, Ill., pursuing a thorough course of study in that one of the most excellent and practical institutions of learning in this State, of which he was a student two years. After leaving the Normal he did as so many others have done from time immemorial who are now famous as lawyers, doctors, statesmen, etc., began teaching, making that a stepping stone to the profession of law. He taught in Marion Township two years, and then commenced his legal studies in the Wesleyan Law School at Bloomington, Ill., where he remained three months. At the end of the term he entered the office of Charles H. Wooster, of Amboy, and under his instruction made rapid progress, and was admitted to the bar in May, 1882. In June, 1883 he opened an office at Paw Paw, and has gradually built up a lucrative practice, that is by no means confined to the village. He has won the confidence of his clients by his careful attention to affairs entrusted to his hands, by his skill in conducting their law suits, and because they know him to be a man of scrupulous honor.

A good wife and true has much to do with a young man's success in life, and our subject has been fortunate enough to secure such an one in his marriage October 6, 1886, to Miss Ida A. Hendershott, a native of Lee County, and a daughter of

Jacob and Jane M. Henderschott. Two children complete their charming home circle, Frances II. and Hazel J.

Mr. Preston's energies and well-known capacity for affairs have been called into requisition by his fellow-citizens to help administer the local government, and he is recognized as one of our best equipped civic officials. He was appointed Postmaster of Paw Paw by President Cleveland, and served until after the change of administration. As before mentioned, he is President of the Village Board of Trustees, and in that position, and as a citizen of true public spirit, he loses no opportunity to do all that he can to push forward all schemes for the benefit of Paw Paw or the county at large. He is actively interested in politics, and is a leading spirit among the young Democrats of this part of the State.



**J**OHAN SHANK, one of the most extensive landowners of Lee County, now living a retired life in the village of Nachusa where he has made his home for the past sixteen years, came to Illinois from Pennsylvania, his native State. Lebanon County was the place of his birth and the date was 1835. The Shank family is of German origin and in Colonial days was established in America. Joseph Shank, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Lebanon County, Pa., of German parentage and became one of the early settlers of Heidelberg Township, that county, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying at about the age of eighty years. His wife, whose maiden name was Fannie Over, was also born in Lebanon County and was of German descent. Both were members of the Mennonite Church. Their family numbered eighteen children, two sons and sixteen daughters, all of whom reached very advanced ages, while one son and five daughters are still residents of the Keystone State.

One of this family, Jacob Shank, became the father of our subject. He was born in Heidelberg Township, where he was reared to farm life and

after reaching manhood married Miss Mollie Miller, also a native of that locality. Her parents were Henry and Susan (Troutman) Miller, who were born and spent their entire lives in Lebanon County, passing away when well advanced in years. They died on the same day and were buried in the same grave. They had lived upright lives as farming people and were members of the German Reformed Church. Their families were both of German origin and located in Lebanon County at an early day. After his marriage Jacob Shank and his wife began their domestic life upon a farm near the old homestead, to which they afterward removed and there spent their last days. Both were about three-score years of age when they passed away. Mrs. Shank was a life-long member of the German Reformed Church, and won friends wherever she went by her goodness of heart. In politics Mr. Shank was first a Whig and afterward a Republican.

Our subject is the fourth in order of birth of their six sons and two daughters, all of whom are married, with the exception of the eldest daughter. In their various careers they have been successful and the sons of the family have generally engaged in merchandising in Pennsylvania. John Shank, however, has followed the occupation to which he was reared. In the usual manner of farmer lads he spent the days of his boyhood and youth and his education was acquired in the common schools. In the township of his birth he was united in marriage with Miss Malinda Grove, who was also born in Heidelberg Township, Lebanon County, Pa., and is the seventh in a family of four sons and four daughters. The children were all married and with one exception are all yet living. Their parents, Abraham and Sarah (Strickler) Grove, were natives of Lebanon County, as were their parents before them, and doubtless the ancestry had there resided for many years previous. Farming was the occupation of both families and that pursuit Mr. Grove followed. Himself and wife were members of the Lutheran Church and were quite prominent in that community. His death occurred at the age of eighty-one years and his wife was called to her final rest when seventy-three years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Shank continued to make their

home in Pennsylvania until 1867, which year witnessed their emigration to the West. They located in Illinois and a few years later came to Lee County, where they have since resided. Their home has been blessed by the presence of five children: Mary A., Sarah V., Ida M., Minnie M., and John, Jr. The family circle yet remains unbroken and all are still under the parental roof. They are intelligent and well educated and the family is one of which the parents may well be proud. They now reside in Nachusa and Mrs. Shank is a member of the Lutheran Church.

For many years after coming to this county, Mr. Shank engaged in agricultural pursuits and in his undertakings met with most excellent success. He is one of the large landowners of the community, his landed possessions aggregating eight hundred and thirty acres. Of this amount five hundred and fifty-four acres lay in Nachusa Township, one hundred and sixty acres in Nelson Township and a one hundred and twenty acre tract is located in Cherokee County, Iowa. All of this land is improved. It is divided into five farms, each of which is well supplied with good farm buildings and all other necessary accessories. Industry and enterprise have characterized Mr. Shank throughout life and have been potent factors in his successful career. Fair and honorable in all his dealings he has won the confidence of all with whom he comes in contact and has secured their warm regard. In politics he is a stalwart Republican, and has held a number of local offices of honor and trust.



**C**HARLES A. BECKER, now deceased, was one of the honored pioneer settlers of Palmyra Township, where he located in 1839. Upon the farm which he there developed he continued to make his home until his death, which occurred February 27, 1859. He was born in Nordhausen, Prussia, Germany, January 7, 1810, the city being that to which Martin Luther once fled to escape from his enemies. There Charles was reared to manhood and learned the jeweler's

trade under his father, John Becker, a jeweler who was also born, reared, lived and died in Nordhausen. Our subject was the second child of the family numbering four sons and two daughters. He had acquired an excellent collegiate education and just before attaining his majority, knowing that he would have to enter the German Army or escape to this country, he decided on the latter step, and after securing the consent of his parents, bade them adieu and sailed from Bremen to Philadelphia, Pa. He first located in what was then New Holland, Lancaster County, Pa., from whence he removed to Reading, that State, where he followed his trade as a jeweler and clock-maker.

It was while in Reading that Mr. Becker was joined in wedlock with Miss Mary Kessler, a native of that city, born January 30, 1813. Her parents, Charles A. and Catherine (Ritter) Kessler, were natives of Saxony, Germany, and Berks County, Pa., respectively. The father acquired a university education in his native land and when a young man crossed the Atlantic to the United States. He traveled through the South for some time and after locating in Reading married Miss Ritter. In the War of 1812 he fought for the flag of his adopted country. In connection with his brother-in-law, John Ritter, he established the first German newspaper in Reading, known as the *Reading Adler*, which paper is still in existence, being now carried on by a kinsman. For sixty-five years it was conducted under the firm title of Ritter & Co. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kessler died in Reading, Pa., the former when his daughter, Mrs. Becker was only ten years old. His wife reached a very advanced age and died in the faith of the Lutheran Church, to which Mr. Kessler also belonged.

On leaving the East, Charles Becker located in Cleveland, Ohio, where he engaged in business as a jeweler and watch-maker for some time. Many of the watches which he sold in those days were imported from Switzerland. He came to Lee County in 1839, and made a claim of one hundred and sixty acres on section 9, Palmyra Township, for which he paid \$650. The land was in its primitive condition but the site which he selected was a favorable one and is bordered on the south by the Rock River. With characteristic energy he

began the development of the land and at the time of his death had a fine farm, well cultivated and improved, and a comfortable and commodious residence. He had brought with him to the county many of the appliances of his trade and in the early days followed that vocation for some time. For two years he engaged in business in Dixon. He was the first watch-maker and jeweler west of Chicago and as he had no competition all work in his line was brought to him, his income thereby being materially increased. He was a successful business man, enterprising and progressive, and won a well deserved prosperity. With his fellow-townsmen he became quite popular and at his death left many warm friends. He took an active interest in all public affairs and the community found in him a valued citizen.

Mrs. Becker acquired her education in her native city and is a lady of much force of character, capable and energetic. Since the death of her husband she has carried on the farm successfully with the aid of her children and has also increased it in extent by the additional purchase of a sixty-four acre tract. She is a consistent member of the Lutheran Church, to which Mr. Becker also belonged. Their family numbered eleven children but Francis and Elizabeth are now deceased. Charles has also passed away. He was a Corporal in the service during the late war and at the first attack on Vicksburg was shot. A few days later he died on the 8th of January, 1862, at the age of twenty-three years and was buried opposite White River on the bank of the Mississippi. He was a brave young soldier and his death was sincerely mourned by many friends. The other members of the family are Mary, wife of James McGinnis, a farmer of Palmyra Township; Sarah, widow of William Briner, who served in the late war as a Major and was an insurance agent of Reading, Pa., where he died in 1891, and where his widow still resides; Julia, wife of Christian Kauffman, a druggist of Avoca, Neb.; Cecelia, wife of Patrick Hall, a farmer of Cass County, Neb.; Francis, who married Ella Heaton and operates the home farm; Fannie, wife of James Brooks, a grain merchant of Avoca, Neb.; Pauline, who lives with her mother, and Lizzie, wife of Dr. David Meese, a physician

of North Auburn, Neb. The Becker family is one of the worthy families of Lee County, its members being held in high regard by all who know them for they are men and women of sterling worth and integrity of character.



GEORGE W. HILL, Postmaster at Harmon, is the oldest settled merchant in the town, carrying on a well-conducted general merchandise business, and is a prominent figure in the political and public life of the place. He is a native of Massachusetts, Fall River his birthplace, his father's residence being on the State line of Rhode Island, and he was born October 18, 1848, to George and Margaret (Whittle) Hill. His ancestors were originally from the North of Ireland and settled in New England in early Colonial days. His father was a soap manufacturer and pursued that occupation all his life. He was twice married. His first wife, mother of our subject, died in 1850, leaving these three children—William J., a resident of Belfast, Ireland, where he represents a wholesale hardware firm as general salesman; Thomas, who is a postal clerk at Frostburg, Md.; and our subject, who is the youngest of the three. The father married a second time and reared a family.

Our subject was less than three years old when he suffered the sad loss of his mother. He continued to live in his native city until he was twelve years old, and at that early age went out into the world to fight the battle of life single-handed. He accompanied his brother Thomas to Monongahela City, Pa., and there his brother subsequently enlisted as a soldier to help fight for the preservation of the Union in the Civil War. George, who had previously worked in the coal mines of that city, then went to Frostburg, Md., whence he came to Illinois at a later date. He first stopped near Eldena, where he worked as a farm hand two seasons. The following two seasons he was employed in the same capacity near Harmon. After that he worked at the trade of a carpenter until 1877. In the month of April, that year, he took a new departure



by establishing himself as a general merchant at Harmon, and is still carrying on a flourishing business at this point, which has contributed in no small degree to the good fortune of the village in its steady growth.

Mr. Hill, although he began life with no moneyed capital, is one of the substantial men of this section. He has besides a goodly amount of property in the village, including his store building and residence, one hundred and sixty acres of fine land on section 25, and eighty acres on section 23, Harmon Township, and all this he has accumulated since he entered business in 1877, scarcely fourteen years ago. He is likewise self-educated principally, as his school-days were limited in his boyhood, but he subsequently made up for his early deficiencies in that line by studying sedulously at evening schools. Besides his present business, he was at one time partner in a hardware concern at Harmon.

Mr. Hill was married November 1, 1871, to Miss Gula Elma, daughter of James Porter, Jr., one of the early settlers of Lee County. She was born at Dixon February 9, 1850. The following is the record of the six children that have blessed her marriage with our subject—Elmer, who was born October 6, 1872, was graduated from the business college at Dixon, in 1889, and is now in the store with his father; George M. was born February 26, 1874; Gertrude I., June 17, 1876; Arthur, July 31, 1880; Clarence, January 29, 1882; and Gula Elma, born October 19, 1891.

Our subject's fellow-citizens, rightly judging that a man of his metal possesses sound qualifications for responsible offices, have often called him to assist in the management of public affairs. Thus he has been Secretary of the Committee of Harmon Township; he has been Collector three terms, and one term represented his township on the County Board of Supervisors. He has always been a steadfast advocate of the policy of the Republican party and has frequently taken part in the councils of his fellow Republicans as a delegate to county, district and State conventions. He was Postmaster at Harmon during the administrations of Hayes, Garfield and Arthur, stepped out when Cleveland was in the Presidential chair, but was

re-instated when Harrison became the head of the Government and is now and has been since 1889, Notary Public, receiving the appointment from Gov. Fifer. He is a man of correct habits and upright principles, but is not a member of any religious denomination, and neither is he connected with any secret society. Mrs. Hill, who shares the respect in which her husband is held, is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



CHESTER HARRINGTON, who resides on section 13, Naehusa Township, is numbered among the honored pioneers of the county where he has made his home since 1837, or for a period of about fifty-five consecutive years. At the time of his arrival here the county was but sparsely settled, in fact it was an almost unbroken wilderness and gave little promise of the transformation and change which would occur and make it what it is to-day. He had come to Illinois from Chautauque County, N. Y., but was a native of Washington County, that State, where his birth occurred August 22, 1813. His father, Rev. Ebenezer Harrington, a prominent Baptist preacher and a well-known man in the Empire State, was born in the village of Adams, Mass.

The grandfather of our subject, Jeremiah Harrington, was also a native of the Bay State and was descended from English ancestors who came to America in Colonial days and were prominent in public affairs in Massachusetts during the earlier history of our country. Members of the family also aided the colonies in their struggle for independence. The grandfather wedded a Massachusetts lady, and when their son Ebenezer was nine years old they removed to Warren County, N. Y., where they spent the remainder of their lives. By occupation Mr. Harrington was a farmer and in politics he was a Whig. Ebenezer Harrington spent his boyhood days under the parental roof and after attaining to mature years entered the ministry of the Baptist Church. He married Paulina Doolin of Saratoga, N. Y., who was also

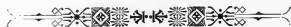
born in the Empire State and came of a respected family among the early settlers of the Butternut Valley. Rev. Mr. Harrington died in Washington Grove, Ogle County, Ill., at the age of sixty-five years, having taken up his residence in that locality some years previous. He was a man of strong character, possessed superior intelligence, was gifted as a preacher and his life work was one of good. His wife, who was also a consistent member of the Baptist Church, died at the age of sixty years, while visiting in Ohio. There were eight children in their family, of whom two sisters are now living in Wisconsin.

The only other surviving member is Chester Harrington of this sketch. He was the fifth in order of birth. In his youth he acquired a good education and when he made choice of a life work he determined to follow the occupation to which he was reared, that of farming. When a young man he started Westward and east his lot with the pioneer settlers of Lee County, Ill., which has since been the scene of his labors. Before leaving New York, however, he had engaged for some four years in the lumber business and had also taught school for many years during the winter season. He followed the same profession for one term in Lee County but his energies have mainly been devoted to agriculture. He entered land from the Government which lies near the junction of Franklin Creek and Rock River and at once began its development. It was all wild prairie, not a furrow having been turned or an improvement made, but he plowed and planted it and in course of time abundant harvests were garnered as the fruit of his labors. He now owns three hundred and twenty acres, most of which was improved by himself, but as he has laid aside business cares and is now living a retired life, his children operate the farm.

In this county Mr. Harrington was united in marriage with Miss Zerna Chamberlain, who was born in Eva Township, Genesee County, N. Y., in 1821, and came West in 1836 with her parents, Silas and Pluma (Burton) Harrington. They were farming people and died in this locality, the father being eighty-one years of age at the time of his death. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Harrington were born three children, but Cyrus died when about twenty-

one years of age. Inez I. resides in Ogle County and Chester wedded Emma Brautigan, of Dixon, and operates the old homestead. The young couple have two children—Claude J. and Pearl E. The mother of this family was called to her final rest in March, 1891, and left behind her many friends who sincerely mourned her loss.

In politics Mr. Harrington and his son are staunch Republicans and inflexible adherents of the party principles. He has been honored with a number of local offices, having served as Supervisor, Assessor, Road Commissioner, etc. Every trust reposed in him has been faithfully executed and in his official career he won the commendation of all concerned. A self-made man, by his own efforts he attained a handsome competence and he is now spending his declining years in the enjoyment of a rest which he has so well earned and richly deserves.



**M**oses C. Weyburn, represents the American Express Company at Dixon, having been its agent at this place since 1869. His connection with the company covers a period of more than twenty-two years, he being one of its trusted employes. A native of Geneva, N. Y., he was born in 1845, and is descended from an old and highly respected family of the Empire State, of Scottish origin. His paternal grandfather, Samuel Weyburn, was a native of Tompkins County, N. Y., where he engaged in farming for many years. He was a highly educated man and also followed the profession of teaching. During the time the British made their raid into the State in the War of 1812, he was a member of the home militia.

Dr. Edward Weyburn, father of our subject was born on the shores of Seneca Lake, in New York, in 1817, and became a physician and surgeon of prominence, extensively engaging in practice in Geneva. He died in that city from injuries sustained by falling from a horse when sixty-two years of age. Near the home of his childhood he

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*Abiel A. Horton*

had married Elsie Wooden, who was also born in that locality, and was descended from a New Jersey family that in an early day became pioneers of Central New York. Its members there resided for several generations and were generally farming people. Mrs. Weyburn, mother of our subject, died in Geneva, at the age of fifty-three years. She held membership with the Baptist Church, and was an untiring worker in its interests. The family of the Doctor and his wife numbered eight children, five of whom are yet living and are married. They are intelligent and prosperous people who occupy prominent positions and move in the best circles of society in the various communities where they reside.

Moses Weyburn, the subject of this notice, was the third in order of birth. Under the parental roof the days of his childhood were passed, and in Geneva he began his school life, his education being completed in New Haven, Conn. His advantages in this direction were liberal and he was thus well fitted for the practical duties of life. On attaining his majority he started out for himself, and the autumn of 1866 witnessed his arrival in Illinois. The following year he was engaged by the American Express Company in Rockford, where he remained for two years, when in 1869, he was transferred to Dixon and has since represented the company in this place. His long service in the one employ is the highest testimonial of his fidelity and faithfulness that could be given. We know that he has been a trusted employe and that the interests of the company have not suffered at his hands, else he would have long since been discharged.

Mr. Weyburn was first married to Mrs. Mary Broom *nee* Noble. By her first union she had one child, Charles A. Broom, who is now living in Norwich, Conn. Her death occurred at her home in Dixon, at the age of thirty-seven years and Mr. Weyburn was a second time married, the lady of his choice being Miss Eva Dunning. Again he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who at her death left two children to mourn her loss—Elsie and Florence. The present wife of Mr. Weyburn was in her maidenhood Miss Minnie Weibezahn. She was born in Akron, Ohio, and with her parents,

when a child, came to Dixon, where she grew to womanhood and was married. One son graces this union, Edward.

Mr. Weyburn is a member of the Methodist Church and also takes considerable interest in civic societies. He belongs to Dixon Lodge, No. 139, I. O. O. F., in which he has filled all the offices, and is also a member of the Encampment, in which he likewise served in the various official positions. Of the United Workmen Lodge of Dixon, he is a charter member and was its first presiding officer, and is also connected with the Modern Woodmen. Among his lodge associates and business acquaintances he is held in high esteem for his sterling worth, and both he and his estimable wife have a host of friends throughout this community.



**I**THIEL A. HORTON, of Reynolds Township, has acquired a goodly amount of property by years of hard labor, notwithstanding the many discouragements that he had to encounter in the early years of his settlement in Northern Illinois. He is now enjoying the fruits of his labor in his comfortable home in company with his wife, who was so helpful in its upbuilding. In connection with the following biographical outline, his portrait is presented on the opposite page.

Mr. Horton was born in Sheshequin Township, Bradford County, Pa., April 17, 1817. His father, Joshua Horton, was born in a settlement on the Jersey side of the Delaware River, and located in Pennsylvania before marriage. He had been reared on a farm and made farming his occupation. He bought a tract of timber land in Sheshequin Township, and the log cabin that he built in the forests was the birthplace of his son, of whom we write. There were no railways for many years, and before there were any public roads the father used to go in a canoe to Tanquehannie, on the Susquehanna River, which was the nearest market. He cleared a good farm, and made it his home until his death in 1870, in his ninetyeth year. The maiden name of his second wife, mother of our subject, was Lucinda Ellis. She was a native of Massachusetts, a

daughter of Eleazer Ellis, and died on the old homestead in 1850.

The early years of our subject were spent amid the pleasant scenes of his birth, and his education was obtained in the subscription schools of that day, each family paying according to the number of scholars sent. The schools were held in primitive log houses, furnished with slab benches that were supported by wooden pins for legs. Our subject commenced to help in the labors of the farm when quite young, and continued to give his father the benefit of his services until he attained his majority. He then started out in the world with no other capital than brawn and muscle, reinforced by sound sense and excellent habits.

After working out by the month for two years, with the earnings which resulted from his steady industry, our subject purchased a farm of one hundred acres, in company with his brother Ulysses. They farmed together for a time and then our subject sold his share of that place and bought sixty acres of land near by in his native township. He was busily engaged in its cultivation until 1854, and then disposed of that farm at a good price in order to avail himself of the many privileges offered to a farmer by the rich soil of this State. After his arrival in Illinois he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of wild prairie, located in Ogle County five miles northwest of Rochelle, paying for it at the rate of \$5 an acre. He built upon the place and lived there three years, at the expiration of which time he sold it at \$20 an acre, and invested the money thus made in adjoining land.

This investment did not prove a fortunate one, as on account of poor crops and other misfortunes Mr. Horton lost that farm. He did not, however, despair, but came to Reynolds Township to begin life anew on rented land. He did well by that venture, and a year later bought eighty acres of prairie land in the same township and occupied it twenty years. Then selling that farm, he bought the one upon which he now resides, which comprises two hundred acres of land of exceeding fertility, under fine cultivation, and supplied with good modern improvements. Since settling here he has sold one hundred and sixty acres of the

farm to his son, retaining forty acres for his own use.

April 22, 1840, was the date of the marriage of our subject to Miss Polly Brink, who was born in the same Pennsylvania township as himself, and is a daughter of Daniel and Rachel Brink. Their wedded life has been of unusual duration, having already passed the golden milestone that marked its fiftieth anniversary. It has not been without its sorrows, but it has held many joys for them, and among their blessings may be counted the six children spared to comfort their declining years, namely—Alouzo, Rachel, Albert, Theodore, Daniel and Emma. Mr. and Mrs. Horton are people of sincere practical piety and are valued members of the Free-will Baptist Church, which they joined some years ago. In politics he is a Republican, and stands staunchly by his party.



**JULES BRECHON.** Lee County has a large percentage of citizens of foreign birth among her population, who are potent in developing, sustaining and carrying forward the great industries that flourish within her borders. Our subject, although reared and educated in this country, and has known no other home, is one of this class. His business is that of a farmer and stock raiser, and his farm of eighty acres on section 33, South Dixon Township, gives abundant evidence of the skill and intelligence with which everything about the premises is managed.

Our subject is of French extraction and birth, born February 20, 1862, in the province of Alsace when it formed a part of France. He is a son of Joseph and Margaret (Blanc) Brechon, the father late a prosperous farmer of this section who was for many years closely identified with the agricultural interests of this county, which lost in his death a valuable citizen. Both he and his wife were of pure French blood, and they were natives of Alsace. After the birth of all their children, they decided to emigrate to this country in 1864,

and took passage from Havre de Grace on a ship bound for New York, where they landed twenty days later. They came direct to Lee County, and settling in Bradford Township on a farm that was mostly improved, began life there as farmers. They made further improvements, and nine years later sold the place in order to remove to South Dixon Township, there Mr. Brechon had purchased a quarter of section 33, which was then only slightly improved. After he had made it into a pleasant home with the assistance of his wife and children, he rested from his labors in the sleep of death, which fell to him October 4, 1886, sixty-one years having passed since his birth in the land of his fathers across the sea. He was ever a consistent Christian, and the Catholic Church under whose teachings he had been reared found in him a worthy member. In politics he was a Democrat. His good wife survives him, making her home with her children. Three score years and ten mark her age, but in her activity and retention of all her faculties she gives but little sign of being elderly. She too has been a life-long member of the Catholic Church.

Our subject is the second child and the second son of the three children born to his parents. His brother Gustave, owns and occupies eighty acres of the parental homestead. The sister, Mary, is the wife of Thomas Ford, a thrifty young farmer occupying the Dan McKenney farm in Dixon Township. Jules Brechon received the benefit of a common-school education in the district schools of this county, where he has lived ever since he was two years old, nine years of his boyhood being passed in Bradford Township, and the remainder of his life he has been a resident of South Dixon Township. He has devoted himself to farming from his youth to good purpose, and has owned his present farm two years. It is well supplied with buildings and with modern machinery for carrying on the various operations of farming, and it is well stocked with fine breeds of cattle, horses and hogs, which bring him a good yearly income.

The marriage of Mr. Brechon with Miss Margaret Ulrich was duly celebrated in Marion Township. Among the blessings it has brought them is the little daughter, born August 15, 1890, to whom

they have given the sweet, old-fashioned name of Mary Margaret. Mrs. Brechon is a native of this State, having been born at Sandwich, in De Kalb County, April 20, 1869. She was chiefly reared, however, in this county, her parents, Joseph and Margaret (Hunt) Ulrich, removing to Marion Township and settling there on a farm when she was a child. They are yet living in that place, and have a comfortable home. They are members in high standing of the Roman Catholic Church. Mr. Ulrich was born in Alsace, and came to this country when a young man. In De Kalb County he met and married his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Brechon are connected with the Catholic Church at Dixon, and are generous in their contributions to its support. In his political affiliations Mr. Brechon is a Democrat.



**J**OHN M. STERLING. The name of Sterling has been connected with the rise and progress of Lee County since the early years of its settlement. Maj. Sterling figured prominently as a pioneer merchant and farmer and as a public-spirited citizen, and in later years, his son, of whom we write, has come to the front as one of the foremost men of this section. He is an enterprising and successful farmer and dairyman of Nelson Township, his farming interests and home lying on section 15, and he is one of our most valued civic officials, representing said township as a member of the County Board of Supervisors.

Our subject is a native of this county, his father's old homestead in Palmyra Township being the place of his birth, and November 26, 1849 the date on which he first opened his eyes to its pioneer surroundings. His father, Maj. James Sterling, was born in Braintrim, Luzerne County, Pa., in May, 1805, and came from an old family that had lived in America since early Colonial times, being prominent in the annals of Pennsylvania and New York, especially of the latter State, embraced in Wyoming County, in whose early history much mention is made of them, as well as of the Suttons, who were

kinsmen of theirs, both families bearing a gallant part in the Indian wars of this section of the country. Maj. Sterling was a son of Daniel Sterling, who was a native of Wyoming County, but became a resident of Luzerne County, Pa., where he was prominent in various capacities. He was a public man, active in business, managed a hotel, sold goods and did farming. In his last years he came to Illinois and a short time afterward died in Rock Island at an advanced age. He had visited the new State of Illinois soon after its admission to the Union, and had seen the country when it was for the most part a literal wilderness.

Maj. Sterling passed his boyhood amid the pleasant scenes of his birth. He inherited in a remarkable degree the active temperament of his father, together with his versatile talent and business acumen. He had scarcely attained manhood when he achieved prominence in various directions, as his executive ability and genius for affairs were early recognized by his fellow-citizens who pushed him to the front. He obtained his title of Major through his being an officer of the State Militia. While a resident of Pennsylvania he took a prominent part in public works, and he afterward became interested in the improvement of the Rock River. This was what first led him to Illinois in 1838, whither he came to attend to the letting of contracts by the State Commission, for carrying on the said improvements, which were to be conducted under what was known as the Internal Improvement System. The Major was in partnership with Smith Gilbraith for the purpose of improving the navigation of the aforementioned river, but the State failed to carry through this gigantic scheme of internal improvements, and Maj. Sterling returned to Pennsylvania, and was engaged partly there and partly in the West for some years after that.

In 1847, he came here with his family to locate permanently, and for a few years had a mercantile establishment at Dixon. Later he removed to a large tract of land in Palmyra Township, which was in all its original wildness when it came into his possession, but under his supervision it became a well-improved farm. He erected substantial buildings, drawing the lumber from Chicago for

the purpose, and in other ways he made of it a valuable place and attractive home. Here death rounded out his life November 15, 1860, when it was scarcely past the noon-tide, although it was one of unusual completeness as regards what he had accomplished. This county then lost a citizen whom it held in high honor, and who had been noted for his public spirit, push and enterprise in matters of moment that concerned the welfare of the community at large. He was a man of decided moral character who was always to be found on the side of the right in all the great questions of his day. He was a strong Whig and anti-slavery man, and was ever ready to champion the cause of the weak and oppressed.

Maj. Sterling's first wife, to whom he was married in Luzerne County, Pa., was Kezia M. Canfield. She was born and reared in Pennsylvania, and died in Luzerne County in the prime of life, leaving three children—a daughter, Amanda, who died after her marriage; and Edward and Edwin, twins, the former a farmer in Huron, S. Dak.; and the latter now a resident of San Francisco, who went to California in 1849, and was a miner for some years. The Major was a second time married in Luzerne County, Pa., Miss Eliza Passmore becoming his wife. She was born in Auburn, that State, and was there reared and educated. Her father was a Rhode Island man, who spent the latter days of his life in the Keystone State. Mrs. Sterling accompanied her husband to Illinois when he came here to locate, and she helped him to make a good home, in which she reared a family of five children, of whom our subject is the youngest and is now the only survivor. The mother was a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and was a conscientious Christian to the last. She died at the home of her son, our subject, October 13, 1889, aged eighty years, she having been born August 14, 1809.

John M. Sterling received his education in the pioneer schools of this and his native county, where his entire life has been passed thus far, and he has risen to a position of prominence among his fellow-citizens, as he is progressive in his views, is sagacious and politic in council, and is discriminating and clear-sighted in his judgment of men and



affairs. These traits have made him successful in business and brought him into public life. Thus he has held civic offices with great credit to himself and to the benefit of the community. He has been Assessor for four years, and has represented Nelson Township as a member of the County Board of Supervisors for the last two terms. He has lived in Nelson Township since 1870, and he has here a good farm, which is equal in its appointments and improvements to any in its vicinity, and he devotes it to general farming and dairy purposes, having a fine, well-kept herd of milk cows on the place.

Our subject was happily married in Nelson Township to Miss Dora Rickey Passmore, who is to him all that a wife can be to her husband. She manages the affairs of her household intelligently, and so as to make its inmates contented and comfortable, and cordially seconds her husband in extending hospitality to all who enter their door. Three children complete their home circle—John, Robert and James. Mrs. Sterling was born in Pennsylvania in 1851, and received her education in that State. She had attained womanhood when she came to Lee County. In her the Presbyterian Church has an earnest, working member.

reared and educated under the pioneer conditions that prevailed in this county during his youth. He early adopted the calling to which he has been bred, and at first engaged in it in his native township, of which he remained a resident until 1874. He purchased his present farm in Nelson Township sixteen years ago, and has since busied himself with its cultivation and improvement. He owns nearly a quarter of a section of land, which is finely tilled, and is amply supplied with modern improvements, neat and well appointed buildings adding to the attractiveness as well as to the value of the place, and on all sides are evidences of well-considered and systematic arrangements for conducting agriculture in an enlightened manner, thoroughly in keeping with the advanced methods of farming in use by the most progressive and thoughtful farmers of to-day.

Joseph Brierton, the father of our subject, was born in Luzerne County, Pa., of foreign parentage. His father was a native of England, who had come to this country when a young man, had married a Pennsylvania lady of Dutch descent, and they had lived and died in Luzerne County when past middle life. The father of our subject grew up in the county of his nativity, and learned the trade of a brewer, which he followed for a time, and then abandoned that to fit himself for a blacksmith, which calling he pursued for awhile in the county where he was born. He was in the prime and vigor of a stalwart, active manhood, when he decided to improve his fortunes by migration to the wilderness of Illinois, where land was cheap, and there were other advantages to compensate for the rough, rude life on the frontier, with which he was well fitted to cope. He set forth from his old home with his family in 1836 or 1837, and traveled over the intervening country to his destination, with teams.

After Joseph's arrival here, he purchased a squatter's claim on section 26, Nachusa Township, and was one of the original settlers of that place. He at once began to improve his land, and also established a smithy, which he operated in connection with farming for some years. He built up a comfortable home, in which he rounded out a life of unusual length, he being past ninety-six years of

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**W**ILLIAM S. BRIERTON. In the early days of the settlement of Lee County there came hither from his old home in Pennsylvania one Joseph Brierton, who was among the first to settle in Nachusa Township, and from that time the name of Brierton has been linked with the history of the development and welfare of this section of Illinois. The gentleman who is the subject of this biographical review is a son of that honored pioneer of whom mention has just been made, and he has risen to an honorable place among the intelligent, progressive farmers of his native county, his agricultural interests being comprised in a well stocked, finely improved farm, lying on sections 16 and 17, Nelson Township.

Our subject was born November 25, 1839, on his father's homestead in Nachusa Township, and was

age when he died, and the eldest but one man in the county. He was of a quiet, thoughtful disposition, of an even temperament and irreproachable habits, and was revered by all who knew him. He was a strong Methodist in religion, and in politics he was a downright Republican to the day of his death. As one who witnessed almost the entire growth of this county, actively aiding his fellow-pioneers in their great work of redeeming it from the hand of nature; and as one of the original settlers of Nachusa Township his memory will always be cherished by all who take an interest in this section of the State.

Mr. Brierton's wife died in 1872, at the age of three-score years and ten. She too was a native of Luzerne County, her parents also being of Pennsylvania birth, and living and dying in that county, and her maiden name was Elizabeth Garrison. She was a noble type of the pioneer women who assisted their fathers, brothers and husbands in the making of comfortable homes and in the upbuilding of Lee County, where she had many warm friends. She was a consistent Christian and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Our subject is one of twelve children, five of whom are living, all married and residing within the borders of this county. After attaining his majority he was first married in Nachusa, his native township, to Miss Mary E. Stetler, a native of Pennsylvania, who came to this county when a child with her parents. Her death occurred in Nelson Township, August 3, 1886, when she was still in life's prime, and she left behind her a beautiful memory as a daughter, wife and mother. Four children were born to our subject by that marriage, namely: Joseph, a farmer in Amboy Township, who married Miss Silvie Collins; Charles, a farmer in Nelson Township, who married Miss May Poorbaugh; Alva and Rhoda A., who are at home. The second marriage of our subject, which took place in Taylor Township, Ogle County, was with Miss Anna Hewitt. Mrs. Brierton was born in Ireland, in the County of Downe, March 24, 1860. Her parents are yet living at their old home in that Irish county. She came to the United States in December, 1885, ambitious to make more of her life than was possible in her native land. Our

subject has in her a true wife, and the Presbyterian Church a good working member. Mr. Brierton is an earnest thinker, with a mind well stored with facts, and with opinions of his own on all subjects with which he is familiar. He has no faith in religious creeds, but his principles are high, and his conduct in all the affairs of life is irreproachable. He cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, and has ever since been loyal to the Republican party.

Mr. Joseph Brierton left an estate of over \$100,000, and the division of the estate was made without an administrator, with the help of one man outside the family—Jason C. Ayers—and each heir was entirely satisfied with the division, and the whole cost amounted to \$100 only; something remarkable in the history of settling up large estates.



**W**ILLIAM B. PAGE, a son of one of the earliest pioneer settlers of Lee County, represents the Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co., which is of world-wide fame, having several branch establishments in Europe as well as the United States, and its products are sold in various countries. The manufacture of this article at Dixon is one of the most important industries in Northern Illinois, and under our subject's able management the works are in a perfect condition.

Mr. Page is a native of this county, born in the pioneer home of his parents in the township of Palmyra, in 1854. His father, John H. Page, was one of the first to settle in this part of the State, and was well known here for many years. He was born in the town of Rochester, Stafford County, N. H., in 1806, a son of David Page, and a grand son of Joseph Page. He was reared on a farm in the town of Sandwich, and was educated in the common schools. He early acquired a taste for farming, and in due time adopted that honorable calling for his life-work, engaging in agriculture on the rugged soil of his native State until 1834. In the spring of that year he boldly set his face Westward, determining to brave the unknown perils of life in the wilderness on the frontier so

as to profit by the cheap and rich lands of the great State of Illinois, which was still in the hands of the pioneers, with but little of its wonderful resources developed. He located in what is now Palmyra Township, Lee County, where but two or three had ventured to make a settlement before his arrival, the land being still held by the Government, and the survey incomplete. Mr. Page made a claim to a tract of land, and the log house that he erected upon it was the second or third dwelling built in the township. At that time deer, wolves and other wild animals were numerous, and were often troublesome to the settlers. There were no railways and the farmers had to carry their grain and other produce way to Chicago to obtain a market, and to get needed supplies. Mr. Page resided on the farm that he improved by hard and persistent labor until 1869, when he sold it and made his home at Menlo, Iowa, the few remaining years that were left to him, his death occurring there in 1870. He was first married in 1830 to Miss Julia M. Fellows, daughter of Stephen Fellows. She died in Palmyra in 1856: He was married a second time in 1858, Mrs. Sarah (Jenness) Wiggin becoming his wife. By the first marriage there were eight children, of whom these five are now living,—George H., Charles A., David S., William B. and Julia M.

As the foundation of the industry with which our subject is connected was due to the far-reaching enterprise and wonderful executive ability of his brothers, a brief resume of their lives will not be out of place in this biographical sketch. The eldest George H. Page, was born in Palmyra Township, May 16, 1836. He received a liberal education at Iowa City College, of which his uncle Stephen N. Fellows was one of the founders and the first principal. After leaving he engaged in farming for a time, but soon after the war broke he was appointed to a clerkship in the War department at Washington, and did good service for the Government the ensuing three years. In 1866 he went to Switzerland, and in company with his brothers Charles S. and David S., embarked in the business of condensing milk, the first undertaking of the kind in Europe, and under their skillful management it has grown to

immense proportions. The business proved such a success that a stock company was eventually formed, with a capital of \$2,000,000 and now eight factories are in operation—three in England, two in Switzerland, one in Germany, and two in the United States. In 1868 the plant at Dixon was started, and upwards of a half million dollars expended on the grounds, buildings, fixtures, etc. One hundred and thirty five hands are employed in the factory, and the milk of three thousand cows is consumed each day. Mr. George Page is the general manager of the business, and resides at New York City. He was married in 1875 to Miss Adelheid Scherwermann, of Zug, Switzerland, and they have one child.

Charles A. Page, the second son of the family, was born in Palmyra Township May 22, 1838. He was graduated from Cornell College, at Mt. Vernon, Iowa, and after that he edited a paper in that town for one year. He was then appointed clerk in the fifth auditor's office in the Treasury Department at Washington. He held that position for three or four years, and during the war turned his attention to journalism, and became famous as a war correspondent of the New York *Tribune*. He accompanied the army of the Potomac in its various campaigns, and his vivid descriptions and graphic delineations of the marches and battles, and the defeats and triumphs of that heroic army, published in the *Tribune* over the initials C. A. P., were read with intense interest by thousands of anxious ones at home all over our broad land wherever that newspaper circulated, and are remembered to this day by the old readers of the *Tribune*. He was one of the party that had the honor of accompanying the remains of President Lincoln to their last resting place at Springfield. In 1866 he was appointed Consul of Zurich, Switzerland, in recognition of his services as war correspondent, and he held that office four years. At the expiration of that time he became the manager of the London office of the Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co., of which he was one of the originators. He resided in that city until his untimely death May 26, 1873, deprived the company of his valuable services, and closed a career in which he had already accomplished much though

still in the prime of life, and which had given every promise of a brilliant future as a business man of more than ordinary talent. He had been married in 1868 to Miss Grace D. Cowes, of Washington, D. C., who now makes her home in Boston, Mass. By their marriage were four children.

David S., the fourth brother of our subject, was born on the old family homestead in Palmyra Township. He was given excellent educational advantages, and in his career has displayed the same energy and genius for business that marks his brothers. He is the assistant general manager of the company, and resides in Europe. He married Miss Martha Stulz, a native of Cham, Switzerland, and they have four children.

William B. Page, the principal subject of this biography, passed his early years in his native township, and in the local schools laid the solid foundation of his education which he completed at Cornell College in Iowa. His connection with the business founded by his brothers began in 1872, when he went to England to enter their employ in their factory at Chippenham Village, Wiltshire. During the eight years that he remained there he became thoroughly conversant with the art of manufacturing condensed milk, and at the end of that time he went to the Canton of Zug, Switzerland, and was connected with the management of the factory there until 1888. In that year he returned to America to take charge of the works at Dixon, which under his energetic management is in a flourishing condition. He is certainly "the right man in the right place," as no detail of this large business escapes his watchful eye, and under his careful supervision everything is kept in good order, and the enormous amount of condensed milk turned out daily by this establishment has no superior for excellence of quality in any country. This is one of the institutions of which Dixon is justly proud, as not only has it brought much capital into the city, and has increased materially the wealth of city and county, but its fine buildings, of a pleasing and appropriate style of architecture, and its handsome, well-laid out grounds are an ornament to the locality, an air of exquisite neatness and cleanliness pervading the whole place, adding greatly to its attractiveness.

Mr. Page was married during his residence in England to Miss Catherine Buckle, of London, their marriage being celebrated in 1876. They have established a handsome home in Dixon, the centre of a charming hospitality, and whoever crosses its threshold is sure of a pleasant welcome from courteous host and amiable hostess. Their household circle is completed by the four children born unto them, whose names are Carl, Roland, Henry and Walter.



**E**MRICH WEISHAAR. The qualities of thrift of perseverance which almost invariably characterize the Germans, have crowned their efforts with prosperity in whatever portion of the world their lot may be cast. Nor does the life of Mr. Weishaar furnish an exception to the usual rule, for he is numbered among the most prosperous citizens of this county. For many years he devoted his attention assiduously to agricultural pursuits, but has now retired from the active duties of life and makes his home in Ashton, where in tranquil and cheerful intercourse with his family and friends he hopes to pass his declining years.

As has already been indicated, the native home of Mr. Weishaar is in Germany and the date of his birth February 3, 1834. During his childhood he was given excellent advantages in the schools of the Fatherland and upon starting out in life for himself, secured employment as a laborer in the vicinity of his early home. Having resolved to seek a home in the New World, he emigrated to this country in the fall of 1856 and landed in New York, whence he came direct to this county. At first he worked out as a laborer in Bradford Township, where he was married March 9, 1861, to Miss Anna B. Merbach. Mrs. Weishaar, who was a native of Germany, died in Bradford Township. She was the mother of ten children, four of whom are now living, namely—Ernest, John, Henry and Caroline.

On January 10, 1884, Mr. Weishaar was again married, choosing as his wife Miss Anna Beeh, an





*H. A. Williamson*

excellent lady, who, like himself, was born in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Weishaar are the parents of one child, a son—Frederick. They occupy a prominent position, socially, and are highly esteemed for their many worthy and upright qualities. The labors of Mr. Weishaar have met with more than ordinary success, for by the exercise of sound judgment and excellent business tact, he is now the owner of four hundred and nineteen acres, most of which is under high cultivation and all valuable farming land. After actively engaging in farming pursuits for many years, he came to Ashton in the spring of 1891, and here is quietly living, surrounded by the comforts which his unaided efforts have accumulated. He takes great interest in the public affairs of the community and contributes his share to the development of the interests of the village. Before he came here to live he served as Highway Commissioner in Bradford Township.



**H**ARLOW A. WILLIAMSON. The gentleman whose portrait is presented on the opposite page and whose biography is here given in outline, is a retired farmer residing in Ashton. He is the son of Samuel B. and Sybil (Delong) Williamson, natives respectively of Cornwall and Shoreham, Vt. The father died in his native place and the mother passed from this life in Cook County, this State.

Harlow A. Williamson was one of a family of seven children, and was born in Cornwall, Vt., January 8, 1830. He was reared on a farm in his native place and received a good education, but appreciating the value of knowledge he has been a constant reader and to-day is a man of intelligence and culture. In 1850, when twenty years of age, he started out in life for himself and came to Illinois, choosing Lee County as his abiding-place. He had nothing with which to begin the battle of life but his strong hands and a determination to win, and on locating here worked out by the month on a farm for four years. At the expiration of that time he was enabled to purchase

a farm of his own, having been very economical and industrious and saving his earnings. His tract of land was located in Bradford Township and upon this he settled and continued its improvement until when ready to dispose of it, he had brought it to a fine state of cultivation.

January 1, 1857, was the date of our subject's marriage to Miss Emeline, daughter of Charles and Sarah (Pratt) Starks, the father a native of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and the mother born in Bradford County, Pa. They were among the very earliest settlers of Illinois, having made Lee County their home as early as 1838. Thus pioneer life in this State is a familiar tale to Mrs. Williamson, as its hardships as well as its adventures have made a lasting impression upon her. Her parents remained in Lee Center Township for a few years and later went to Bradford Township, where they lived honored and useful lives and died after having reared a large family of children, eleven in number. Mrs. Williamson was the seventh child and was born, February 14, 1835, in Bradford County, Pa.

After his marriage, our subject located in Bradford Township and there he worked industriously, cultivating the soil until the fall of 1889, when he and his wife came to Ashton, where they now reside. Having no children of their own they have acted the part of parents to three little ones—Nellie, Harry and Katie, on whom they have bestowed a wealth of affection and have trained to become useful in whatever position in life they may be placed.

Mr. Williamson was elected to the positions of Collector of his township, Constable and School Director and gave perfect satisfaction to his fellow-townsmen while the incumbent of those positions. He is a true-blue Republican and has always been since the organization of the party. With his estimable wife, he is active in all good works and is a member of the Presbyterian Church. They are now living retired from the active duties of life and entertain their host of friends in their beautiful new home which has just been completed and which in elegance of appointments is in keeping with its cultured inmates. Mrs. Williamson is an excellent lady and presides with grace and

dignity over their new home, beloved and respected by all who have the honor to know her, and indeed that is saying a great deal, for they are pioneers of this section, hence have an extended acquaintance.



**R**ICHARD GOOCH. Among the prominent and influential residents of Lee Center Township, may be classed the subject of this sketch who came to this county at an early day and has aided much in its development and progress. He was born at Somersetshire, England, December 7, 1848 and was only fifteen months old when brought by his parents to America, settling in Ogle County, this State, where the father was employed on public works and also on the Illinois Central Railroad as construction foreman. From Ogle County, they removed to Jo Daviess County where they remained for some two years soon after coming to Bradford Township, this county, where our subject grew to manhood.

Edgar Gooch, the father of our subject, was born in England, May 10, 1821. His wife, whose maiden name was Eliza Hann, was also a native of England, being born in Lancastershire, March 22, 1826. They came to America in the spring of 1850 and after living in various places as has been stated, they finally settled in the village of Ashton in the spring of 1889. They had a family of nine children of whom our subject was the eldest. They were excellent people who brought up their children in the most careful manner and were highly esteemed by their many friends and acquaintances.

Richard Gooch was reared to manhood on his father's farm and remained at home until his marriage January 14, 1872, which took place at Sublette to Miss Sarah Hodges a native of Lee Center Township, her birth occurring August 19, 1851. The young couple settled near Ashton, in the township of the same name, where they lived for seven years, at the end of that time removing to Lee Center Township, where they have ever since

resided, making their home since 1883 at Shaw Station. The father of Mrs. Gooch, Joseph A. Hodges, was born in Indiana, and her mother, whose maiden name was Olive Tourtellott, was born near Bangor, Me. They were married in Bureau County, Ill., and settled in Lee Center Township, this county, where they lived until the spring of 1889 when they removed to Mendota, this State. There they are spending the evening of their lives in quiet retirement, happy in the consciousness of a well-spent life. This worthy couple were the parents of eleven children, of whom Mrs. Gooch is the eldest.

Our subject and his wife have two children, Ewa E. and Roy W. In politics Mr. Gooch is a through Republican, although he has never taken an active part in political affairs. He has held several of the school offices and is interested in educational and religious progress. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and give their aid to all enterprises which tend toward the welfare of their community. Mr. Gooch is the owner of four hundred and thirty acres of land, his farm being highly cultivated and containing a fine line of improvements. He has a pleasant residence in which are hospitably entertained the many friends of his refined and cultured family.



**D**AVID B. SENGER is carrying on a large and profitable business at Franklin Grove as manufacturer of "Dr. Wrightsman's Sovereign Balm of Life." Mr. Senger was born near the town of Waynesboro, Pa., July 8, 1849, coming of one of the old families of that State, which has been represented there for several generations. He is a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Bayer) Senger, who removed to Iowa in 1865 and settled near the city of Cedar Rapids, where the father carried on his trade as a shoemaker for some years. He is now a resident of Ogle County, this State. His wife, the mother of our subject, died in Iowa, in December, 1887, in the seventy-

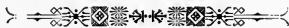


first year of her age. They had a family of four children, of whom David B. is the eldest. The others are Mary, wife of James B. Mentzer, of Linn County, Iowa; George, a resident of Linn County, Iowa; and Joel, who is with his brother of whom we write.

The subject of this biographical review received a substantial education in the common schools and in Western College in Iowa, and in early life he learned the trade of a shoemaker. After he attained manhood he entered the profession of a teacher engaging in that vocation in Iowa, and it was in that capacity that he came to Lee County in 1873. He taught school near Franklin Grove for three winters, and he then turned his attention to still another profession, entering the editorial ranks, purchasing the *Franklin Reporter*, in August, 1876, and was successfully engaged in editing and publishing it until October, 1886, when the demands of his business obliged him to abandon journalism and confine himself to the manufacture of medicine. In November, 1881, he had associated himself with George W. Lipe, a druggist of the village, in the purchase of Dr. Wrightsman's "Sovereign Balm of Life," and they had commenced its manufacture under the firm style of Senger & Lipe. In 1888 Mr. Senger purchased his partner's interest in the concern, and has since conducted the business alone. His establishment is well fitted up with all the appliances and machinery necessary for the most careful and best possible preparation of the medicine, and none but the purest ingredients are used in compounding it. Under our subject's energetic and practical mode of carrying on the business the sales, which for the first few years amounted to only \$300, now bring in \$10,000 annually, and the medicine is now sold in over twenty States in the Union, the druggists all over the country being the medium of sale, and an idea of the extent of the business, which is all done by mail may be gathered by the fact that \$3,400 worth of stamps are required every year.

Mr. Senger was happily married March 18, 1875, to Miss Susan Buck, a native of Franklin Grove, and a daughter of Henry and Mary Buck. Three of the six children born to them are living: Eda A., Ray W. and Frank H. Mr. Senger is a mem-

ber of the German Baptist Church, and he and his wife are highly thought of in the community where they have established a pleasant home. He is public-spirited, and encourages all plans for the material benefit of town and county, as well as using his influence for their moral and religious elevation.



**R**ICHARD PHILLIPS has been a valuable citizen of Lee County for many years, and, although not one of its earliest settlers, is entitled to an honorable place among its pioneers, as during his residence here he has improved one of the best farms in Viola Township, where he has made his home for more than thirty years.

Mr. Phillips is of Irish birth, his native place being in County Cavan, Ireland. His father, George Phillips, was also born in that county, and was the son of another George Philips who was a native of England. He had gone from there to Ireland in early manhood, and spent the remainder of his life in County Cavan, where he followed farming. He married Sarah Howard, a native of England, whose last years were passed on her husband's farm on the Emerald Isle. The father of our subject devoted his entire life to farming in his native county. He married Sarah Staddard, a native of the county, and a daughter of James Staddard. Her whole life was passed in County Cavan. The parents of our subject were both devout members of the Episcopal Church, and reared their children in the same faith. They had nine children, of whom seven came to America, namely: Ann, Hannah, Margaret, George, Catherine, Richard and Sarah. William and Jane remained in Ireland.

Our subject was reared and educated in the land of his nativity, and remained an inmate of the paternal home until he was grown to manhood. Then, in the prime of vigorous, active life, he emigrated to the United States of America, setting sail from Liverpool in the month of May, and landing in New York on our national holiday in the month of July. He proceeded to Westchester

County, N. Y., where he was employed on a farm by the month until 1851, when he came to Illinois. He started on his momentous journey on a boat, bound up the Hudson River to Albany, where he embarked on a stage for Schenectady, from there a canal boat conveyed him to Buffalo, whence he voyaged on the Great Lakes to Chicago, thence by canal to La Salle; a stage then took him to his destination in Lamoille, Bureau County. He worked by the month in that place, being employed for nine years by one man, was diligent and faithful, his labors giving satisfaction, and, with characteristic good sense, he saved his earnings that he might become a land-holder in his own right. He continued in the employ of one man until 1857, and then came to Lee County, and the money that he had accumulated went partly to purchase eighty acres of land on section 23, Viola Township, for which he paid \$2.50 an acre. When it came into his possession it was a tract of wild prairie, and he did not locate on it until his marriage two years later. He has been a continuous resident here since, and now has one hundred and sixty acres of land, which constitutes one of the best farms of its size in the township of Viola, as its fields are under admirable tillage, and a neat and commodious set of frame buildings have been erected on the place, which is further adorned by beautiful shade and fruit trees planted by Mr. Phillips himself.

Our subject was first married May 2, 1859, to Amelia E. Davenport, a native of Harpersfield, N. Y., and a daughter of Erastus and Pamela Davenport. They lived together a quarter of a century, and then the tie that bound them was broken by the death of Mrs. Phillips, September 7, 1884. Two children are living, born of that marriage, William and Harry. Mr. Phillips was married to his present estimable wife, formerly Mary E. Harris, February 18, 1886. She was born in Juniata County, Pa., and is a daughter of Alexander Harris, a native of the same county. His father, Thomas Harris, was a blacksmith, and followed that trade in Juniata County, where he spent his last years. The maiden name of his wife was Jane Baty. She was born near Belfast, Ireland. The father of Mrs. Phillips began work

with his father at the age of thirteen, and was engaged as blacksmith for upwards of fifty years. In 1871 he came to Illinois, and made his home in La Salle County during the remainder of his life. He married Margaret Kelly, who was born in Franklin County, Pa., and was a daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Kennedy) Kelly. She now resides in Earlville, Ill. One child has been born to our subject and his present wife, who died in infancy.

Mr. Phillips is a man of sterling character and good principles, and is well-known for his geniality and kindness of heart. Soon after coming to this country the cause of the slave aroused his warmest sympathies, and he became a pronounced abolitionist. He was one of the conductors on the celebrated "underground railroad" of ante bellum days, and helped several fugitives to freedom. He cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, and has been a staunch Republican ever since.



THOMAS P. McCUNE, who is engaged in farming on section 34, Dixon Township, claims Pennsylvania as the State of his nativity. He was born in Canal Township, Venango County, in 1832, and came of an old Pennsylvania family. His grandfather, William McCune, lived and died in Venango County, his occupation being farming, which he followed in Canal Township. He was of Scotch-Irish descent. He married Elizabeth Paxton, a native of Luzerne County, Pa., and she died on the old homestead in Canal Township at about the age of eighty years. Religiously she was a member of the Seceders' Church.

William McCune was born on his father's farm in Venango County, of which he afterwards became owner and made it his home until his death, which occurred on the 16th of May, 1889, at the age of eighty-two years. In Mercer County he was joined in wedlock with Keziah Paxton, who became a true wife and helpmate to him. She was also a member of the Seceders' Church. Unto this worthy couple were born only two children, our subject and a brother, James, who has been twice

married and is engaged in farming in Venango County, Pa.

Under the parental roof Thomas McCune spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and the educational advantages afforded him were those of the district schools of the neighborhood. In 1858 he led to the marriage altar Miss Lydia J. Williams, a native of Center County, Pa., and a daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Smith) Williams, the former born in Center County and the latter in Mercer County, Pa. Their union was celebrated in French Creek Township, of the last named county, and there they began their domestic life. Mr. Williams was a millwright by trade. When his daughter, Mrs. McCune, was only three years old, he removed with his family to Canal Township, Venango County, where the family made their home for some years and then came to Illinois, the father purchasing a farm in Dixon Township, the same that is now owned and operated by our subject. Here he died on his eighty-third birthday—January 23, 1885. His wife survived him a few years and passed away at the age of eighty. In early life they had been members of the Baptist Church, but afterwards became connected with the United Brethren Church.

Mrs. McCune is one of five children, three of whom are yet living. Her maidenhood days were passed in her parents' home, where she remained until she gave her hand in marriage to our subject. Their union has been blessed with six children—S. Miles, who married Minna Martin and is now a photographer of Dixon; W. Irven wedded Christine Weiner and resides on the old homestead; Sarah is the wife of Joseph Atkinson, a resident farmer of Dixon Township; Lorinda E. is the wife of Bert Swartz, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Palmyra Township; Maud is at home; and Byron died in childhood.

Mr. and Mrs. McCune are people of sterling worth and are held in high regard by all who know them. In politics he is a Democrat, but does not take an active part in political affairs, preferring to give his time and attention to his business interests. His fine farm embraces one hundred and eighty-three acres of arable land, the greater part of which is under a high state of cultivation.

The improvements, which are many, are both useful and ornamental, and the neat appearance of the place indicates his thrift and enterprise. The farm is well stocked and Mr. McCune also has an apiary of one hundred and twenty active colonies of bees. For the past few years he has engaged in this line of business and has met with good success.



**H**ENRY BLY, Superintendent of the County Hospital and Poor Farm, located on section 26, South Dixon Township, is an intelligent, progressive and humane official, and a man of marked ability who has long been prominently known in public life and as a successful business man, whose record is without a blemish.

Mr. Bly is a native of Chenango County, N. Y., and was born July 9, 1827. His father, Thomas R. Bly, was a native of Rhode Island, and a son of Job Bly, who was also born in that State, and was of English descent. It is supposed that he spent his last years in Oneida County, N. Y., where he had been engaged as a farmer. He was twice married. His son, Thomas, early became a mechanic, having much natural ability in that line, and was married in his native State after he attained manhood, to Miss Nancy Tanner, a native of Connecticut, and of good New England stock. After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bly removed to Richmond, Va., where he followed the trade of a carpenter. They subsequently retraced their steps Northward and settled in Chenango County, N. Y., where the most, if not all, of their children were born and reared. The father died there when about sixty years of age, and the mother afterwards came to Illinois to spend her declining years, and died in Ogle County at the age of seventy years.

Henry Bly, of this life review, was not of age when he came to this State in 1845, but attained his majority some three years later in Ogle County, where he first settled in the Township of Nashua, but he afterward made his mark as a pioneer of Northern Illi-

nois. Five years later he went out from that township to join the great caravan that was streaming across the continent to the newly discovered gold fields of California, attaching himself to a party with whom he traveled across the plains and over the mountains to the Pacific slope, journeying over the South Pass by the Sublet cut-off route, and finally arriving at Hangtown after a trip lasting five and one-half months, from February 28, to August 17. After staying for awhile at their first stopping place, our subject proceeded to the valley of the America River, and later on in the spring of 1851 went up the Sacramento River to Scott River in Oregon with others, but before reaching their destination he and his companions found gold at what is now known as Shasta. At that place Mr. Bly mined nearly all the precious mineral that he obtained while in the Golden State during the fifteen months that he remained there. There he had full experience of the rough life of a frontier mining camp. Excitement ran high, and he witnessed the magic growth of the town from a lonely, desolate spot to a village of a thousand souls in thirty days. Well satisfied with his experiences as a miner and frontiersman, Mr. Bly resolved to return to more civilized regions, and in the fall of 1851, on the 15th day of November, he left San Francisco for an ocean voyage to New York by the way of the Isthmus of Panama, and some months later was re-united to his family in Illinois.

After returning to this part of the country Mr. Bly continued to live in Ogle County for several years, and was actively identified with its business and public interests. In the fall of 1865 he came to Lee County and took up his residence in the city of Ashton, where he soon made his influence felt as a man of affairs, far-seeing and enterprising in business, and a promoter of all plans likely to advance the growth of the city. For several years he conducted a grocery, to which he afterward added a market for the sale of meat. He was one of the leaders in the public and political life of his community, the Republican party, to which he has belonged since its organization, finding in him one of its most effective workers and steadfast champions in this section of the State.

For twenty-one years he was a member of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, and was Chairman of the Board for some time. He was elected to the position of Justice of the Peace, having had several years' experience in that line while a resident of Ogle County. When he accepted his present position he resigned that office and his membership of the School Board of Ashton, with which he had been connected for years.

In 1887 Mr. Bly was honored by being selected to be Superintendent of the County Hospital and Poor Farm of Lee County, as it was conceded on all sides by men of all parties that he was the man most competent to fill the onerous office, and he assumed the duties of his new position in the month of September. Mr. Bly has thrown his whole soul into the work here, devoting his time and energies to the efficient and conscientious discharge of his duties. He met with the State Board of Charities that convened in Chicago in November, 1888, and has at all times made a careful study of the systems used in conducting such institutions, and has brought the one under his charge to such a high standard that it has a reputation of being one of the best managed in the State. The hospital is a good-sized building, very well equipped, and is kept nearly filled with insane patients, there being but comparatively few sane paupers here, as the county paupers are for the most part cared for outside of the county. The farm embraces one hundred acres of tillable land, is supplied with good buildings, and improvements are constantly being made in that line and in the way of adorning the grounds with trees and shrubbery under the supervision of our subject.

Mr. Bly and Miss Anna J. Wood were united in marriage in Ogle County. She is much interested in her husband's work, and he finds in her a wise, discreet and able coadjutor. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and her daily life shows her to be a consistent Christian. Her marriage with our subject has brought them seven children, of whom two are dead, Charles W., and Almeron, who were smothered to death in a grain bin at Ashton when sixteen years old. The surviving children are Egford, an attorney at De Land, Fla., who married Miss Samantha Sproul;

Mina, wife of P. O. Spronl, a teacher and editor at De Land; Lela, wife of Perry Burdick (they being with her parents on the poor farm); Grant, who married Miss Emma Boerner, and is connected with the *Star* newspaper office at Dixon; and Effie, at home with her parents.

Mrs. Bly was born in Prescott, Canada, March 7, 1830, the eldest of a family of eleven children, one son and ten daughters, of whom four are yet living. Her parents, Anasa and Lourietta (Nettleton) Wood, were natives of Canada, and were respectively of English and Irish descent. Mrs. Bly was only eight years old when they left their Canadian home to establish another in the wilds of Ogle County, coming hither in 1838, and making the entire journey with teams. They were among the early settlers of Light House Point, where Mr. Wood secured a tract of Government land, which he began to turn into a farm. He worked hard and was doing well, when death terminated his career in 1846. He was laid to rest in the Light House Cemetery, his body being the first to be buried there. He won for himself an honorable place among the pioneers of Ogle County, and was valued for his good citizenship. His wife survived him until the summer of 1885, when she died at the age of seventy-five at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Addie Tarbox, at Olive, Iowa, and she now lies sleeping her last sleep by the side of her husband in the quiet of the peaceful cemetery at Light House Point. Both were for many years connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. Wood served it long and honorably as Class-Leader.



years. His father was prosperously engaged in the mercantile business in his native county until 1853, when he came to America, and spent the remainder of his days in Pittsburg, Pa., where he died at the venerable age of ninety-four years. The parents of our subject reared ten children, who were given liberal educational advantages, and two of the sons are docters and one is an attorney.

Father Treacy early became a pupil in the schools of his native place, and subsequently his education was advanced under the supervision of the Lazarist Fathers in the city of Cork. He came to the United States in 1849 and entered St. Michael's Seminary at Pittsburg, in which institution of learning he remained two or three years, preparing himself for the sacred office of the priesthood, and he then finished his studies in St. Mary's Seminary at Baltimore, where he was under the instruction of the Rev. Father Varot, later Bishop of Florida, and of Father Freddot, the distinguished moral theologian and author. Thus well prepared for the duties that lay before him in the life that he had chosen, our subject was ordained by the late Archbishop Kendrick, of Baltimore, and was appointed assistant pastor of St. Patrick's Church and Chapel, and of Mercy Hospital at Pittsburg. He occupied that position one year, and then was placed in charge of the building of St. Bridget's Church.

He remained a resident of Pittsburg until 1878, and the church there found in him a noble and earnest worker, who threw his whole soul into his labors, and was an ardent champion of whatsoever tended to elevate the community and the status of its citizens, making the cause of the unfortunate and the suffering his own. It was while he was at Pittsburg that the Bishops and Archbishops of the church in council at Baltimore received a dispatch from Cardinal Barnabo, of Rome, representing the will of the Pope, instructing the assembled council in the most emphatic terms to espouse the cause of the colored man in the most practical manner. This order, promulgated from the head of the Church of Rome, found ready response in the heart of our subject, and he was one of the first to move in the good work of helping the negro to an education and to the benefits of the Roman Cath-

**R**EV. JAMES TREACY, Pastor of St. Patrick's Church at Dixon, is one of the most learned, zealous and worthy upholders of the Catholic faith in the State of Illinois. His birthplace is in County Cork, Ireland, and he is a son of John and Bridget (Noonan) Treacy, who were also born in County Cork. His paternal grandmother died in the city of Cork at the remarkably advanced age of one hundred and three

olic religion. He built a church and school for the colored people of Pittsburg at a cost of \$10,000, the school being taught by the Sisters of Mercy. He officiated in the pulpit, and had a colored choir and colored altar boys. He was very successful in his work in other directions, especially among the poorer and more abandoned class, the outcasts of a great manufacturing city. This work was performed by Father Treacy under adverse circumstances it not being popular at that time, but owing to the vast amount of good resulting from it, it has become popular.

While in Pittsburg Father Treacy was a member of the Bishops' Council, and held the offices of Chancellor and Secretary. He was also a member of the Orphan Seminary and Cemetery Boards. In the midst of his many arduous duties he found some time to devote to literary work as an author and as editor of a Catholic journal, first called the *Hibernian*, and later the *Catholic Journal*, in which he had a half interest. He prepared two works for publication, which are of great merit, but owing to ill health, brought on by a too close application to his duties, and to the change of scene necessitated thereby, he has not yet given them to the world. One of them is a poem, containing upwards of fifteen thousand lines, illustrative of the glories of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1878 our subject was obliged to abandon his labors in Pittsburg, as his failing health and flagging energies warned him that he must seek to restore his physical powers elsewhere. He removed to Chicago, where he joined his old-time friend, Bishop Foley. He was appointed to attend to the missions at New Dublin, Lena, Apple River and Elizabethtown, and after a short time was sent to look after the church at Rochelle. He remained there six years, and was then appointed to take charge of St. Patrick's Church at Dixon, one of the leading churches of the Catholic faith in Northern Illinois. By his good works and by the example of a pure life guided by lofty principles of right, he has gained the sincere respect and esteem even of the members of other Christian denominations, and has been an influence for much good in the community.

Father Treacy looks after the spiritual welfare

of three hundred families, including the Catholic societies at Harmon and Ashton. His church at Dixon was founded more than thirty years ago by Father McDermott. In 1887 the original structure in which services were held was partially burned, the walls remaining intact, and the present house of worship is composed of the walls of the original edifice. It is a handsome brick building, of an appropriate style of architecture, and cost, with its rich furnishings, \$18,000.

WILLIAM W. HECKMAN is a young man of much natural ability, and displays an enterprising and progressive spirit in the management of his farming interests, which comprise eighty acres of land on section 30, South Dixon Township, where he makes his home, and a tract of the same size on section 25, Nelson Township, the whole being under good cultivation, well watered and drained, and subject to excellent improvements.

Mr. Heckman was born in Bedford County, Pa., July 28, 1854, and was there reared until he was eleven years old, when he came to this county with his uncle, with whom he lived until of age. His mother, wife of Talbot Rose, is now living with her husband in the city of Bedford, Pa. She is also a native of Bedford County. She has been a kind and loving mother to our subject, and carefully trained him to a manly and honorable manhood. Mr. Rose, a native of Bedford County, where he has always lived, is a shoemaker by trade, and he and his wife and children have a comfortable home.

Our subject has lived in this county since 1866, and since attaining man's estate has identified himself with its farmers and stockmen. He came into possession of his homestead in South Dixon in 1877, and since then has put up a good class of well-arranged farm buildings, and has all the conveniences for tilling the soil and caring for stock. He has excellent facilities for watering his cattle and horses, and on that part of his farm in Nelson Township is a fine artesian well that throws water two feet above the surface.





*Andrew Reinhart*



The marriage of Mr. Heckman to Miss Hannah Missman was celebrated in Nelson Township, and her devotion to his interests and cheerful co-operation in the making of a home, has greatly encouraged him in his work. Their family circle is completed by the three children born unto them; Grace A., C. Eugene and Walter I. Mrs. Heckman is also of Pennsylvania birth, born in Somerset County, April 20, 1853. She was but two years old when her parents, Gerhardt and Mary (Leydig) Missman, came to this county and settled in Nelson Township. Mr. Missman improved a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres before he retired to Dixon in 1886, to enjoy the money that he had made by hard work, and he and his good wife are now living in that city in quiet and ease, enjoying in a full degree the respect of all about them. They are the parents of six children, of whom Mrs. Heckman is the second in order of birth.

Our subject is a man of correct habits, has kept his reputation unsullied, and is always to be found on the side of the right. He and his wife are earnest working members of the Evangelical Church. Politically, they are in full sympathy with the Prohibition party, and believe in legislative measures to suppress the great evil of intemperance.



**A**NDREW REINHART. The portrait presented on the opposite page is that of the wealthy farmer and stock-raiser residing on section 24, China Township, where his extensive agricultural interests centre. Though not a native of Lee County, the most of his life has been passed here as a boy and man, and as one of the most able men in his line who has been potent in its development his place is among its foremost citizens.

Mr. Reinhart was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, August 28, 1843. His parents, Christian and Anna C. (Denhart) Reinhart, were also Germans by birth, and are known in the history of this county as among its early pioneer settlers, who for many

years were valued citizens of China Township, where she died October 16, 1870; and he in April, 1865 from the effects of injuries caused by being kicked by a horse. They had come to the United States from the Fatherland in 1846, and at first settled in Lee Centre, whence they removed to section 24, China Township. They had a family of three sons and three daughters, of whom our subject was the fifth in order of birth.

Andrew Reinhart was nearly three years old when the family crossed the waters to found a new home on American soil, and his boyhood was chiefly passed in China Township where the busy years of his maturer life have also been spent. He grew to an active, energetic manhood on the old farm that his father redeemed from the wilderness after settling here, and it is now his own. He has been remarkably successful in his career, as he has bent his whole energies to his business as a farmer and stock-raiser, and his wealth is the legitimate result of diligent labor well performed, directed by an intelligent, thoughtful mind. A promptness to take advantage of opportunities to make money when the markets were active, as well as an aptitude for business matters also have something to do with his good fortune. He has a valuable estate, including three hundred and sixty-six acres comprising his homestead and other land in China Township, amounting in all to six hundred and twenty acres, besides one hundred and sixty acres in Lee Centre Township, two hundred acres in Sac County, Iowa, and two hundred and forty acres in Fayette County, Iowa. His homestead farm is a model of its kind, having all the modern facilities for conducting agriculture after the most approved methods, and its improvements are of a high order, including the handsome and conveniently arranged set of farm buildings that he has erected.

Our subject was married June 1, 1868, to Miss Catherine Hafenrichter, and she has been all to him that is implied in the word wife. Sorrow has not passed them by in their wedded life, as four of their children have died—Martha and Charlie dying in infancy; Theresa, at the age of seven months; and Mabel at the age of two years. They have these six children living—Charlotte C., Anna C., Henry C., Catherine Elizabeth, John F. and Cath-

rine A. Mrs. Reinhart was born in Montgomery County, N. Y., March 7, 1845, and is the eldest of the nine children of Henry and Charlotte (Heise) Hafenrichter, who were early pioneers of Kane County, this State. They were born in Germany, and came to this country in July, 1839, settling at Ft. Plain, Montgomery County, N. Y., whence they soon removed to St. Johnsville, in the same county, and dwelt there until they came to this State in 1846, and cast in their lot with the early settlers of Kane County, of which they are still residents.

In this life-record of our subject enough has been written of what he has accomplished to indicate that he possesses strength of mind and character and other inherent endowments that are essential to true success in any walk in life, and we may add that his personal attributes, such as frankness and generosity, are such as to make his neighbors and all with whom he associates esteem him highly. He is liberal in his religious views, cheerfully gives of his money to support the churches, and, with his wife, is a consistent member of the Evangelical Church. In his political sentiments he is in full accord with the principles promulgated by the Republican party.



**H**ON. SHERWOOD DIXON, the present Representative of the Nineteenth District, and a worthy member of one of the most honored pioneer families of Lee County, is now engaged in the practice of the legal profession in the city which bears his name, as a member of the firm of Dixon & Bethea. He was born in the city which is still his home, November 15, 1847, an honor to which few of his age can lay claim. His father, James P. Dixon, was a native of New York City, and a son of John Dixon, the founder of the county seat of Lee County. The latter emigrated with his family to Illinois at an early day and amid the wild scenes of pioneer life James Dixon was reared to manhood. In Buffalo Grove, Ogle County, he married Miss Fannie

Reed, a native of Delaware County, N. Y., where her father, Samuel Reed, was also born. After his marriage he came with his family to Illinois at a very early day and located at Buffalo Grove, upon land which he obtained from the Government. The Indians were still numerous in the settlement and the work of civilization seemed scarcely begun. Samuel Reed and his wife there resided until death and were prominent people of the community. During the Black Hawk War they had to flee to the fort at Dixon for protection from the red men.

The parents of our subject began their domestic life on a farm near this city, and in public affairs James Dixon was quite prominent. He became agent for the Fink & Walker stage line running from Galena to Rock Island and Chicago. Throughout this part of the State he had a wide acquaintance and was a leader in all public affairs. Just before his death he engaged in keeping a livery stable. In politics he was a Whig and his opinions were much sought in the councils of his party. On the 11th of April, 1852, this honored pioneer passed away. His widow yet survives him and is making her home with her children. She was born in 1815. The members of the family who still survive are Sherwood and Mrs. William Barge, residents of Dixon; Henrietta, wife of William Richards, of Moline, Ill.; Sarah, wife of George W. Goodwin, of Sioux City, Iowa; and John R., of Chicago, a telegraph operator on the Western Indiana road. He married Miss Mattie Evans, of Indiana.

Our subject acquired his literary education in the public schools and afterward entered the law office of William Barge, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. In 1869 he was admitted to the bar and soon afterward formed a partnership, becoming a member of the firm Ustis, Barge & Dixon. The senior member was formerly Circuit Judge. This connection continued until 1874, when Mr. Dixon went to Chicago and became associated in the practice of law with William O'Brien and William Barge, the firm title being O'Brien, Barge and Dixon. For three years this connection continued, after which our subject returned to his native city and he formed a part-

nership with his present partner. They continued together from 1878 until 1884, when for four years the firm of Crabtree & Dixon carried on practice. In 1888, the first named gentleman was elected to the bench as Circuit Judge, and Messrs. Dixon & Bethea resumed their old business relations. Their office is located in the Schuler building, and the practice which the firm has built up is an extensive one.

Mr. Dixon was united in marriage with Miss Melissa G. Mead, their union being celebrated in this city, where the lady was born in 1847. Her father, Herman Mead, was a native of New York, and at an early day came to Lee County locating on the farm where he made his home for a number of years. In 1855 he removed to Dixon, where both he and his wife passed away at an advanced age. Mrs. Dixon was one of their eight children. She is an intelligent and cultured lady who has a host of friends in this community and her social standing is high. Of the Methodist Church she is a member. Three sons have been born of their marriage, Henry S., who is now studying law in his father's office; Louis, who is employed in the *Sun* printing office; and George C., who is yet attending school.

The cause of education has ever found in Mr. Dixon a warm friend and for seven years he has been connected with the School Board, serving as its president for three years. From September 1880 until September, 1888, he was Master in Chancery, being appointed by Judge Ustis, Circuit Judge. In politics he is a staunch advocate of Democratic principles and has been a member of every State Convention since 1872, while in 1884 he was also a delegate to the National Convention. As a member of the General Assembly he has proved an able representative of his district and is quite prominent in the House. During the last session he was chairman of the Judiciary Committee and a member of many other committees of importance. He took a leading part in drawing up the election reform bill and did good service as a member of the committee on Municipal Corporations, Elections, Federal Relations, Contingent Expenses and Senatorial Appointments. With the interests of his constituents ever in his thoughts,

his labors for the benefit of the county he represented and he proved a most efficient assemblyman. His public and private life have been alike above reproach. As a lawyer he is gifted, possessing more than ordinary ability and his success at the bar has won him a foremost place among his professional brethren. He possesses great energy and enterprise and whatever he undertakes he carries forward to completion. His natural abilities well fit him to be a leader of the people and the high place which he holds in the regard and esteem of his fellow-townsmen is well merited.



**S**AMUEL MONG, an influential farmer of Bradford Township, Lee County, operates a fine estate of one hundred and ten acres on section 6, and through unremitting industry has become well-to-do. He was born in Clarion County, Pa., July 26, 1829, and is the son of Henry and Sarah (Burket) Mong, natives of Maryland and Huntingdon County, Pa., respectively. The parents passed most of their lives in the Keystone State and died in Clarion County when past the prime of life. They reared a large family of children, our subject being the sixth.

In his native county our subject passed his boyhood days, attending the district schools and gleaning a common-school education from the text books then in vogue. However, he enjoyed none of the opportunities that are considered essential by the youth of to-day, but his habits of observation and systematic reading in a large measure made up for the defects in his schooling. As soon as old enough he began to assist his father in his farming operations and gained a practical knowledge of agriculture when he was still quite young. He was about fifteen years old when he removed to Huntingdon County, Pa., where he grew to a stalwart and vigorous manhood.

At the age of sixteen Mr. Mong commenced to learn the trade of a tanner, which he followed about seven years with success. In the spring of 1855 he came to this State, settling in Lee County

and working on a farm near Dixon for about two years. He was married in China Township, this county, in February, 1857, to Miss Margaret E. Kelley, daughter of William and Mary (Jacobs) Kelley. Mr. Kelley is deceased, having passed away at his home two miles south of Dixon. Mrs. Kelley is also deceased. Mrs. Margaret Mong was born in Pennsylvania and is the mother of five living children, namely: John; Lucy, the wife of Haber Schmucker; Hattie, who is now Mrs. William Schrenner; George and Peter.

After his marriage Mr. Mong engaged in farming for about two years in Dixon Township, from which place he removed to China Township, and later located on his present farm on section 6, Bradford Township. His industry has been rewarded by the possession of one hundred and ten acres, which he cultivates. His estate presents a most attractive appearance to the passer-by, with its substantial set of farm buildings, its commodious residence and well-tilled fields. In politics he is a staunch Democrat and has served to the general satisfaction as School Director, having always maintained great interest in educational matters. He is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and a man whose daily life proves his earnest religious belief. While he has been in the main successful, he has met with many losses, perhaps the most severe being the destruction of his barn by lightning during the spring of 1890.



**J**OSHUA E. LAHMAN, who is prosperously engaged in agricultural pursuits on section 12, just south of Franklin Grove, where he has a good farm, was a soldier in the late war whose bravery and efficiency raised him from the ranks to an official position, and it gives us pleasure to place the record of the life of this representative of the Grand Army of the Republic on these pages.

Mr. Lahman is a native of Washington County, Md., born June 16, 1839, to Christian and Elizabeth Lahman, who were pioneers of Illinois. Our subject was a child of five years when the family

came to this State, and here he was reared on a farm. He was in the full prime and vigor of manhood when the war broke out, and as soon as he could he went to the front to help fight his country's battles. He enlisted in September, 1861, and was mustered into the service as a member of Company C, Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry. For two years he was with his regiment in various battles and skirmishes, and at the end of that time he was honorably discharged on account of disability caused by a gun-shot wound received while he was in the heat of that fearful battle at Murfreesboro. He was also present at the battle of Shiloh and did some hard fighting there. He retired from the army with a fine military record and with the well-earned title of Sergeant. He had displayed coolness and daring in the face of the enemy, promptness and readiness of resource in emergencies, and his superior officers felt that they could rely upon him whether in camp or on the field.

The suffering that he endured from the wounds received for his country's sake incapacitated our subject for active work in his calling as a farmer and, fearing that he would be permanently crippled and not liking to be idle, he learned the trade of harness-maker as soon as he was able to do anything. And in 1865 he went to Guthrie County, Iowa, where he was engaged in business as a harness manufacturer the ensuing three years. While there it was his good fortune to secure the hand of Miss Hannah M. Batschlett in marriage, the ceremony that made them one being performed December 20, 1867. Of the five children born to them four are living, namely: Edgar R., a resident of Rockford, Ill.; Clifford, who died when twelve years of age; Elizabeth, Clara and George W. Mrs. Lahman is a daughter of Peter and Eliza Batschlett and she is a native of this State, born in Knox County.

In 1868 Mr. Lahman returned to Franklin Grove and having recovered from the wounds in his arm and leg received in battle, he resumed his old occupation, buying at that time eighty acres of his present farm. He made excellent improvements, including a good class of buildings, stocked his farm with good breeds of cattle, horses and hogs, and has done well in his enterprise. He has ac-

accumulated a goodly amount of property, and has increased his landed estate to two hundred and forty acres of choice land. He is energetic and enterprising, has strength of mind enough to carry out his plans under difficulties, as we have seen, always maintains good credit in regard to money matters, and the value of his citizenship has been proved not only when his country was in need of good soldiers, but in less trying times as a member of a law-abiding community. In politics, he is loyal to the Republican party, and socially he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.



**J**OHAN MENSCH was scarcely more than a boy when he enlisted in an Illinois regiment during the war, but not withstanding his youth he did good service as a soldier. He is now making himself useful as a general farmer and stock-raiser, who holds an honorable place among the men of his class in Palmyra Township, where he has a good farm of eighty acres of exceedingly fertile land, lying on section 23.

Born May 29, 1846, our subject's home during the first eight years of his life was in Columbia County, Pa. His parents were Christian and Peggy (Cromley) Mensch. They came to Illinois in April, 1854, and located in Jordan Township, Whiteside County, on a farm, which they made their home until death sealed their eyes in the sleep that knows no waking, the father dying in 1887 at the age of sixty-four years, the mother having passed away two years previously at the age of three-score. They were firm Christians, and devoted members of the Lutheran Church. Our subject was the second of their eight children, all of whom are living but one daughter, who died at the age of twenty-three.

John Mensch of this notice was reared to the life of a farmer on his father's farm in Whiteside County, and every day was adding to his experience in that line when the rebellion broke out. He was a boy too young to take up arms in defense of his country's honor, but he longed to do so

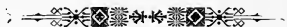
with all the ardent patriotism of youth, and at length when he was seventeen years old, he was permitted to enroll his name among those of the soldiers that formed the One Hundred Fortieth Illinois Infantry he being assigned to Company A, which was organized at the last call for troops in 1864. Our subject went with his comrades to the front, and served nine months. He saw no active fighting, but did fully as important work in keeping guard, for which his regiment was detailed and he was honorably discharged at the close of the war, with a good record for fidelity to duty and unflinching devotion to the cause, which would well have become a veteran.

When he left the army Mr. Mensch returned to his old home, and was a resident of Whiteside County until 1879. In the month of September, that year he purchased the farm that he now occupies in Palmyra Township, and settled on it in the spring of 1880. He is constantly adding to its improvements, has it under a high state of tillage, and the cattle, horses and hogs that he raises upon it are of excellent stock. Our subject is a man of sturdy round-about common sense, has an even temper, is thoroughly reliable in all respects, an upright man, an honorable citizen, a husband kind and true, a tender father and a pleasant neighbor. His political creed is that of the Democratic party, and in religion he is a Lutheran, both he and his wife belonging to the church of that denomination and they have had their children baptized, dedicating them to the church.

Mr. Mensch and Miss Lydia Gruver were married in Nelson Township. She also is a native of Columbia County, Pa., and a daughter of Uriah Gruver, a Pennsylvanian by birth, who was one of the pioneers of Lee County. After living some twelve years in Nachusa Township he bought two hundred and forty acres of land in Nelson Township. He lived upon that farm some years and then retired to Dixon to enjoy the competence that he had accumulated at his leisure. His first wife, mother of Mrs. Mensch, died during their residence in Nachusa Township when she was only forty-two years old. She was a member of the Lutheran Church and left behind her the memory of a true Christian womanhood. Mr. Gruver is a faithful

follower of the Republican party in politics. Religiously, he is of the Methodist Episcopal faith, and he and his present wife are members of that church.

Mr. and Mrs. Mensch have been abundantly blessed in their married life, and eight children add to their happiness, named as follows—Charles, Mary, Harry, Mabel, Kate, Edward, Evaline and a baby named Iva.



**E**LI LLOYD is widely known and honored as one of the first pioneers in that part of Lee County of which he has been a resident for more than half a century, making his home a part of the time in the city of Dixon, and the remainder of the time on his farm on section 13, Nelson Township, which he purchased of the Government in 1837. On this beautiful place which has been made attractive by his labors he is now serenely passing the declining years of a life well spent, in retirement from active business.

The birth-place of our subject is near the seat of the court of justice in the County of Huntingdon, Pa., where he first opened his eyes to the light on the glorious Fourth of July in the year 1823. His father, whose given name was Henry, was also a native of that county, and was a son of Henry Lloyd, Sr., who was of Welsh descent, but was a native and life-long resident of Huntingdon County, where he died when past eighty years of age. His wife, who was also a Pennsylvanian by birth, lived to be very old. The elder Lloyds were staunch Baptists in religion. Henry Lloyd, Jr. grew up on the old Lloyd estate, and was married in his native county to Miss Jane Schwapish, who was born and reared in the same county as himself, and came of the high Dutch stock that had settled in that part of Pennsylvania in Colonial times. After their marriage the Lloyds moved to Cambria County, and there they spent their remaining days on a farm, dying full of years. They were members of the Baptist Church.

Our subject is the sixth of a family of twelve children. He was reared in a good home by

worthy parents, whose instruction, no less than their example, led him to form good habits and principles of right living early in life. He grew to manhood in his native county, but was subsequently married in Blair County. He was in the full flush and vigor of the prime of life when he came to Lee County in 1837. He was one of the first to perceive the fine natural advantages of this part of the State and to avail himself of them. He saw the country when it was in all its original wildness, and has been lost on the prairie when it was so new that there were no roads to travel by, and when there were but very few settlements within a radius of many miles of the site which he selected for his future home on what is now section 13, Nelson Township. He may well be proud of the fact that he has done his share of the hard labor necessitated in bringing about the wonderful change that has been wrought by the hand of man within half a century whereby this has become one of the richest and best improved farming regions in Illinois. It contains two hundred acres of arable land, which is now highly cultivated, and is complete in its appointments as regards buildings and machinery, and its fertile soil is capable of supporting a great deal of stock. Mr. Lloyd himself has retired from farming, and his son now operates the farm, keeping it up to the same high standard it had attained before it came under his care. Besides his homestead Mr. Lloyd owns a fine property in Dixon, and is one of the wealthy men of the community. He has spent much of his time for the last twenty years in that city and has done conspicuous service in the line of public improvements during his incumbency of the office of Street Commissioner and in other civic positions. He has also been prominent in the political life of the city and township, and has exercised a favorable influence on the fortunes of the Republican party in this section.

April 5, 1891, the wife of our subject passed away from the home that had been blessed and sanctified by her presence for so many years, her death, which occurred very suddenly at their residence in Dixon, being caused by the rupture of an artery. Mrs. Lloyd's maiden name was Adveanna Anderson. She was born in 1812 in the town of

Phocnixville, Chester County, Pa., and was there reared to womanhood. Her father, Julius Anderson, lived and died a farmer in Pennsylvania, dying in the prime of life of consumption contracted while serving as a soldier in the War of 1812. Mrs. Lloyd came to Illinois with her husband, and was his helpmate, companion, counselor and comfort in the hardships of the rough pioneer life that they shared together in the founding of a new home. She was a woman of more than ordinary intelligence, her mind ripened by culture and much reading of the best literature, she being well known as a scholar and historian, and her death was mourned by many friends she and her husband had gathered around them during their many years sojourn in this county. She was possessed of a lovely Christian spirit, and as one of the earnest and active members of the Baptist Church she is greatly missed.

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd, of whom two are deceased,—Anna M., who died at the age of six years, and Catherine, who was twenty-eight years old when she died. Their son Julius, an enterprising and successful farmer, residing on and managing the old homestead, married Miss Harriet Goodyear, and they have five children.



**S**IMON RHODES. No member of the farming community of this county is more worthy of representation on these pages than Mr. Rhodes, who has shown the value of his citizenship, as an intelligent and practical farmer; by helping in the great work of carrying on the agricultural industries for which this State is noted; and as a patriotic and useful soldier during the late war who nobly did his part in saving our country from disunion and dishonor.

Our subject was born in Somerset County, Pa., January 12, 1839. His father, David Rhodes, was also a native of that county, coming of the old German stock that were early settlers of that portion of Pennsylvania, and there his father and mother lived and died on their farm. They were

pious people and members of the Lutheran Church. David Rhodes became a farmer himself, and operated a small farm in his native county until he died, and was gathered to his fathers in 1889, at the venerable age of four-score years. He too was a Lutheran, and his politics were of the Democratic order. He married Miss Netta Snopsnyder, who came of similar parentage, and died in their old home in 1886 when full of years.

Simon Rhodes passed his boyhood amid the scenes of his birth, and as he was early set to work, he could not obtain the education for which he craved which has afforded him life-long regret. He has in a measure made up for it, however, as he has an intelligent, receptive mind, and he is very well informed on current topics. Being thrown on his own resources when he was young, he soon acquired self-reliance, steady habits and a manliness beyond his years that well fitted him to cope with the hardships to be encountered in a hand to hand struggle for independence in any walk in life. Manhood was just opening before him when he first made his appearance in this county in 1861. He did not tarry here many months at that time, but returned to his native county to join his old associates who were forming the One Hundred and Thirty-third Pennsylvania Infantry, and were going forth to help fight their country's battles. His name was enrolled in June, 1862, as a member of Company E, of that regiment, which was commanded by Capt. Bear and Col. Schlock, and was assigned to the Army of the Potomac. Our subject and his comrades did their share of the fighting in the hotly contested battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, and in numerous other engagements. Our subject had enlisted for nine months, but he served faithfully for a year, and his military record for soldierly bearing and fidelity to duty was equal to that of any veteran of them all.

Mr. Rhodes was honorably discharged from the army and returned to Pennsylvania, whence he again came to Lee County in 1865, and he has ever since lived and labored here. He purchased his farm on section 31, South Dixon Township, in 1868, and applying himself to its improvement early and late, he has brought it into a fine condi-

tion, nearly the whole of its one hundred and twenty acres being under good cultivation; it is well provided with suitable buildings, and is completely stocked with cattle, horses and swine of high grades. He has won for himself an honorable place among our best citizens by keeping his credit sound, his reputation unspotted, and by fairness and honesty in all his dealings. He and his wife attend the Evangelical Church, contributing liberally of their means toward its support. In politics he is a staunch advocate of the Republican party.

Our subject was married at the bride's home in this township to Miss Mary Moore, who was born in Cumberland County, Pa., and was but a child when she came to Illinois with her mother and step-father, Frederiek Bollman, (of whom see sketch), who settled in South Dixon Township, where she was reared and educated. Six children have been born to our subject and his wife, of whom one—George, died young. The others are Emma, wife of Thomas Parker, a farmer in this township; William, a resident of Whiteside County, who married Mattie Parker, who is now dead; Hattie, who makes her home with her parents, and is a bright and successful teacher, having been educated for her profession at Dixon College; Fred and Frank, both of whom are at home with their parents.



**J**OHAN D. SITTS, an old resident of Lee County, has been engaged in the grocery business at Franklin Grove many years, and is numbered among the pioneer merchants of this section. He was born in Oneida County, N. Y., January 23, 1831, and is of sturdy Teutonic and Revolutionary stock, he being one of the fourth generation of the American branch of the Sitts family that settled in this country in colonial times. His grandfather, Henry Sitts, was born either in New York or New England, and was a gallant soldier of the Continental Army throughout the struggle of the colonists for free-

dom from the mother country. He died in Montgomery County, N. Y. many years after at the venerable age of ninety-three years.

The parents of our subject were George and Harriet (Bartlett) Sitts, who were natives of the Mohawk Valley, in the Empire State. His mother died when he was fourteen years old. His father was a contractor on the Erie Canal in his early life. He came to Chicago in 1849, and was prosperously engaged in the grain and lumber trade in that city until his death in 1863 in the midst of his busy career at the age of sixty-three years. He had six children, four sons and two daughters, who came to Illinois, namely George, who died in Chicago, in April, 1891; Joseph, who died in Cleveland, Ohio; Benjamin F., a resident of Chicago; Elizabeth A., who married John M. Wandell, of Chicago; John D.; and Margaret H., who married Cyrus Thomas, of Columbus, Ohio, and died at Franklin Grove in November, 1865.

Our subject learned the trade of an iron moulder when he was young, and pursued it in Monroe County, N. Y., for some years. He came from there to Illinois in 1854 and for three years was engaged in railroading. He subsequently became interested in the lumber trade at Franklin Grove, forming a partnership with others under the firm name of Sitts, Thomas & Co., and continued in that line six years. At the end of that time he began farming in Bradford Township, but four years later he abandoned agricultural pursuits, and returning to Franklin Grove, has ever since been engaged in the grocery business at this point, and is one of the oldest and most experienced business men in this part of the State. He has his store well fitted up, and carries a good and varied stock of everything that the market affords in his line that is demanded by his custom. He has acquired a comfortable property, and besides his possessions in this village owns a farm near by in the southern part of Ogle County. His political sentiments are in accord with the policy of the Republican party, of which he is a tried and true member. He has held several local offices, filling them satisfactorily and always with an eye single to the public good. He has been a member of the County Board of Supervisors, and did all that he could in that



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*Ernest Hennrich.*

capacity to push forward all schemes for the further development of township, village and county, as, indeed, he has always done since he became a resident of this section. He was at one time Justice of the Peace, and was active in preserving law and order in the community while he was an incumbent of that position.

Mr. Sitts was married in January, 1863, to Miss Eva E., daughter of John and Lydia (Gifford) Lincoln, and a native of Genesee County, N. Y. For a quarter of a century they lived together in a harmonious and felicitous wedded life, and then death invaded their pleasant home, April 11, 1888, and removed the devoted wife and loving mother, who had filled in a perfect measure those sacred offices. She was fifty-four years of age when she died. Four children were born to her and our subject: Henry B., an employe of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway; Gertie G., wife of W. S. Winter, of Turner, Ill.; Bertha C. and Helen Edna.



**E**RNEST WERNICK, one of the early settlers of Dixon Township, who since 1848 has resided in the county, now makes his home on section 19. It is with pleasure that we present to our readers the portrait, and biography of a self-made man who by his own efforts has worked his way upward to a position of affluence. In many respects his example is worthy of emulation and in this sketch there will be much to encourage those who like himself have to begin life empty handed, depending only on their own exertions.

Mr. Wernick was born in Prussia, July 8, 1832, and came of Saxon parentage. He is a son of Andrew and Mary (Bunker) Wernick. His father was born in Saxony and served with Napoleon throughout the Prussian campaign as one of the Magtaburg Blue Hussars. He fought at the battle of Lipsing and at Waterloo and in many other engagements served with valor in the front ranks. On one occasion he rescued the horse that was secured for Gen. Blucher, whose steed had been shot

from under him. Mr. Wernick was twice wounded but did not allow himself to be captured. He was a brave and undaunted cavalryman and with a comrade, Mr. Comstadt, who was later frozen in the mountains in the Prussian campaign, succeeded in capturing five mounted Cossacks, killing four of the number and taking their horses. In after years, accompanied by his two sons, our subject and Lewis, Mr. Wernick sailed from Bremen and after a voyage of forty-two days landed at New York City, whence he made his way to Chicago. As their money gave out father and son walked from that city to Dixon, where a year later they were joined by the mother and other members of the family. Mrs. Wernick did not long enjoy her new home, her death occurring in 1854. Mr. Wernick died February 14, 1883, at the advanced age of ninety-five years. He possessed remarkable powers of endurance and physical strength and was never sick a day in his life while in the Fatherland. He and his wife were members of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject was yet a youth when he came to this country and in Lec County he attained his majority. For some time he worked as a day laborer and in 1854, purchased thirty-six acres of unbroken land with money acquired by his own industry and economy. To its improvement he devoted his energies for some time and afterwards went to Grand Detour, where he engaged in teaming for the plow factory for a time. He then followed farming pursuits near Amboy for a few years, his farm work being done with oxen. In the meantime he had wedded Mary Page, whose parents were pioneer settlers of this community. She died in 1861, leaving three children. The following year Mr. Wernick enlisted in the service of his adopted country as a member of Company F, Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry. He wore the blue for three years, participating actively in twenty-three battles and during the engagement at Resaca, he was wounded in the shoulder.

At the expiration of his term of service, Mr. Wernick was honorably discharged and returned to his home and his three little children. Soon afterward he began farming and that time his cash capital consisted of \$200. He purchased a team

and then rented forty acres where he now lives. A few years later he made a partial payment on one hundred and sixty acres and by his industry, good management and perseverance was soon enabled to pay off all indebtedness. As his financial resources increased he also extended the boundaries of his farm, which now comprises five hundred and fourteen acres of valuable land, well improved, highly cultivated and stocked with fine horses and cattle. He has one of the best barns in the county and recently erected a commodious and substantial residence built in modern style and supplied with all modern conveniences. A glance at the Wernick farm indicates that the owner is a man of progressive and practical ideas and a careful manager. On another page of this volume the reader will find a view of this attractive rural abode which is complete in all its appointments and one of the best homesteads in the county.

The children born unto Mr. Wernick by his first wife are: Henry, who wedded Ida Sheffield and resides in Lake City, Iowa; Anna, wife of George Hickman, a farmer of Sioux County, Neb.; and Mary, wife of Martin Funk, a farmer of Cass County, Iowa. Mr. Wernick was again married in New Albany, Ind., his second union being with Mrs. Catherine Helfrich, who was born in Baden, Germany, in the town of Stein, and came to this country during her girlhood, with her parents, the family settling in Forreston, Ogle County, where her father, John Rupert, is now living. He is a stone and brick mason by trade and served for three years in the late war, participating in many battles, but escaped uninjured. In Ogle County, Catherine Rupert gave her hand in marriage to Jacob Helfrich who enlisted with the boys in blue in 1862. He took part in some important battles and at Chickamauga was taken prisoner. He was placed in Andersonville prison, where he died some time later in 1863. At his death he left one son, John, who married Jennie Wooley and is now a farmer of Ogle County, Ill.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wernick have been born eight children: George at home, Minnie, wife of James Howell, a farmer of Dixon Township; Wesley, Oscar, Carrie, Vernon, Bert and Stanley, under the parental roof. The Wernick household is the

abode of hospitality and the members of the family rank high in social circles. Their home is one of the best in the community and in it their many friends delight to congregate. Mr. and Mrs. Wernick attend the Lutheran Church and he exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party.



**W**ILLIAM H. MOSSHOLDER is one of the foremost of the enlightened and wide-awake farmers and stock-raisers who are carrying on the great agricultural interests of Lee County. He is an extensive landed proprietor, having at least four valuable farms, and upon one of these on section 18, South Dixon Township, he makes his home.

Mr. Mossholder was born in Somerset County, Pa., March 27, 1841, a son of Jacob and Mary (Flamm) Mossholder, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Germany. The father was born in Somerset County of parents who were also natives of the Keystone State, and were of German blood. They were prosperous farmers and came to this county in 1854 and here died. The mother of our subject came to this country from the German Fatherland when she was thirteen years old with her parents, who settled in Somerset County, and there died when full of years. After their marriage and the birth of all their children but one, the parents of our subject came to Illinois in 1854, and were valued citizens of this county until their death several years later, he dying in 1873 when past sixty-one years old, and she in 1884, at the age of seventy-two. On coming here they had settled on a new farm of two hundred and forty acres of wild land, located on section 17, and they developed it into a finely improved piece of property. They were prominent in the moral and religious uplifting of their community as leading members of the Evangelical Association of South Dixon, helping to organize the church, and Mr. Mossholder gave the land on which the house of worship was built.

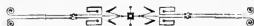
William Mossholder was a boy of thirteen years

when the family came to this county from his early home on a Pennsylvania farm, and here he attained manhood. He and his brother, Nicholas, and sisters, Eve, now Mrs. Samuel Allen, and Catherine, now the wife of Levi Heckman are the only survivors of a family of seven children, four sons and three daughters, of whom he is the third in order of birth. He early showed that he was well-endowed with the qualifications so necessary to a farmer in order to assure success in agricultural pursuits. He has a keen, discerning mind, is quick to grasp details, and forethought and business acumen are his in a large degree. He entered into his work with zest when he became an independent farmer, conducting it with characteristic vigor unflinching zeal, being careful, prudent and methodic withal, and these, with a happy faculty of carrying out his plans satisfactorily, have led him far on the high road to fortune. As before mentioned he has several farms. The one on which he resides on section 18, South Dixon, contains eighty acres of land, highly cultivated, and supplied with a good set of farm buildings, including a pleasant, roomy residence with attractive surroundings. He has another farm in the same township of one hundred and fifty-three acres, which is all under the plow, and Mr. Mossholder has erected a good barn, dwelling and other necessary buildings upon it. In Nelson Township, he has a fine farm of eighty acres on section 24, upon which is a comfortable house and good outbuildings; and he owns a good farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Adair County, Iowa, which is well improved. Besides the income derived from his farms Mr. Mossholder makes money by raising fine blooded stock, owning some of the best graded cattle, horses and swine in South Dixon Township.

In the accumulation of his property, Mr. Mossholder has not been without the assistance of a good wife, who has co-operated with him by her able management of the household affairs, and her devotion to her family. His marriage with Miss Catherine Lievan was celebrated in South Dixon Township at the Lutheran parsonage, June 21, 1874. Mrs. Mossholder is a daughter of Mathias Lievan, of whom a biography appears in this book. She was born January 11, 1847, in Somerset

County, Pa., and was but a girl when she came westward with her parents, with whom she lived until her marriage. The happy home circle of herself and her husband is completed by the three children born unto them, namely: Nora J., aged fifteen; Inez G., twelve years old and Clinton E., who is five years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Mossholder are members of the Evangelical Association, and are identified with its every good work. They are people of fine social qualities, genial, open hearted and charitable, and many and warm are the friends that they have gathered around them in the community where the most of their lives has been spent. Mr. Mossholder takes a keen interest in politics, although he is no office-seeker, and his preference is for the Republican party.



**J**OHN HOLDREN, a wealthy farmer residing in the village of Compton, is honored as one of the pioneers of Lee County, whose work has helped in making it one of the richest and best developed agricultural counties of Northern Illinois. He was born February 4, 1825, in that part of Mt. Pleasant Township, Columbia County, Pa., now included in Montour County. His father was Edward Holdren, and he was a native of New Jersey, of which his father was a life-long resident.

The father of our subject passed his youth in his native State, but when he attained manhood he went to Pennsylvania and identified himself with the farmers of that State, buying a tract of partly improved land in Mt. Pleasant Township. That part of the country was then comparatively wild, there were no railways for several years after Mr. Holdren's settlement there, and Philadelphia, over one hundred miles away, was the nearest market to which the people could take their produce and stock to sell and obtain household necessities in return. Mr. Holdren made many improvements on his farm during his residence in Mt. Pleasant Township, and then he sold it some years after locating on it, and bought a

place near White Hall, which was his home thereafter until death removed him from the scene of his usefulness. He had married after going to Pennsylvania, taking as his wife Ahigail De Mott, a native of Columbia County, that State, and a daughter of Richard De Mott, and she spent her last years with him on the home farm near White Hall.

John Holdren was educated in his native county and there grew to man's estate. He was early taught to be of use on his father's farm, and he continued to assist him in its management until after his marriage, remaining an inmate of the parental home until then. In 1851 he determined to emigrate to the fertile prairies of Northern Illinois, his father having landed interests here, and on the 15th of June he arrived in this county to make a permanent settlement here, and to ally his fortunes with those of the pioneers that had preceded him into this then sparsely settled wilderness. He located on a tract of land that his father had entered from the Government, situated one mile south of the present site of Compton. The prairies were then but little used for agricultural purposes, as the early settlers had not realized their value as land of surpassing fertility. There were no railroads, and Aurora and Peru were the nearest market towns, though the farmers often took their grain and other products to Chicago.

Mr. Holdren erected suitable buildings on his land, and busily engaged in its improvement for some years. In 1863 he sold it and bought another on section 16, Brooklyn Township, upon which he lived until 1876, when he took up his residence in the village of Compton, and has remained here since. He has acquired a handsome property by the exercise of those traits of character that mark him as a thrifty, sagacious man, with a full understanding of the best way to handle his affairs so as to make money. He is the owner of four hundred acres of fine farming land, conveniently divided into three farms, that are amply supplied with all the necessary buildings, and are under excellent tillage.

In what he has accomplished our subject has been greatly aided by his wife, who has been to

him all that the term helpmate implies, as it was his good fortune to marry, in August, 1849, Miss Phebe A. Derr, a native of the same State as himself, her birthplace being in Northumberland County. They have five children—William C., Eleanora, Edward, Janet and Sherman J. William married Miss Ellen Adrian, and they have two children—Fannie and John. Eleanora married Shepard Mannon, and they have three children—Emma C., Willard and Laura. Janet is the widow of Alonzo Davison and has two children—Gracie P. and R. Palmer. Edward married Miss Emma G. Swope, and they have two children—Emma C. and Calvin. Sherman married Miss Ellen N. Kline, and they have one child—Rosanna.



CHARLES F. EMERSON, of the well-known and enterprising firm of the C. F. Emerson Lumber Co., of Dixon, dealers in all kinds of dressed and undressed lumber, house building supplies and sewer pipes, established his present business in 1867. The following year, in February, Mr. Anderson was admitted to partnership but the present firm title was not assumed until the 1st of January, 1891. Business is carried on on Water Street between First and Second Streets and the firm has an extensive trade.

Mr. Emerson was born in the old historical town of Castine, Me., on the Penobscot River, August 28, 1828, and comes of an old Scotch family of the same clan from which the late Ralph W. Emerson was descended. His father, Henry Emerson, a native of York, Me., learned the trade of a blacksmith in the Navy Yards at Kittery, where he was employed between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one years, during the time the War of 1812 was fought. He afterward established a smithy in Castine, where he spent his entire business life and died at the age of seventy-six years. Two of his sisters, both of whom are Mrs. Thompson, are widow ladies residing in Ypsilanti, Mich., and both have passed their ninetieth birthdays. The mother of our subject was in her maidenhood Nancy Hutch-

ing, a native of Kennebunk, Me. She survived her husband some fifteen years and died in her ninetieth year. Both Mr. and Mrs. Emerson were strong believers in the Universalist faith and in early life he was a Democrat in politics. On that ticket he was elected to the State Legislature of Maine, but when the Republican party sprang into existence, as the outcome of the slavery question, he joined its ranks, being staunch advocate of abolition principles. Hamilton Hampton, late United States Senator, was one of the warm personal friends of Henry Emerson.

C. F. Emerson, whose name heads this sketch, was the third in a family of five children, four of whom are yet living, although he is the only one residing in the West. He grew up as did most of the boys of his day in the Pine Tree State and with his father learned the blacksmith's trade. After he had attained his majority, he shipped before the mast and became engaged in the coasting service from Bangor, Me., to the south coast of Florida. He also made trips to the West Indies and fished from the smacks off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. For seven years he followed a seafaring life and then turned his attention to other pursuits. He sought a home in the West in 1855, and since that time has been a resident of Dixon.

Ere locating in Illinois, however, Mr. Emerson was married in Boston, on the 4th of December, 1855, to Hannah E. Avery, who was born and reared in Castine, Me., but when a maiden went to Boston where she lived until her marriage. Her parents and grandparents were both natives of the Pine Tree State, and the home of the latter was occupied by the British during the War of 1812. Her father, John A. Avery, was a sea-faring man and merchant and died in Castine, Me., at an advanced age, having survived his wife some fifteen years. They were parents of eleven children, six of whom are now living.

Mr. Emerson brought his bride to Dixon where they have since formed a wide acquaintance and won many friends. Their social status is high, and in religious belief both Mr. Emerson and his wife are Universalists. He embarked in the lumber business in 1867, and carried it on until 1876, when he retired but five years later he again resumed oper-

ations in that line and has since continued to be one of the leading lumber merchants of this city. By his fair and honest dealing he has won unlimited confidence and the liberal patronage accorded him is but the just reward of his labors. Mr. Emerson is a public spirited and enterprising citizen and for four years has served as Alderman. He is also one of the Nachusa House directors, and in politics supports the Republican party by his ballot. Socially, he is a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, belonging both to the subordinate lodge and encampment.



**T**HOMAS W. BROWN, an old and honored citizen of Lee County, and one of its pioneers, is one of the wealthy residents of Franklin Grove, where he has a beautiful home, and is conducting a good business as a grower of small fruits. His native place is the fine old city of Newport, R. I., and the date of his birth, August 14, 1820. His parents, Thomas W. and Rebecca (Vial) Brown, were also natives of Rhode Island, and were life-long residents of that State. They reared a family of six children, as follows: Louisa, who died unmarried; Mary, who became the wife of Thomas H. Kirtly, a banker of Philadelphia, in which city she died; Harriet, the wife of R. P. Lee, cashier in a bank at Newport, R. I.; Charlotte, now Mrs. Richard E. Hamlin, of Providence, R. I.; Elizabeth B., wife of William M. Steadman, a wholesale merchant, of Boston, Mass.; and our subject, the only son.

He of whom we write learned the trade of a merchant tailor under his father's instruction in his youth, and at nineteen years of age started Westward to grow up with the country in some pioneer settlement, where he would have a broader field for the exercise of his energies, as he did not by any means propose to confine himself to his trade if he found that he could do better in another direction. After his arrival in Lee County he took up and improved a claim, although the land was not then in the market, and subsequently selling it at a good price, he removed to Inlet, (a village

now defunct) and did business as a merchant tailor and as a daguerrean. It is worthy of note in connection with the latter that he made daguerreotypes of many of the early settlers, which are now probably preserved in many households as precious heirlooms.

In 1856 Mr. Brown removed to Franklin Grove, and in 1860 he settled where he now resides, which place had been purchased that year by his brother-in-law. He continued in the same business as before until 1871, when he sold medicine for three years. In 1875 he began to engage in the culture of small fruits, and in 1885 purchased the place on which he resided. He then erected his handsome residence, which is finely located at the head of Main Street in the south part of the village of Franklin Grove, where he has a home replete with all the comforts and luxuries necessary to the best social life. His dwelling is a large brick house, second to none in the village in beauty of architecture and the convenience of its interior arrangements. It is supplied with the modern improvements, heated by a furnace, and has hot and cold water in all parts of the house, besides a well appointed bath room. Among the most pleasant features of this elegant home is the good cheer always to be found within its walls, its inmates understanding well the art of true hospitality that "welcomes the coming and speeds the parting guest."

Although Mr. Brown is a man of wealth his active temperament is intolerant of a life of leisure, and, as before mentioned, he devotes his time to the culture of small fruits, for which his forty acres of land is well adapted. He is well versed in the best methods of fruit culture, having made a careful study both from observation and from the perusal of the works of the best authorities on the subject, and he has a large and constantly growing business under his supervision, as he has acquired a wide reputation for the superior quality of the fruit that he raises, which always finds a market and sells at good prices.

On April 10, 1841, in his native city, Newport, R. I., Mr. Brown and Ruth F. Simpson were united in marriage. She, too, was born in that beautiful seaside resort, her birth occurring February 12,

1819, and she is a daughter of Samuel and Harriet Simpson. For fifty years she and our subject have shared the vicissitudes of life together, and the joys and sorrow that have fallen to their lot during that half century of time have but strengthened the tie that binds them. Nine children have been born to them, of whom these four have passed from life to death: Matilda, who died at the age of sixteen years; Ella, who died when six years old; and two who died in infancy. The five children living are Thomas W., a resident of Franklin Grove; Robert, a resident of Sioux Rapids, Iowa; Mary E.; Harriet, now Mrs. Blair; and Lottie; the three daughters live at home with their parents.

Mr. Brown was in early life a Whig, but he was heartily in sympathy with the movement that led to the formation of the Republican party, and from its birth he has been one of the most staunch supporters of its principles. He was the first Town Clerk of Lee Centre Township, and his record as a citizen shows that he has always contributed to local improvements, and all measures to advance the growth and well-being of his adopted county have met with his cordial approval and material support.



**E**LIJAH H. AND DANIEL B. RAYMOND, who are well-known and prominent citizens of this county, are conducting farming and stock-raising in partnership, owning and operating a good-sized, well-equipped farm on sections 21 and 22, South Dixon Township, that is in all respects one of the finest estates in this part of Illinois.

The Raymond brothers are scions of the sturdy pioneer stock of Southern Michigan. The elder brother, however, was born in Steuben County, N. Y., prior to the removal of the family to the primeval wilds of that section of the country in territorial days, the date of his birth being May 14, 1821. Daniel B., the youngest member of the household, was born November 2, 1833, in the primitive pioneer home of his parents in the town-



ship of Raisin, Lenawee County, shortly after they had made settlement in that region.

Our subject's ancestors were Englishmen, of the same blood as the Pilgrim Fathers of the Mayflower, and some of them were among the colonists of New England, and made their homes in the quaint old city of Salem and in the town of Wareham, Mass., and representatives of the family may still be found in that section of the country. The first to avail himself of the privileges of religious freedom in America was John Raymond, who came hither in 1636. Following him in line of descent were William Raymond Sr., William Raymond Jr. and then in succession three of the name of Daniel, the latter of whom was the father of the gentlemen of whom we write. The grandfather of our subjects was a native of Richmond Township, Greene County, N. Y., whither his father had removed after marriage from his old Massachusetts home to found a new one in the wilderness. He and his wife were also pioneers of Steuben County and hewed out a farm in Cohocton Township, where they died. He had been a patriotic soldier during the Revolution, serving throughout the war, and lived to be nearly ninety years old. The father of our subjects was reared in his native State, and when the War of 1812 broke out he showed himself a worthy son of his sire by enlisting in the service of his country in a New York regiment, in which he held the rank of Orderly Sergeant. He was married in Steuben County with Miss Lucy A. Woodruff, who was born in Berkshire County, Mass., coming of a long line of New England ancestry, and her parents were also of Massachusetts birth.

After the birth of seven children, Daniel Raymond and his wife set out for the Territory of Michigan in the spring of 1833, traveling with an ox-team, and journeying by the lakes and overland until they had penetrated the forest wilds of Lenawee County as far as the present site of Raisin Township, where they determined to found their new home. Mr. Raymond selected a suitable location in the woods, on section 24, of said township, two and one half miles from the Raisin River buying a part of it from the Government. He toiled hard, and had already hewed out a goodly

farm, when he was attacked by a malignant epidemic that then prevailed in that section, and died at the age of fifty-four years, twelve years after settling there. His community was thus deprived of one of its most highly prized citizens, who was a man of rare virtue, of force and dignity of character, and was associated with all that was good in his township. He was a Whig in politics and religiously, was a member of the Congregational Church, as was his wife, who died on the old homestead in Michigan, in 1858, at the age of sixty-five years. She was the mother of eight children, of whom six are yet living, two in Michigan, and the others in Illinois. All are married but two, Elijah H., of this notice, and Hannah. They have all lived together under one roof since they came to this State in 1865, and settled on the farm where they have since made their home, and which was purchased the year before they took possession of it. Our subjects have made of it a very fine place bringing it to a high standard of cultivation and improvement, erecting commodious and well fitted up buildings of the most approved modern class, and stocking its pastures with cattle, horses and swine of superior breeds. The farm contains two hundred and forty acres of land of exceeding fertility. The brothers had previously had a good training in farming on the old homestead where they had passed their boyhood days, and they were well educated in the public schools of Adrian and Lenawee County.

Daniel B. Raymond was married at the old home in his native State to Miss Maria S. Clark, who was born in Berkshire County, Mass., January 29, 1834. Her parents were also natives of Massachusetts, and came of some of the old Colonial families of New England. Her father died in the old Bay State while yet in the prime of life. Her mother was middle-aged when she died in Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond have been blessed in their pleasant wedded life by the birth of three children,—Daniel E., Agnes C., and Florence M. All are accomplished and highly educated, having attended Dixon College, and the daughters have taught in the South-Side public schools of Dixon. The son assists his father and uncle in the management of the farm. All the family are mem-

bers of the First Presbyterian Church of Dixon. Mr. Raymond has borne a conspicuous part in the management of public affairs in township and county for several years. He was the first Clerk of the Township, holding that office for fourteen years and has represented it as a member of the County Board of Supervisors. He and his brother Elijah are representative Republicans, and are generous, public-spirited, high-minded men, whose citizenship carries weight and influence for good in the community where their lot has been cast.



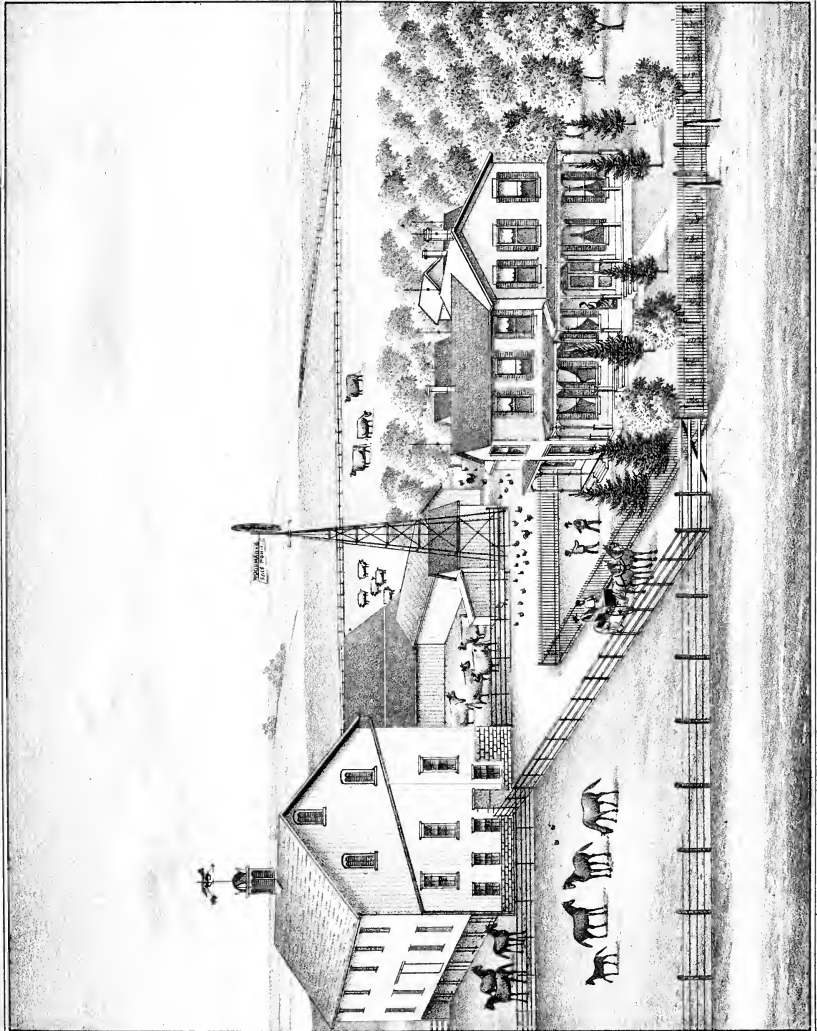
**J**OHAN F. BOSSEMAYER was a man of intelligent mind and superior character, exemplary in his habits, manly and straightforward in his dealings, and true in the various relations that he sustained towards others as son, husband, father, neighbor, and steadfast in his friendships. And the death of such an estimable citizen was a serious loss to his community. For several years he had been busily engaged in improving a farm on section 22, South Dixon Township, and in general agricultural operations, and there, while yet in life's prime, with a promising future before him, his hand was stayed from its labors, and he passed from the scenes of earth April 1, 1888.

Mr. Bossemeyer was born in the State of Maryland, May 24, 1849. His father, whose given name was Frederick, was of German birth and ancestry. He was a young man when he came to the United States and settled in Maryland, where he met and married Miss Hannah Gammer, a native of that State. They continued to live in that commonwealth until after the birth of their eldest children and then they came to Illinois and cast in their lot with the pioneers of Lee County. They located on a tract of wild, unbroken land on section 24, South Dixon Township, where they established a little home, which was afterward replaced by a more commodious dwelling, and in the course of time Mr. Bossemeyer opened up a valuable farm of two hundred and fifty acres. In 1880, he retired

from active business with his wife to the city of Dixon, and they quietly passed their remaining days in their residence on Galena Street, his death occurring in 1886, at the age of three-score and ten years, and hers in 1889, when she was well advanced in years. She was a woman of many virtues, of a warm and tender heart, and was regarded with great affection by all about her. Mr. Bossemeyer, Sr., was considered one of the leading German farmers of his day, and was well and favorably known. He was a prominent Republican, taking an active part in local politics, and he was a great worker in the church; both he and his wife belonged to the Lutheran Church of Dixon.

A boy of ten or eleven years when his parents brought him to this county, our subject grew to man's estate on his father's farm, and there received the practical training that was to make him successful as a farmer on his own account. He remained on the paternal homestead until he attained his majority, and after his marriage he purchased a farm of one hundred and seven acres on section 22, South Dixon Township, and made many improvements in the shape of good farm buildings, etc. He was a young man of much ability, was remarkably industrious, was progressive in his ideas, and was ambitious to make a pleasant home for his family, to whom he was devoted. He was a student and a thinker, and seemed to have an aptitude for inventions, which might have made him famous one day had he lived. He was well educated, and made his mark as a teacher, engaging in that profession in this county some three years. His religion was that of the Lutheran Church, of which he was a member. In politics, he was a decided Republican.

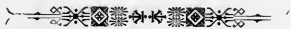
September 4, 1874, the marriage of our subject with Miss Fannie A. Smith was duly solemnized in Dixon Township, and in her he found an affectionate and devoted wife, who made his interests her own, and materially added to his success in life and to his comfort and happiness. She was born in this township on her father's homestead March 15, 1858. She was carefully reared under wholesome home influences, and was educated in the public schools. At her husband's death she bravely took up the work that he laid down, and is managing



RESIDENCE OF ERNEST WERNICK, SEC. 19., DIXON TP., LEE CO., ILL.



the farm with consummate skill, displaying an undoubted talent for business. She is the mother of four children, who are at home with her; their names are as follows: Arthur J., Etta L., Lester O. and Nellie H. For Mrs. Bossemeyer's parental history see sketch of Joseph Smith on another page.



**J**AMES SNEED, whose sketch now invites attention, is one of the prominent men of Lee County, having in the course of his long life witnessed many changes and an immense amount of progress in the State, and also having accumulated a considerable fortune. He is now engaged in general farming on sections 20 and 29, of Palmyra Township, where he owns and operates a large estate of two hundred and thirty-seven acres, on which, besides farming, he carries on the stock trade. He has lived on this farm since 1871, having come to the State in 1854. He was for a while in Morris County, Kan., and then removed to Carroll County, where he remained four years. Since that time he has lived continuously on his present homestead.

Mr. Sneed's birth occurred in Pulaski County, Ky., near Somerset, on the 15th of January, 1827, being the son of Charles and Elizabeth (Dalton) Sneed. When just a small boy our subject moved with his parents to Indiana, the family leaving the beautiful Blue Grass country for no other reason than that the idea of slavery was distasteful to them, and as that custom prevailed everywhere south of "Mason and Dixon's line", they were forced to seek a Northern home. They first located in Washington County, and began life there as farmers, and later lived for a time in Jackson County soon returning to Washington County, where they spent their last years. The father died when about seventy and the mother when about sixty years of age. They were both born and reared in Kentucky and were there married. To them were born thirteen children, four sons and one daughter yet surviving, our subject being the only one of the family in Illinois.

Our subject was reared in Washington County,

Ind., and while there attained his majority, at which time he came to Lee County and was married in this township to Miss Sarah F. Toliver, who was born in Lawrence County, Ind. She was yet quite young when her parents removed to Richland County, Ind., and a short time afterwards she was deprived of a mother's loving care and protection. She was taken care of by her grandparents who lived in this township, and it was here that she received her education. She was always quite studious and gained a good education with what advantages she had. She has made our subject a true and faithful helpmate, and is held in high repute for her intellectuality and her many excellent traits of character. This lady was called to her eternal home the 14th of August, 1891.

The marriage of our subject and his estimable wife has been blessed by the advent of seven children, two of whom are now deceased. The living are: Francis M., who took to wife Alice Schultz, a resident of Dixon; Alice M., wife of E. H. Hughs, a farmer in Ogle County, this State; James B., a farmer, who resides at home; and William F. and Minnie L., who are also at home. Mr. Sneed has held several township and county offices, among them being the office of County Collector, and is at present the incumbent of the office of Justice of the Peace, which he holds with satisfaction to his constituents. In his politics he affiliates with the Republican Party.



**J**OHAN M. TROSTLE is an enterprising and successful business man, the owner and operator of the East Elevator at Ashton. He was born in Frederick County, Md., November 1, 1855. He was reared on a farm in his native county until he was eighteen years of age, when he came to Franklin Grove, Ill., where he learned the carpenters' trade under J. L. Strock and J. C. Spangler, working at it for twelve years. He then came to Ashton and rented the East Elevator which he operated for three years, at the end of that time becoming its purchaser. It has a capacity of fifteen thousand bushels and has proved a


great convenience to the farmers in the disposal of their grain. In the hands of such a competent business man as Mr. Trostle, the business has become one of importance and has proved a financial success.

Mr. Trostle was married in Nachusa, December 3, 1877, to Miss Minerva A. Brierton, who was born in this county, in February, 1856. They have one adopted child, Lottie M. The parents of our subject, Jacob D., and Sarah (Pfoutz) Trostle, were natives of Adams County, Pa., and are now residing in Dickinson County, Kan. They have had twelve children, of whom John M. was fifth in the order of birth. Mr. Trostle is a staunch Republican and has always been very active in political affairs and, in fact in whatever relates to the welfare of his community. He is Chairman of the Ashton Township Republican Committee, and was for four years a member of the Village Board in Franklin Grove. At present he is serving as Mayor of Ashton, which office he has held for two terms, being first elected in the spring of 1889, and re-elected in the spring of 1891. Under his wise supervision the affairs of the town are in a flourishing condition, he giving much attention to the various projects which tend to the upbuilding of the community. Socially he is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

brother Fred, the latter a prosperous farmer of South Dixon Township. He came to this country ten years before Henry came, being scarcely more than a boy when he ventured to try his fortunes in a strange land.

Amid the quiet scenes of his birthplace our subject grew apace, and in the local schools conned his lessons diligently, thus securing a good practical education, and he also received a useful training in agriculture on his father's farm. He was but fifteen years old when he determined to follow his brother Henry to the far-away country across the sea, and with a courageous spirit and the high hopes of youth, he set out on the long voyage in the good ship "Baltimore," from which he disembarked six weeks later in the city of that name in the State of Maryland. From there he made his way to Pennsylvania, and upon his arrival in Somerset County, found he had but two dollars in money left. He, however, was nothing daunted as long as he could secure employment, and he worked for different people until he obtained a good start in life. He then came to Illinois to invest his earnings where he could get rich farming land comparatively cheap, and could profit by numerous other advantages which this region offers to a skillful, industrious farmer. He made his first purchase of realty in South Dixon Township, and while he held it made many good improvements upon it. He finally disposed of that farm at quite an advance on the cost price, and bought the farm that he now occupies in Nelson Township. He has the land under excellent tillage, the productive soil yielding abundant harvests in repayment of the care and toil expended upon it, and he raises a good class of stock. He is very comfortably situated here, keeps his place in a good condition, everything about it denoting thrifty management.

Mr. Bollman was wedded to Miss Christina Grobe in this township, and their domestic life has been productive of much real happiness, among its blessings being the six children born to them, of whom these five are still inmates of their home—Auna, Alvena, William, Henry and Gertie. Their eldest daughter, Mary, is the wife of Milt Hax. Mrs. Bollman was born in Saxon-Weimar, Germany.



**H**ENRY BOLLMAN owns one hundred and twenty acres of fine farming land on section 22, Nelson Township, and is conducting a profitable business as a general farmer. He was born in Prussia, Germany, March 27, 1833, to Gottlieb and Elizabeth Bollman, who were also natives of Prussia, and passed their entire lives there on a farm, the father dying at the age of forty-nine, when scarcely past the prime of life, and the mother was not much older when she died. They were most excellent people, true Christians and members of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject is one of eight children, of whom two are living in the United States, he and his

Her father died when she was very young, and she afterwards came to the United States and to Illinois with her mother and four brothers, the family locating in Lee County. The mother lived to be an old lady, and died in Nelson Township. Mrs. Bollman was seventeen years old when she came to this country, and here met and married our subject a few years later. She shares with him the respect accorded to his genuine worth, and both are very much liked by their neighbors for their friendliness and readiness to help any who are suffering or needy if it is possible for them to do so. In them the Lutheran Church has two of its truest Christian members. Mr. Bollman first exercised the right of suffrage by casting his vote for James Buchanan for the Presidency, and he has ever since given the Democratic party sturdy support.



**J**OHN H. ABBOTT, who is engaged in general farming and stock-raising on sections 29 and 30, Nachusa Township, is a native of Columbia County, Pa. He traces his ancestry back to the middle of the eighteenth century, when members of the Abbott family of English birth came to America in the British service to fight in the French and Indian War. Making permanent locations in this country their children became American citizens and turned against the mother country when the Colonies revolted. Jacob Abbott, Sr., the paternal grandfather, was a native of New Jersey, and throughout the Revolutionary War was a member of Gen. Sullivan's regiment, serving through six campaigns and participating in the battles of Monmouth and Brandywine and many others of importance. The Abbott family has an excellent military record. In every war in which the United States has been engaged, its representatives were found. Jacob Abbott, father of our subject, served in the War of 1812, and to the War of the Rebellion he sent his son William to defend the stars and stripes. In times of peace the Abbotts were farming people and were prominent in the various localities where they resided.

They were also usually of a religious turn of mind and the Methodist Church received many members from its ranks.

Jacob Abbott Sr. removed from New Jersey to Pennsylvania, being accompanied by his family, one of which, Jacob Jr., became the father of our subject. He was then a lad and in Columbia County grew to manhood. He there wedded Mary Tomlinson, a lady of English descent, born and reared in the Keystone State, where her parents were early settlers. She died in middle life and Jacob Abbott passed away at the age of sixty-four.

Our subject lost his mother when he was a lad of eleven years and by his father and stepmother he was reared. In his native county he found a matrimonial alliance with Miss Ellen Shoemaker, who was born in Columbia County, Pa., in November, 1827. Her parents, however, were natives of New Jersey, but spent their last years in Pennsylvania. Andrew Shoemaker, the father, carried on a public inn for many years and was quite a prominent character in the community where he resided. In the family were three sons and three daughters.

Mrs. Abbott spent the days of her maidenhood under the parental roof until she gave her hand in marriage to our subject. Seven children grace their union, the eldest of whom, Amzy, wedded Martha W. Miller and now resides in Nachusa; Elizabeth is the wife of Samuel Beekleheimer, a lumber dealer, residing in Polien, Adams County, Neb.; Robert R. follows the occupation of farming and resides at home; William wedded Ida Shoemaker and they reside in Nachusa Township; Martha is the wife of Myron Trivelpeace and their home is in Frontier County, Neb.; Charles is a dealer in lumber and coal in Ayers, Neb.; and Mary, at home, completes the family. The parents are both members of the Methodist Church and are active workers in the Master's vineyard. For many years Mr. Abbott has been a stalwart supporter of the Republican party and does all in his power to promote its growth and insure its success. He is a well-informed man, both on political questions and otherwise, and is recognized as one of the leading citizens of the community.

To general farming and stock raising Mr. Abbott devotes his energies, his home being in Nachusa

Township, where he located March 28, 1864. Since that time he has improved two good farms and is also the owner of eighty acres of land in Nebraska. The well tilled fields on sections 29 and 30, which pay to him a golden tribute, attest the fact of his thrift and enterprise and his neighbors add their testimony by speaking of him as one of the practical and progressive agriculturists of the community.



**D**AVID MURRAY, an honored resident of Nelson Township, is a noble type of the vigorous Scotch race, many of whose sons have sought homes in the United States, and are to-day among the most valued and loyal citizens of this country. Mr. Murray has for a long time been counted as one of the most sagacious and well-to-do of the general farmers and stock-raisers of this section of the county, where he owns two fine farms, which are complete in their appointments, one located on sections 26 and 27, Nelson Township, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of land, and the other situated on section 33, Harmon Township, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres.

Our subject was born in Ayreshire, Scotland, not far from the home of the poet Burns, December 5, 1838, and is a son of Gilbert and Jennett (Mulrick) Murray. His parents were born and bred in Ayreshire, being of pure Scotch blood, and were descendants of some of the old families of their native land. They inherited the superior qualities of their race and were earnest, honorable and hard-working people. They reared a large family of children, but as they shared the poverty of their countrymen, much was required of their offspring, who were early sent away from home to look after themselves, and never but twice were they altogether under one roof tree. The first of the family, of whom there were eight sons and five daughters, to come to the United States, were the two older boys, John and Gilbert. They came hither in 1853 and settled in Connecticut, where they were joined by their parents and other members of

the family in 1855, after a voyage of five weeks and four days on the ocean in a sailing vessel. The father and mother passed their remaining days in that New England State, living to be old people, the former dying in New London County, in the town of Norwich, in 1886, at the age of eighty-one; and his wife dying in June, 1891, aged eighty-two years. They were strong in their religious beliefs, clung tenaciously to the Presbyterian faith, which was so dear to their fathers from the days of John Knox, and they were active workers in the church. Of their thirteen children but one son and one daughter are dead.

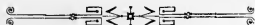
David Murray was but a boy when the family came to dwell in the United States, and though "Auld Scotia" is still dear to his heart, as it is to every true-born son of its rugged soil, he has come to love the land of his adoption with an ardor scarce surpassed by those native and to the manor born, holding its institutions and form of government in profound admiration, and speaking of it as "the most glorious country on earth," to quote from one of his talks on the subject when he referred with pride to the good fortune that had attended the family since they landed on these shores.

Our subject left Connecticut, where he had spent the first few years of his life in this country, in 1858, with a determination to establish himself in the great and growing State of Illinois, and since then has lived in the townships of Harmon and Nelson, in this county. Good fortune has smiled upon his venture, and as we have seen, he has acquired a handsome property. He first located in Harmon Township, and in time became the proprietor of a well-improved farm of one hundred and twenty acres in that place, upon which he lived sixteen years. In the fall of 1888 he purchased the farm in Nelson Township, which has since been his home.

Mr. Murray was unmarried when he came to this county, but he was subsequently wedded in Dixon to Miss Helen Burnham. She is a native of New Hampshire, born, reared and educated among the beautiful hills of the old Granite State, and she is well endowed with the fine virtues of the good old New England stock from which she is de-



sceded. She came to Illinois in young womanhood with her parents Samuel and Mary (Godfrey) Bruham, who made their home in Dixon until they passed from the scene of earth when full of years. The household of our subject and his amiable wife is completed by their two children, Frank B. and Hattie F., who are bright and well-educated young people. Mr. Murray is just, fair-minded, thoughtful and frank in his disposition, and, with his wife, enjoys the cordial good-will and friendship of the entire community. They are attendants at the Lutheran Church, all good causes finding in them generous support. In his political relations our subject is a Republican, who is staunch in his fealty to his party. He has been an incumbent of local offices, and has always encouraged public improvement.



**T**HOMAS DOLAN, a merchant tailor of Dixon, doing business in the Dolan Block, on Galena Avenue, located permanently in this city in 1871, but had resided here previously, the date of his coming being 1841. He was born in County Longford, Ireland, November, 14, 1827, and is a son of Michael and Ellen (Pliney) Dolan, who spent their entire lives in County Longford, on the farm which had been the family homestead for three generations. The death of the father resulted from an accident incurred at the age of fifty-four years, and his wife only survived him about six months. They both adhered to the faith of the Roman Catholic Church. Only two of their children are yet living—Thomas, of this sketch, and Mary, wife of James Carroll, who for thirty-seven years has been foreman of the water works of Jersey City, N. J.

Our subject is one of the self-made men of Lee County, having made his own way in the world from the age of fourteen years. Prior to that time he remained under the parental roof, but in the spring of 1841 bade good-by to home and native land, and accompanied by a brother as far as Liverpool, England, whence he crossed the Atlantic in the sailing-vessel "Kilber," landing at

New Orleans several weeks later. He then proceeded up the Mississippi River to Peru, Ill., and the same year joined another brother, William, in Lee County. Empty-handed he began life in the New World, and for the success which has crowned his efforts he deserves all the credit. Not long after his arrival he met with a sad accident. While working in a dye house his right leg was scalded and fears were entertained for his life, but through the kind treatment he received in the Sisters' Hospital, of St. Louis, he ultimately recovered after two years of illness, but was left a cripple. In the fall of 1843 he began learning the tailor's trade in Joliet, Ill., where he remained until 1846, when he went to Chicago, and in that city spent fourteen years in the line of his chosen profession. He was also employed as a journeyman in a tailoring establishment in Morrison, Ill., for five years, and for six years engaged as cutter with Wilson Allen in Polo, this State. In the meantime he had spent the years 1852 and 1853 in Dixon, and now returned in 1871, making a permanent location. For more than twenty years he has carried on his tailoring establishment in Lee County with good success.

While in Chicago Mr. Dolan wedded Miss Rose Crawford, who was born in Ireland, and in 1851 came with an uncle to this country. Her mother had died in the Emerald Island and subsequently her father, Nicholas Crawford, crossed the Atlantic to America, joining his daughter in Chicago. In after years he went to Kankakee, Ill., where he is still living at an advanced age. He belongs to the Catholic Church, as did also his wife. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Dolan have been born sixteen children, among these being triplets and twins. Ten of the number are yet living—Lucy, wife of John McBride, a publisher of periodicals in New York City; Thomas F., who wedded Maria O'Conner, is engaged in merchant tailoring in Chicago, as a partner with his twin brother, Joseph M.; Minnie, Nina and Maggie are all stenographers of Chicago, one being employed as a court reporter, another in the Leland House, and the third in the Palmer House; William, who is a tailor by trade, but is now employed as a salesman in a wholesale grocery house of Chicago; Agnes, who attends

the Normal College of Dixon, where she is studying elocution; and Lizzie and John, both of whom are High School students.

Mr. Dolan, his wife and children are all active members of the Roman Catholic Church, and in politics he is a supporter of the Democratic party. While in Chicago he took quite an active part in local military affairs and was First Lieutenant of the Emmet Guards from 1856 until the late war broke out. With Capt. Pat O'Conner and First Lieut. D. M. Ward, he organized a company for service in the Rebellion, and out of the eighty-five men he was the only one not accepted, his rejection being due to his lameness. He has been quite a prominent citizen in Dixon for many years, and in 1883 and 1884 served as City Alderman. During this time the city waterworks were put in and the cemetery also laid out, Mr. Dolan acting as Chairman of the Cemetery Committee. It was largely through his influence that the Protestants and Catholics joined in making this burial city for their dead. Mr. Dolan has led a busy and useful life, and by his industry and perseverance has acquired a comfortable property, being now well-to-do.



**H**ENRY MILLER. The German citizen of the United States, as a rule, brings with him from the Fatherland three traits of character which may almost be termed national, namely, industry, economy and perseverance, and in the broader fields of labor, and wider opportunities offered him in this country, so uses these qualities, as not only to secure for himself and family a competency, but also to leave his impress on the community in which he lives, in all that tends to the betterment of its institutions and enterprises.

The subject of this sketch, who is a good example of the class of men spoken of, is a well-to-do farmer, owning a fine tract of two hundred and seventy acres on sections 30, 31 and 32, Palmyra Township, on the latter of which is situated the

residence; he at present makes his home in Sterling, Ill., where he is living retired. The land was purchased from the Government at an early day, and he with the assistance of his brothers, improved it from the raw prairie into the fine farm which it is to-day. He has been eminently successful, as the appearance of the place indicates, it being well supplied with fine farm buildings and a good brick residence.

Mr. Miller was born in Oldenburg, Germany, November 13, 1822, and is the youngest son of Pope and Theda (Remmers) Miller, natives of Oldenburg, where they were reared and married. The family resided in this city until all their family of five sons and two daughters were born and reared, when they emigrated to the United States in May, 1837, sailing in the vessel "Charlotte" and after a voyage of forty days landed in New York City. From that place they came to Illinois and began life again in the wilds of the Prairie State. They were poor in purse, but possessed of true German thrift and energy, and here laid the foundation of the comfortable fortune which each one at present possesses. They first settled in Cass County, this State, and about one year later the father died there, aged fifty-eight years. In the fall of 1838 the widow with her children came to Palmyra Township, this county, remaining there until the spring of 1850, when she returned to Germany with one of her sons, Fred, and about ten years later died there in her native town of Oldenburg in the seventy-third year of her age. She as well as her husband and children, was a member of the Lutheran Church, and was a most estimable woman.

Henry Miller was married in this township to Miss Fredricka A. Klostermann, also a native of Oldenburg, Germany, born in 1832. She is a daughter of Ernest E. and Alma Klostermann, natives respectively of Saxony and Oldenburg, who were married in that country, and with their family came to the United States in 1845, settling on a farm in Palmyra Township. Here both the parents died, the father in 1890, at the age of eighty-four years, and his wife a few years previously, aged seventy-eight years. They were worthy members of the Lutheran Church. Mrs. Miller was married after coming to this country, and has proved

a worthy wife, assisting her husband in every way possible. She is the mother of nine children, as follows: Mary is the wife of Warren Powers, a farmer in Whiteside County; Charles lives in Monte Christo, Tex.; Rena is the wife of Mathias Rikert, and they live on a farm in this township; Lucy married Henry Lampkin, and they reside on a farm in Grundy County, Iowa; Alma married David Brightweizer, who is a farmer in Adams County, Neb.; Frank married Addie Martin, and resides on the old homestead; Nellie is a teacher in Sterling and resides with her parents; Katie is the wife of Joseph Crombie, and they are farmers in Grundy County, Iowa; and Minnie became the wife of Frank Snyder, and lives in Hitchcock County, Neb.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller are of the same religious faith as their parents and prominent members of the Lutheran Church. In politics Mr. Miller is a Republican, and has held several local offices in the township.



**G**EORGE L. KLOSTERMANN, a well-to-do farmer residing on section 18, Palmyra Township, is a worthy representative of one of the pioneer families of Lee County. His father, Ernest F. Klostermann, came to Illinois in 1845, and settled in this township. He was a native of Saxony, Germany, and came of a good family, in fact royal blood flowed in his veins. He was highly educated and when a young man started to make a tour through Germany. During his travels he married Miss Alma Klustermann, who was below him in social station and for this reason he was ostracized by his family. He then went to Oldenburg and there began life anew with his young bride who proved a true helpmate and faithful companion to him. Some years later with their children they sailed from Bremen to America reaching New York City after a voyage of six weeks. Thence they came to Dixon Ill., and the family has since made Lee County their home. Mr. Klostermann was then in limited circumstances and they had to endure many of the hard-

ships and privations of pioneer life. For a number of years before they got a foothold, they lived in a log cabin, but at length the father, as the result of his ceaseless activity and industry, was enabled to purchase a tract of land in Palmyra Township—the same on which our subject now resides. It continued to be the home of himself and wife until they were called to their final rest. The mother died in 1885, at the age of seventy years and Mr. Klostermann passed away April 25, 1890, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. They were members of the Lutheran Church and were good Christian people. Mr. Klostermann was quite prominent in this community and was a well-read and well informed man. In politics he was a supporter of the Republican principles. Of the family three sons and a daughter are yet living, but one child died in Germany and two after coming to this country. The daughter, Mrs. Henry Miller, is represented elsewhere in this work; Fred is a stock-dealer of Sterling; and Henry is a successful barber of Tipton Iowa.

George L. Klostermann was born in Java, Germany, March 29, 1845, and was therefore only six months old when his parents crossed the Atlantic to America. Practically, his entire life has been passed in this county. Under the parental roof he was reared to manhood and his education was acquired in the public schools. After attaining to mature years he chose as a companion on life's journey Miss Rebecca Lamcken, the wedding ceremony being performed in Prairieville. The lady was born in Blumenthal, Germany, April 2, 1848, and is a daughter of John and Katie (Faler) Lamcken, natives of Hanover, Germany. In early life her father was engaged as manager of a sugar refinery in London. He afterwards returned to Oldenburg, where he married Miss Faler who was his second wife. She survived her marriage some fifteen years and died at the age of forty-eight in the faith of the Lutheran Church, of which she was a member. Some years later Mr. Lamcken departed this life near Bremen, at the age of seventy years. He was a prominent and successful farmer and was a leading member of the Lutheran Church. Mrs. Klostermann with her two brothers and two sisters came to the United States in 1866, locating in Lee

County. Her brothers, George and Henry are now resident farmers of Grundy County, Iowa; one sister is now deceased; and the other returned to the Fatherland.

Mrs. Klostermann was liberally educated in Germany and in addition to her literary studies attended a cooking school in Oldenburg. By her marriage she has become the mother of seven children but lost two, Fred and Harry. The living are Ernest H., Julia F., Edward W., Herbert L. and Nellie A., all yet at home. The children have been provided with good educational advantages and Miss Julia has attained an enviable reputation as a successful school teacher. Mr. Klostermann, his wife and children are members of the Lutheran Church and in political sentiment he is a Prohibitionist.

The home of this family is situated on section 18, Palmyra Township, where our subject owns one hundred and sixty acres of highly improved land that constitutes one of the best farms in the community. A comfortable and substantial residence and good outbuildings are among the improvements and the place is well stocked with high grades of horses and cattle, in fact it is complete in all its appointments and Mr. Klostermann is regarded as a model farmer. He has made of his life a success and his prosperity is certainly well deserved.



**L**EVI RAFENSPERGER, now living in retirement in one of the attractive homes of Franklin Grove, though not one of the earliest settlers of Lee County, may be considered one of its pioneers, as his work as a shrewd, practical farmer when in active business, was a help in developing the soil and making this a prosperous agricultural community.

Our venerable subject was born in Franklin County, Pa., April 4, 1818, a son of Jacob and Magdalena Rafensberger, who were natives of Adams County, Pa. The paternal great-grandfather of our subject was a Swiss emigrant who settled in this country in Colonial times. In early life

Mr. Rafensperger learned the trade of a shoemaker but when he attained the age of twenty-seven years he turned his attention to farming, which he carried on in his native State for some years. In 1851 he determined to avail himself of the golden opportunities afforded by the rich virgin soil of the great Prairie State and came here to locate permanently, he being the only member of his father's family to settle in any part of the West.

After his arrival in Illinois Mr. Rafensperger selected ninety acres of land that was but little improved, lying near the village of Nachusa, for which he paid \$1,000. He had but little money with which to begin his new life amid pioneer scenes, but he had that within him that amply fitted him to cope successfully with the hardships and privations that are sure to follow settlement in a comparatively new and not very thickly populated region. He was strong and active, worked with vigor, making every stroke tell, and he has received ample compensation for his labors. He increased the size of his farm by an additional purchase of one hundred and sixty acres of land near by. He continued to cultivate the soil assiduously and to raise stock until 1883, when he rented his farm to his sons and retired from active business to Franklin Grove where he purchased a fine property and has a home replete with all the comforts of life.

Our subject was married in his native State to Miss Sarah Christman, who was also of Pennsylvania birth, and in her cheerful co-operation he has had needed assistance in the making of a home. They are the parents of seven children, of whom six are living: Jacob, the eldest son, a farmer in Western Iowa; Henry, Lydia, Leah, Ira and Lincoln, the two latter being twins.

A perusal of this brief biography of our subject will show that he is a self-made man and his career illustrates what may be accomplished by determination, perseverance, a capacity for hard work, seconded by native shrewdness and a good insight into business matters. He stands high in his community as a man of thorough honesty and unquestioned integrity, as an obliging neighbor, as a true husband and faithful father. He is a Christian and an active member of the German Baptist

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THOMAS CLAYTON.

Church, although he was reared in the Lutheran faith. He is independent in his politics, usually, however, giving his support to the Republican party.



**THOMAS CLAYTON**, the gentleman whose portrait appears on the opposite page was for many years a leading farmer of Nelson Township and improved one of its finest farms. He was also prominent in his public life, and his memory will ever be held in reverence for his service in its upbuilding, as well as for his good influence in promoting the spiritual welfare of the community, where he was well known and honored.

Mr. Clayton was born in Columbia County, Pa., April 24, 1804. His parents were Pennsylvania-by birth, but his grandparents were English, who coming to this country in Colonial times, settled in his native county on a farm, which was their home during their remaining years, the grandfather being nearly one hundred years old when he died. William Clayton spent his entire life on the old homestead as a successful farmer, dying when nearly eighty. He married Mrs. Elizabeth Kent, who was a native of New Jersey, her parents, who were of Dutch stock, also having their birth in that State, going from there to Pennsylvania when she was young. After the death of her husband she removed with a daughter to Ashland, Schuylkill County, Pa., and there died at the age of seventy-two. Both she and her husband were reared in the Quaker faith, and adhered to it all their lives.

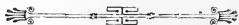
Our subject passed his boyhood in his native township, Catawissa, and in the village of the same name learned the trade of a blacksmith, which he followed in addition to carpentering until he came to Illinois in 1836. He was then in the prime of a vigorous life, and had determined to try farming on the new virgin soil of this part of the country. His means would not admit of his buying land at first, so he farmed as a renter a few years, until he had gathered together enough money to purchase the farm on section 24, Nelson Township in 1837, on

which he made his home until his untimely death February 4, 1895. Devoting himself assiduously to the improvement of his farm, Mr. Clayton placed in two hundred acres under the tillage, erected good barns and a commodious residence and had a well ordered place entirely free from debt. He left a small fortune, and what is better than riches, a good name, which will ever be honored as belonging to a man who was prominent in the development of the township and county, active in their public life, and devoted to the good of his community both materially and morally. He was greatly missed, as he had made himself useful in various ways as a citizen. He was Supervisor for a number of years, representing Nelson Township on the County Board, and once on the United States jury in Chicago for one month. He was sensible and sound in his political views, and always stood firmly by the Republican party. After coming to the State he united with the Lutheran Church, and died in that faith.

Mr. Clayton was married to Mrs. Mary Wright in Columbia County, Pa., at the bride-home on the banks of the beautiful Susquehanna River. Mrs. Clayton was born near Altoona, Pa., April 4, 1807, a daughter of John and Mary E. (Go) Wright, natives of Pennsylvania, who lived and died in that State, spending the most of the lives on a farm in Columbia County. Mr. Wright died from injuries received some years before falling from a well in his barn when it was but fifty-seven at the time of his demise, while his wife, who survived him, lived to the advanced age of eighty-eight years. They were both members of the Lutheran Church, and prominent in their community, where they were greatly respected for their many virtues. Mrs. Clayton's grandfather was a Scotchman, who coming to the United States when young, died on his farm in Pennsylvania many years later, at the age of eighty years. He is remembered by his grandchildren as being a very bright, active man of his year, who took a prominent part in the affairs of his township.

Since the death of her husband Mrs. Clayton assisted by her son, has had charge of the farm

and it is kept up to the same high standard it had attained under her husband's supervision. She is a very capable manager, understanding how everything ought to go on a well-regulated farm, and having a clear comprehension of all business matters pertaining to it. She is also an excellent housewife, and under her supervision her household matters always go smoothly. She is a motherly, noble-hearted woman, and has many friends in Nelson Township. She is a member of the Lutheran Church, in which her husband was prominent as an official member during his life. Mrs. Clayton is the mother of six children, of whom but one survives, her son Owen L., who is a fine young man, a hard worker and an intelligent farmer, assisting his mother in operating his father's homestead. He married Miss Mary C. Menseh, who was born, reared and educated in Pennsylvania. She is a daughter of Michael and Margaret Menseh, who were also Pennsylvanians, and Michael Menseh died in his native state some years ago. The mother is yet living, at a venerable age. She is a member of the Lutheran Church, as was her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Owen Clayton have five children, all at home with them except Hattie E. and named as follows:—Hattie E., Thomas, Charles, Clark and Harry A. Hattie E. married Alonzo Birdsall and lives in Whiteside County; she has one son named Orrin. The children of our subject who are deceased are Delilah, John, Lafayette, and M. Alice, who died in childhood; and Charles, who died of diphtheria at the age of twenty-two.



**H**ON. WILLIAM ELLERY IVES. The best biography of an honorable and influential man is sure to be his own works. The simple recital of prominent events in the life of Mr. Ives needs not to be elaborated by the biographical writer, and the personality of names, places and dates is important only as they enable the reader to trace the steps of his mental growth. He is widely known as an eminent attorney-at-law and is the pioneer lawyer of Amboy, where his

shingle has been hung to the breeze since 1854. He has been foremost in all important measures for the development of the city, and was the prime mover in founding and carrying on the first newspaper ever published here.

Ellery, Chautauqua County, N. Y., was the native place of Mr. Ives, and May 24, 1821, the date of his birth. His parents, Almon and Nancy (Tomblin) Ives, were natives respectively of Vermont and New York, and the former was engaged as a farmer and civil engineer. At Malone, a town on the St. Lawrence River in New York, he married, and in 1816 settled in the western part of that State when it was an unsettled country. In 1834 he migrated to Illinois under promise to survey the public lands, but when he came West Andrew Jackson, then President, concluded that to the "victor belongs the spoil," and as Mr. Ives was a Whig, his services were not desired. He settled in that part of La Salle County which in 1840 became Kendall County, and improved a farm. In the public affairs of the county he became quite prominent, serving as the first Recorder of Deeds, and afterward becoming Judge of the County Court, which office he held several terms.

In 1854 the father of our subject removed to Bloomington, this State, and a year later came to Amboy, where he died March 5, 1864, aged seventy-five years and eight months. During the last years of his life he was a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and in his religious sentiments he was an earnest member of the Baptist Church. The mother of our subject died at Amboy, April 22, 1862. There were nine children in the family, of which our subject was a member, as follows:—Almond B., a lawyer at Bloomington, Ill., where he died; Simeon P., a minister in the Baptist Church, now residing in Missoula, Mont.; William E., of this sketch; Franklin B., a physician, whose home is in Chicago; Isaac S., formerly a physician at Oswego, Ill., where he died in 1852; Sarah M., who married Alfred Tucker and resides at Ottawa, Ill.; Enos J., a member of the Board of Trade at Chicago, and a resident of Woodlawn; Ruth A., who married Willis Hawthorn, and died in Amboy; and Nancy,



who became the wife of Warren C. Sears, and makes her home in Burlington, Kan.

When the Ives family moved to Illinois William E. was but a boy entering upon his teens. His youth was passed upon a farm, and he received a good education at Grandville Academy. Having resolved to enter upon the practice of law, he attended the National Law School at Balston Spa, N. Y., where he graduated in 1852. He first located for the practice of law in Oswego, Ill., whence he came to Amboy, becoming first attorney here, and now enjoying the distinction of being the oldest lawyer in Lee County. Besides attending to his large practice, he manages a stock farm which he owns, located near Amboy and comprising one thousand acres.

On December 8, 1841, occurred the marriage of Mr. Ives to Miss Susan R., daughter of James Ryon, and sister of Dr. Ryon, of Amboy, whose sketch is presented in another portion of this volume. Mrs. Ives was born April 17, 1821, in Tioga County, Pa., and her union with Mr. Ives has been blessed by the birth of five children, two of whom died in childhood. The survivors are—Charles E., a lawyer of Amboy; Esther N., wife of Elijah A. Winn, of Amboy; and James R., of Denver, Col. The latter is a graduate of Rochester University, N. Y., and a lawyer by profession, having practiced for a time in Dixon, this State. Thence he removed to Denver in 1881 and there published a paper called the *Mining Review*. He has devoted considerable attention to literary pursuits, and as a writer possesses more than ordinary ability, wielding a ready pen and being known as a forcible illustrator of truths. Financially, he has been very successful and is now devoting his energies mainly to real estate, although he was recently interested in the Colorado Business Directory as its publisher.

During his earlier years Mr. Ives was a staunch adherent of the Whig party, but has been a member of the Republican party since he served as delegate to the convention which organized the party in this State. In 1860 he made "stump" speeches for Abraham Lincoln for the Presidency, and has contributed his influence to the success of the party. Frequently he is called upon to serve as

delegate to District and State conventions, and in many positions of trust and responsibility he has served, always with distinguished ability. As Mayor of the city of Amboy he served creditably for four years and contributed no little to the development of the resources of the place. He was also States Attorney for six years. He is serving as Treasurer of the Baptist Church, of which he is a consistent member. Socially, he belongs to the Royal Arch Masons. His home is one of the most elegant in Amboy and is the only residence here which is heated by hot water. His success has not been attained without great effort on his part, for when he came here he was quite poor, and it has been only by the exercise of great industry and shrewd judgment that he has become well-to-do.



**S**ARDIAS VOSBURGH is a prominent member of the farming community of this county, who has not only been active in its agricultural development, but has borne a conspicuous part in its public affairs. He is one of the principal men of his calling in Willow Creek Township, which he ably represents on the County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Vosburgh was born in Lackawanna Township, Luzerne County, Pa., July 8, 1836. His father was Charles Vosburgh, and he was a native of Livingston County, N. Y., a son of Cornelius Vosburgh, who is supposed to have been born in the Empire State, where he carried on business as a farmer until his removal to Pennsylvania. He became an early settler of Lackawanna Township. He bought a large tract of land in the wilderness, cleared a farm, and resided there until the fall of 1854, when he came to Illinois. He purchased a farm in La Salle County, a half mile north of the village of Earlville, in Earlville Township, and made that his home until he closed his eyes in death in 1864. The maiden name of his wife was Permelia Pulver. She died on the Earlville farm in the fall of 1877.

The father of our subject was young when his parents removed to Pennsylvania, and there he

grew to a vigorous manhood, and in due time took unto himself a wife in the person of Miss Anlunvance E. Millesant, a native of the State, and daughter of Israel and Rachel Millesant. After marriage he settled on a part of his father's old homestead, and resided there until 1854, when he sold his property there and took up his abode at Clark's Summit, Lackawanna County, the same State. He made his home there until his life was rounded out in death in February, 1890. His wife also died on that farm, her demise occurring in the fall of 1881.

The subject of this biographical review was reared in his native county amid its pleasant scenes, and obtained a sound, practical education in the district school, which was supplemented by one term's attendance at Kingston Seminary. In April, 1855, at the age of nineteen, well-equipped for the battle of life, and ambitious to make something of himself, he left the shelter of the parental roof to start out in the world on his own account. He turned his face towards the boundless prairies of this State, as his father owned land in Shabbona Township, DeKalb County, and he shrewdly forewarned that a young man of energy, enterprise and tenacity of purpose must of necessity do well in tilling the rich soil of this section of the country. He rented his father's land until 1867, and did well in its cultivation. In that year he invested a part of his money in one hundred and twenty acres of wild prairie that is included in his present farm in Willow Creek Township. He set to work with his customary vigor, and in the years that have elapsed has wrought a great change by the many substantial improvements that he has made, so that he has here one of the finest pieces of property in this locality. He has erected a commodious set of buildings, has placed his land under the cultivation, has planted an abundance of fruit and shade trees, and everything about the place betokens the presence of one who fully understands his business, and carries it out in a systematic and well-ordered manner, so as to reap the best results by applying only the most approved methods of conducting agriculture. Mr. Vosburgh has been fortunate in his farming operations, has made them remunerative, and has been enabled to add

more land to his original purchase, so that he now has two hundred and forty acres of well-improved realty.

Mr. Vosburgh was married in 1864, to Miss Ellen Atherton, a native of Lackawanna Township, Luzerne County, Pa., and a daughter of Joseph Atherton. She understands well the art of making a home cozy and cheerful, and co-operates with her husband in dispensing a pleasant hospitality to whomsoever of their numerous friends crosses their threshold, or to any stranger that may happen within their gates. They have three children—William, Fannie and Nellie. Fannie is the wife of William Fleming, of Willow Creek Township.

A man of our subject's calibre, high standing, and well-known business tact possesses in an eminent degree those qualifications that fit one for public life, and his fellow-citizens, recognizing this fact, have frequently called him to important civic stations. Thus in 1883 he was elected Supervisor to represent Willow Creek on the County Board of Supervisors, was re-elected to that office in 1884, and in 1885 was elected Assessor, to which position he was re-elected in 1886. In 1887 he was again honored by election to his former office as Supervisor, and has served continuously since, proving to be a valuable official, and his influence is felt in the enactment of all measures that have accrued to the public good from the time he entered upon the duties of his position. He has always been a Republican in politics, and his party has no firmer advocate in the township.



**W**ARREN DE F. HOLLY, who represents the dairy interests of Palmyra Township, he being extensively engaged in that line, as well as in general farming and stock-raising, is a native born son of Lee County, coming of one of its oldest pioneer families, and the homestead that he operates and occupies on section 36, of the aforementioned township is his birthplace. Here he was born June 22, 1849, and this has always been his home. He attended the local schools

during his boyhood and gained a practical education, and since arriving at years of discretion has devoted himself to farming and the dairy business, for which the farm is in every way admirably adapted. Its two hundred acres of well-tilled soil affords ample pasturage for a fine herd of forty cows, the farm also being otherwise well stocked, and its equipments are complete as regards commodious buildings, etc.

Our subject is a son of the venerable James N. Holly, a retired farmer of this township, whose name will always occupy an honorable place in the history of Lee County as one of its early settlers who did a good work in redeeming a portion of its soil from the wilderness. He was born in the Province of Ontario, Canada, September 15, 1806. His father, Jesse Holly, who was a son of Noah Holly, was a native of Orange County, N. Y., where he grew to manhood, and was married to Miss Anna E. DeSharrar, who is supposed to have been a native of York State. Jesse Holly and his wife went to the Province of Ontario, Canada, to live, and after the birth of their children returned to the States, and took up their residence in Illinois, spending their remaining days amid the pioneer scenes of Franklin Grove in this township, where Mrs. Holly died when about sixty years of age, and Jesse Holly when past ninety-six, leaving behind them good records as two of our most worthy pioneers.

James N. Holly grew to manhood in his Canadian birthplace and subsequently crossed the border to this country and settled among the pioneers of Ohio. He was married in that State to Miss Sophronia Harrison, their marriage taking place near Bellville. She was a native of Ohio, and was a daughter of Norman and Deliverance (Standish) Harrison, who were also born in that State, coming of some of its earliest families, and they were of distinguished ancestry, Norman Harrison belonging to the Harrison family that has figured so conspicuously in the history of this country, he being a cousin of General William Henry Harrison, the President and grandfather of our present ruler; while his wife was a direct descendant of Captain Miles Standish, one of the Pilgrim fathers. Norman Harrison and wife left Ohio several years

after their marriage and going to Clinton County, Iowa, died there when full of years. They were farmers by occupation, and were well and favorably known.

The parents of our subject lived on a farm in Ohio until after the birth of their first two children, and then they came across the intervening country with wagon and teams to Illinois. They located on a settler's claim in Franklin Grove, Mrs. Holly being the first white woman to live there, and her brother Charles Harrison took the first claim that was taken in that grove or in that region for a distance of many miles. They made some slight improvements, but two years later sold their claim and moved still further Westward, crossing the Mississippi, and taking up a claim on the west bank of that river on the site of the present city of Clinton, Iowa. Mr. Holly, with a man by the name of Murray, and possibly one or two others, laid out a town on his claim, and gave it the name of New York. The town, however, never materialized to any great extent, as during the two years that the Hollys remained there its population never exceeded fifteen whites. The Indians, who were generally peaceable, were numerous in that region, ranging up and down the river at will, and occasionally gave our friends a call. One fall night they were roused from their slumbers by some fifteen of these dusky visitants creeping under the quilts which served as a door to their primitive dwelling and arranging themselves comfortably around the fire in the rude fireplace.

After some two years' residence in Iowa, the father of our subject decided to return to his former settlement at Franklin Grove, and locate in this county permanently. After a time he came into Palmyra Township, and secured a desirable tract of land from the Government, which has since been transformed into the fine farm which is now owned by his son. After living on it to make a home, he went to Dixon to keep a hotel, but was very unfortunate in that venture, as the very first night that the establishment was opened it was burned to the ground. About this time he also lost heavily by having to pay a bail bond, which amounted to \$1,000 for his share, for the land

office agent at this point. He afterward devoted himself exclusively to farming with good success until the infirmities of age obliged him to abandon the arduous labors connected with his calling. September 15, 1891, was his birthday, and marked for him a long and honorable life of eighty-five years' duration, and during that time he had witnessed the wonderful progress of the country at large, which has been made through discoveries and inventions that have revolutionized the world; he had been an eye-witness of that which more nearly concerns him, the remarkable growth of his county, which he has aided by his work, and which has been his home for so many years. He was formerly a Republican in politics, but later a democrat. His first vote was cast for his kinsman, Gen. William H. Harrison, and he also supported Stephen A. Douglas at the polls, he having been a schoolmate in his boyhood days. His wife is yet living, and is nearly eighty-three years' old, having been born February 15, 1809. Both have long been connected with the Christian Church. James N. Holly died September 16, 1891.

Warren Holly is one of eight children, the youngest son, and the youngest but one of the family, three of whom are now dead. He was married in this, his native township, to Miss Mary Catherine Carpenter. One daughter, Belle A., a bright and accomplished young lady, completes their pleasant home circle. Two other children have been born to them who are now dead, James, and a child who died in infancy. Mrs. Holly is a native of Bradford County, Pa., born October 1850, and one of the three daughters, all of whom are living, of Edward and Eliza (Goodwin) Carpenter. Her parents were natives respectively of Pennsylvania and New York, and were married in the former State. Mr. Carpenter was a carpenter by trade, and carried on his calling in Pennsylvania until after the birth of his children, when he emigrated with his family to Dixon, in this county, in 1854. He pursued carpentering in that city until his death in 1864 when only forty-two years' old, he having in the meantime spent six years in Minnesota. His wife died January 16, 1890, aged sixty-four years. Both were consistent christians of the Methodist persuasion. In politics, Mr. Car-

penyer was a Republican. Mr. Holly and his amiable wife are progressive people, who occupy a high place in their community where they are so well known, and their cordial, unaffected, hospitable manners have won them the warm regard of all with whom they associate. Mr. Holly is a Republican, and as a loyal citizen should, has always manifested a keen interest in his native township, and has done all in his power to promote its welfare. He has held the office of Township Collector, and performed the duties thus devolving upon him to the entire satisfaction of all concerned.



**H**ENRY UHL. This gentleman is one of the well-informed and progressive men of this county, who, from a small beginning has built up a comfortable fortune, and is now enjoying the result of his industry and enterprise. He resides in Dixon, where he owns a good home on Hennepin Avenue, removing to this city in the spring of 1882, from his farm on section 12, South Dixon Township, on which he had resided for many years.

In 1852 Mr. Dixon took up a tract of raw prairie land which he cultivated and improved until now it is an excellent farm of two hundred and sixty acres. He came to this county a poor man, and in 1853 began the business of general farming, in which he has since been engaged. He was a native of Allegany County, Md., his birth taking place November 19, 1827, and continued a resident of that county until coming to Illinois in 1852. His father, Peter Uhl, was born in 1794, and a native of the same county as his son, his father, Charles Uhl, having settled there about 1785. The latter gentleman was born in Germany and was only one year old when his father, Michael Uhl, emigrated to this country and in Colonial days, and some years prior to the Revolutionary War, settled in Pennsylvania, Somerset County, where he and his wife both died when quite aged. They were members of the Lutheran Church, and were estimable people. Charles Uhl, the grandfather of our subject, was one of a family of three

sons and one daughter, and when sixteen years of age enlisted in the Revolutionary Army, and served during the last year of that struggle. After his marriage in Pennsylvania to a lady of German birth, they settled on a new farm in Allegany County, Md., and there lived and died when about sixty years old. They were worthy members of the Lutheran Church. Their large family consisted of twelve sons and three daughters, of whom Peter was one of the elder ones. All are now deceased, most of them having lived to maturity, and becoming heads of families.

Peter Uhl, when a young man, learned the trade of a hatter under Mr. Johnson, in Berlin, Somerset County, Pa., following that business until in the '40s, when trade becoming dull, he quit the business and became a farmer, following that occupation until 1852, when he left the East and came with his wife and family to Illinois, locating on a farm in South Dixon Township, and there lived until his death in 1871, at the age of seventy-eight years. He was originally a Whig, and later a Republican in politics, and was a good and worthy citizen, making many friends in the community where he resided. He was for many years a Justice of the Peace, and held other local offices. His wife died in 1876. She was born in Baltimore County, Md., in 1791, her maiden name being Hager. Her parents were born in this country, and were of German and Scotch ancestry. Both she and her husband were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Henry Uhl, our subject, is the youngest but one in a family of five children. One son, Samuel H., was a soldier in the War of the Rebellion, and died as a result of his services in that struggle. Our subject and a sister, Mrs. Susan Beall, now of Allegany County, Md., are all the children now living. Mr. Uhl was married in his native county to Miss Susan Wilhelm, who was born in Somerset County, Pa. Her father died when she was quite young, and her mother spent her last years in Marion, where she died in 1872, at a ripe old age. They were the parents of three sons and three daughters.

Mr. Uhl is a prominent man in his community, being much interested in politics, and is a staunch member of the Republican party. He has held a

number of local offices, is well-informed on all the issues of the day, and takes a lively interest in everything pertaining to the growth and welfare of this county.



**C**HARLES TRAINER. All honor is due to the brave veterans of the late war, who have since done good service in peaceful pursuits in various walks of life, and have helped to increase the wealth and prosperity of the country saved by their valor. Our subject was one of that great and glorious army that preserved the Union, devoting some of the best years of his early manhood to fighting for the Government under whose flag he has spent the most of his life. He is a farmer by occupation, and has a farm on section 22, Ashton Township, that compares in all respects with the best in its vicinity.

Mr. Trainer was born in Lower Canada, July 4, 1839, a son of John Trainer, who was a native of Ireland. After coming to this country, he had settled in that part of Canada where his son was born, and he subsequently started for California in the days of the excitement over the discovery of gold, and it is supposed that he died on the way, as he was never heard from again. His wife, whose maiden name was Ann Hagan, and who was also of Irish birth, died in Brandon, Vt.

Our subject passed his boyhood in his Canadian home, whence in 1856 he crossed the border into New York, and when the Civil War broke out he was living in St. Lawrence County. In October of that year he offered his services to his adopted country, enlisting in Company H, Sixtieth New York Infantry, and he served with credit throughout the remainder of the strife, a period of nearly four long and weary years. His efficiency as a soldier and his courage were put to the test in the big battles of Gettysburg and Chancellorsville, in many skirmishes with the enemy, and in the numerous engagements in Gen. Sherman's famous "March to the Sea." He was often on detached service in the brigade pioneers, and from Atlanta to the sea was a brigade forager.

After his experience of life on Southern battlefields, Mr. Trainer returned to St. Lawrence County, N. Y., and after remaining there a few months, came to Ogle County, Ill., in the spring of 1866. A year later he removed to Lee County, and has since been a resident of Ashton Township, with the exception of four years spent in Ogle County. His life-work has always been farming, and he has made a success of it. He has two hundred and forty acres of excellent land, which is in a fine condition as to tillage, and is amply provided with suitable buildings, and all the conveniences for carrying on agriculture. He is a busy man, is proficient in his calling, is a good manager, and stands well in his township as to his credit in money matters and his reputation in general. He has taken an active part in political affairs since he came here to make his home, and has thrown his influence on the side of the Republican party. His war record is commemorated by his connection with the Gen. Hewitt Post, G. A. R., of Franklin Grove, as one of its most respected members. He has taken part in the management of local affairs as Highway Commissioner of Ashton Township.

During his residence in Ogle County, it was Mr. Trainer's good fortune to secure a most excellent wife by his marriage with Miss Emily L. Plantz, a native of Nashua Township, Light House Point, Ogle County, Ill., and a daughter of one of its pioneer families. These five children have been born of their pleasant wedded life: John E., Ruth E., Frank (who died when about three years old), Minnie A. and Nellie A.

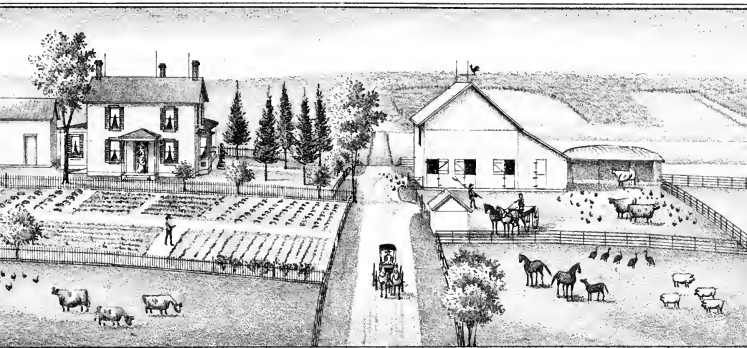


**J**OHN W. WINGERT is one of the enterprising and well-known farmers of the county. His home is on section 29, Nashua Township, where he owns a valuable farm of two hundred acres under a high state of cultivation, well-watered by Franklin Creek and complete in all its appointments. There is a good residence, (view of which will be noticed on another

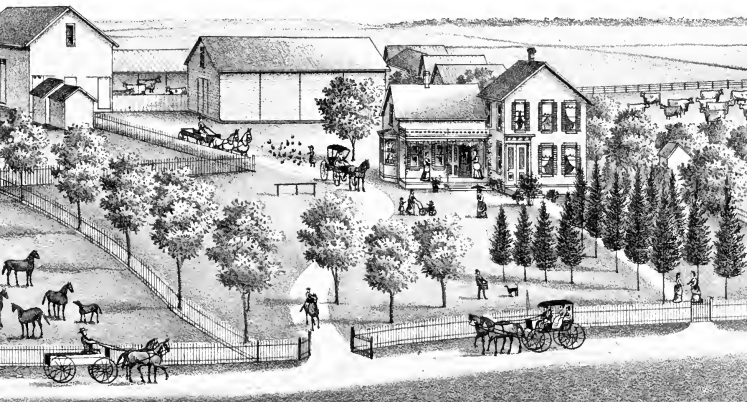
page) as well as the necessary outbuildings, and the farm is well stocked with horses, cattle and hogs. It has been the property of our subject since 1877, but his residence in the county covers a much longer period, the date of his arrival being October 1, 1852.

Mr. Wingert was born in Greencastle, Pa., July 19, 1831. Record says that the family was of German origin and its members were early settlers of Franklin County, Pa. Jacob Wingert, the grandfather of our subject, was there reared to manhood upon a farm and spent his entire life near Greencastle, dying at the ripe old age of eighty-seven years. He is one of nature's noblemen and the upright life which he lived won him the esteem of all. He was long a minister of the United Brethren Church, with which his wife was also connected as a faithful member. They had a family of eleven children, nearly all of whom reached mature years, were married and left families. Only one yet survives—Daniel, who is now living in Iowa at the age of seventy-five years.

The father of our subject, Henry Wingert, a native of Franklin County, Pa., learned the tanner's trade in his youth. In the Keystone State he married Anna Bentz, who was also born in that locality, her parents being natives of Pennsylvania, of German lineage. After the birth of three children, Henry Wingert emigrated with his family to Preble County, Ohio, where for five years he carried on a tannery. He then purchased eighty acres of land, upon which he made his home until 1852, when selling out he emigrated to Illinois, and cast his lot with the early settlers of Lee County, where he arrived on the 1st of October. Upon a farm of one hundred and sixty acres which he soon afterward purchased they began life in the West and continued to reside there until called to their final home. Mr. Wingert, who was born February 23, 1804, died on the 24th of August, 1891. His wife had previously been called home, dying suddenly December 24, 1877. Her birth occurred May 4, 1805. For years they have been members of the Methodist Church and in politics, Mr. Wingert was a stalwart Republican. In their family were fifteen children, nine of whom are yet living and all are married with the exception of one



RESIDENCE OF JOHN W. WINGERT, SEC<sup>s</sup> 28.&29, NACHUSA TP, LEE CO., ILL.



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM LANDAU, SEC. 6, LEE CENTER TP, LEE CO., ILL.

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daughter. Success has attended them in life and they are now well-to-do people.

John Wingert was the third of the family. In his youth he was innred to hard labor and his educational advantages were those of the common schools. After coming to Illinois he beame acquainted with Miss Hannah M. Hittle and they were married in Nachusa Township, January 28, 1869. The lady is a native of Columbia County, Pa., and in 1842, when a young maiden, accompanied her parents to Illinois, the family settling in Nachusa Township upon a new farm. Her father, Jacob Hittle, died at the age of sixty-nine years, and his wife, whose maiden name was Nancy Culp, departed this life when seventy years of age. He was a member of the Christian Church and his wife held the religious views of the Dunkards.

After the breaking out of the late war, Mr. Wingert responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting on the 13th of August, 1862, as a member of Company G, Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry, under Capt. Williams. Col. Ryan commanded the regiment, which was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee and was first under fire at the battle of Prairieville, October 8, 1862. In January, 1863, the troops participated in the battle of Stone River, where the Seventy-fifth sustained heavy losses; later were in the battles of Lookout Mountain and luka, and in many other engagements followed the stars and stripes. Mr. Wingert was honorably discharged from the service at the close of the war June 28, 1865. He went to Washington and attended the theatre on the night that President Lincoln was assassinated and saw the shot fired. His health was seriously impaired from exposure during the service and the hardships of army life.

Returning to the North, Mr. Wingert resumed farming to which he has since devoted his energies. Six children have been born to him and his estimable wife, five yet living—William B., Fred A., Adelbert G. and Burton B. and Bertha B., twins. They lost one son, Charles H. Mr. and Mrs. Wingert are members of the Methodist Church, contribute liberally to its support and in its work take an active interest. In politics, he is a Republican, but has never sought public office. He is a member of George W. Hewitt Post, No. 398, G. A. R.,

of Franklin Grove. Throughout the community he is recognized as a successful farmer and an influential citizen who is true to every duty as he was to the country in her hour of peril.



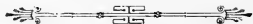
**W**ILLIAM LANDAU. The German-born citizens of our country are always in the front ranks of progress and enterprise, loyal to their adopted land and forming an intelligent and industrious class in every community in which they make their homes. Among this class may be mentioned the subject of this sketch, who is a farmer residing on section 6, Lee Center Township.

Mr. Landau was born in the northern part of Germany January 4, 1836. He was reared to manhood in his native country remaining there until twenty-five years old. He then emigrated to America landing in New York City and at once came to Illinois, settling in Sterling where he remained six weeks. He then came to Lee County, where he worked out by the month for one year in China Township, then removing to Lee Center Township where he worked as a day laborer for some four or five years. Afterward he rented land in Lee Center Township for two years and having saved sufficient money, became the owner of a farm where he lived some twenty years. At the expiration of that time, having been prosperous in his worldly affairs, he purchased his present place on section 6, where he has since resided. That he has been energetic, industrious and persevering, is evined by the fact that from a very small beginning he has acquired his present large property of seven hundred and sixteen and a half acres, where he is carrying on farming and stock-raising to a large extent.

July 16, 1861, Mr. Landau was married in China Township, Lee County, to Martha E. Moller. Mrs. Landau was born in Germany March 30, 1838, and departed this life at her residence in Lee Center Township, March 25, 1890. To this couple were born a large family comprising eleven children, as follows: Christena, deceased; John; Christena;

Katie; Anna; Henry; William; Lizzie. Mary, Christie, Minnie.

In politics Mr. Landau is a Republican, but has been too much occupied in his own affairs to become an office seeker. He is a member of the Reformed Church to which his wife also belonged. The family are well and favorably known. They occupy a comfortable residence, a view of which with its rural surroundings is presented on another page.



**B**ENJAMIN F. SHAW, the well-known editor and proprietor of the *Telegraph*, the leading Republican organ of Lee County and one of its best newspapers in every way, has long exercised a marked influence on the affairs of this section of the county, not only professionally but as a citizen of progressive views and notable public spirit, who has the dearest interest of his country at heart, is influential in its political life and in all that tends to promote the social, moral and educational condition of his community. In connection with the weekly newspaper is the evening *Telegraph*, a leading daily newspaper of this section of the State.

Mr. Shaw was born in Waverly, N. Y., March 31, 1831. His father, Alanson B. Shaw, was born in Bradford County, Pa., in 1801, and was of Scotch blood, his father being one of four brothers who came to this country from their native Scotland in the days before the Revolution and one of the brothers, for whom our subject was named, fought in that great struggle of the American Colonies for freedom. The father of our subject married Philomela, daughter of Zephon Flower, an early settler of Athens, Pa., going there from Connecticut. He was a Revolutionary soldier and was one of the last on the Revolutionary pension rolls, living to the advanced age of ninety-six years.

When he started out in the world in his youthful days Benjamin F. Shaw made his way from his native State to Iowa, which at that time was a Territory. He remained there for a period of two years, and then recrossing the Mississippi River to Rock Island, he took the first steps that have led

him to a high position in the editorial profession by acquiring, in that then village, a good knowledge of the printing business. In the fall of 1851 he came to Dixon to take charge of the printing office of the Dixon *Telegraph*, of which he subsequently became the owner by purchase, and has since edited it with marked success, devoting his energies to making a newspaper that should educate its constituency and be a potent factor in the upbuilding of city and county. This he has accomplished and the journal, which owes its strength and high reputation to his genius, takes the lead in advocating whatever will be for the highest good of the community. In all matters pertaining to the advancement of society, education and politics, our subject takes a keen and discriminating interest, and through the columns of his paper, which has a wide circulation both in Dixon and the neighboring districts, he has many times been instrumental in securing for the city various advantages of a nature more or less important. As before mentioned the *Telegraph* is one of the accepted organs of the Republican party, whose policy is set forth in a clear and able manner in its editorials, which are noted for their vigor and independence, although they are never offensively partisan.

Mr. Shaw has by no means confined his talents to his profession but he has taken a conspicuous part in public life, and has held various prominent offices with honor to himself and to his constituency. He has been a leader in the councils of the Republicans of this section since the organization of the party. He was one of the editors that met at Decatur in the winter of 1856, to call the first Republican State Convention, and on that occasion he was in consultation with Abraham Lincoln on the Committee on Resolutions. In 1860 our subject was elected Clerk and Recorder of Lee County Circuit Court, was re-elected to the same office in 1864 and served until 1868, carrying the same energy and business acumen into the administration of the affairs of that office that have ever characterized his management of his newspaper. In 1876 Gov. Cullom appointed him State Canal Commissioner, and he served six years as one of the Board of three Commissioners who had charge of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, the Illinois River

Improvements and other Illinois public works. He has always been a warm friend of the city of Dixon and has been most earnest and liberal in advancing its interests, both personally and through his paper. When the late Col. Noble was appointed one of the commissioners to locate a soldier's home in Illinois he requested Mr. Shaw to accompany him to the meetings of the commissioners in Springfield and Chicago to act in behalf of Dixon's claims as a suitable site for the proposed building. Mr. Shaw has always been an earnest worker in the Hennepin Canal enterprise, and was, indeed, the Secretary of the first Hennepin Canal meeting ever held, which was nearly a quarter of a century since in Rock Island. Unsolicited on his part he was in December, 1891, appointed Postmaster at Dixon.



**HON. JOHN DAWSON CRABTREE**, Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Court, has distinguished himself in various walks of life—as a soldier, who obtained military honor during the Civil War; as a statesman; and as a lawyer of unusual ability, whose legal talents have raised him to an important position on the bench of this State. He was born in the city of Nottingham, England, November 19, 1837. His father, Jonathan Heward Crabtree, was a native of the same city and was a son of Samuel Crabtree, who was a soldier in the British army, and with the exception of the time when he was with his regiment in the East Indies, he spent his entire life in England. The maiden name of his wife was Heward. She was born in Yorkshire, and passed her last days in Nottingham.

The father of our subject was one of ten children, and was the only member of the family who came to America. He lived in his native land until some time after his marriage, and was engaged as a manufacturer of bone buttons in the city of Nottingham. He was a man of an ambitious, progressive spirit, and believing that he could better his fortunes in the New World, he resolved to emigrate to these shores, and January

8, 1848, with his wife and five children, he embarked at Liverpool in a sailing-vessel, and after a voyage of seven weeks and three days landed in New York City. The family remained in Troy until November of that year, and then came to Illinois by the way of Erie Canal to Buffalo, and from there by the lakes to Chicago. Mr. Crabtree bought a tract of Government land near Pectonica, and he and his wife and children occupied a log house there until 1860, when they went to Beloit, Wis. In 1852 they removed from that place to Rockford, Ill., and the father became a contractor on the Chicago & Galena Railway, now known as the Northwestern.

In February, 1853, Mr. Crabtree came with his family to Dixon and took the contract to grade the first three miles of the Illinois Central Railway, extending north from the river. Later he engaged in agricultural pursuits, and was an honored resident of Dixon until his death in 1884. His faithful wife, who had accompanied him across the waters to help him build up a new home in a strange land, had preceded him to that "undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns," dying at Dixon in November, 1878. She was also a native of Nottingham, England, and her maiden name was Ann Dawson, she being a daughter of John Dawson. She was the mother of these five children: Eliza, who married E. H. Brookner and is now deceased; Jonathan, who served his adopted country in the late war for three years, and is now a resident of Rogers, Denton County, Ark.; Henry, who resides at Dixon; and Lucy G., the wife of Cyrus Williams, of Brookfield, Mo.

The subject of this biography was in his eleventh year when he came to this country with his parents, and still retains a pleasant recollection of his old home and of the momentous journey across the ocean to the new one. He received his early education in the common schools, supplemented by a course at the Dixon High School, and finally entered the office of J. K. Edsall to prepare himself for the legal profession. His studies were interrupted by the breaking out of the Rebellion, and throwing aside his books, he was among the first to spring to the defense of the

Union in response to the first call for troops, and for four long and weary years he nobly served his adopted country with all the fervor, self-sacrifice and patriotic devotion of a native-born citizen, and won imperishable laurels on a many hard-fought battle-field. His name was enrolled as a private in Company A, Thirteenth Illinois Infantry, April 17, 1861. He soon began to make a record for himself as a valiant and fearless soldier, and September 25, 1861, he was commissioned Second Lieutenant of Company D, of Bowers Battalion, Missouri Cavalry.

November 5, 1862, our subject was promoted to be Captain of Company H, Ninth Missouri Cavalry, which company was afterward transferred to the Third Missouri Cavalry and designated as Company M. He was at the front until he was honorably discharged August 16, 1864, and during that time had been brevetted Major for conspicuous merit. In the reports of his superiors to the War Department he was several times mentioned in complimentary terms, of which he was highly deserving, as his intelligent knowledge of military tactics, his firmness in maintaining discipline among his men, whom he inspired to follow wherever he led, and his promptness and efficiency in obeying orders made him a valuable officer. After he gave up his command on the field the Major's services were required at Springfield, Ill., in the mustering in of troops and despatching them to the front, and he remained on duty there until the last of October, 1865.

Returning to Dixon at the close of his military career, our subject allowed only a few days to elapse before he resumed his studies, November 3, in the office of Mr. Edsall. He was admitted to the bar in September, 1866, well equipped for his work, and the following October formed a partnership with Mr. Edsall, with whom he continued to practice until 1869. In that year so rapid was his rise in his profession, he was elected County Judge, was re-elected in 1873, and served until 1877, when he refused the renomination. In 1878 he entered the land office of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company, at Chicago, as Assistant Land Commissioner, and filled that position very acceptably one year. Returning to Dixon

again, he resumed his law practice, and only gave it up to accept the office of Circuit Judge to succeed Judge Bailey in 1888, the latter having been elected to the Supreme Bench.

Our subject was re-elected to his high position on the bench in June, 1891, without opposition, so valuable were his services considered in the administration of justice, and so popular is he throughout the county and district, and, in fact, wherever known, as he possesses in a rare degree those pleasing personal traits and fine attributes of character that inspire confidence and friendship. He is fully equal to the weighty responsibilities that devolve upon him, his whole genius and character fitting him for his work. He has a generous, even temper, is tolerant and fair-minded, and yet is firm and decided when necessary, having the courage of his convictions. His rulings are sound, sensible and marked by a thorough comprehension of the great fundamental principles of the law as applicable to all cases coming under his jurisdiction. His charges to the jury are put in plain, forcible and concise language, and there is never a question as to the equity and wisdom of his decisions. The Judge is a fine conversationalist, and as a lawyer when practicing before the bar his eloquence, ready wit and logical arguments won him many a case.

Judge Crabtree was first married March 4, 1863, to Miss Mary C. Huntington. She died in 1872, leaving two children—Harry Huntington and Edwin Heward. September 28, 1875, the Judge was again married, taking as his wife Miss Anna M. Fargo, a native of Rockford, Ill. They have five children—John B., Charles D., Mary C., Phebe M. and Ruth I.

Politically the Judge is an uncompromising Republican, and has been the recipient of office at the hands of his party, who honored him and themselves by electing him, in 1888, State Senator in the Thirty-fifth General Assembly for a term of four years, but he resigned the position the same year on being elected to the bench. While in the Senate he voted for C. B. Farwell for United States Senator, being one of his most steadfast champions. Our subject is prominent socially as a member of Friendship Lodge N. 7,

A. F. & A. M., of which he is Past Master; as a member of Nachusa Chapter, No. 56, R. A. M.; as Past Commander of Dixon Commandery, No. 21, K. T.; and as a member of Dixon Post, No. 299, G. A. R.; and of the Illinois Commandery of the Loyal Legion.



**J**OHAN B. FELKER, M. D. The medical profession has at all times attracted to its practice men of broad knowledge and exceptional abilities. Within it they have found a splendid field for experimental research as well as an opportunity for relieving the ills to which all humanity is heir. The city of Amboy has been the home of many able practitioners and skillful surgeons, among whom none are remembered with greater affection than the gentleman whose name introduces these paragraphs and who passed from the scenes of his former usefulness to enter upon his final rest, in May, 1888.

Not alone in the city which had been his home for years prior to his demise, but also in the surrounding country, Dr. Felker was extensively known and universally esteemed. His genial disposition as well as his ability to quickly relieve suffering, endeared him to his patients, while in social and business life he was a pleasing companion and a prominent citizen. At the time of his decease he was still in life's prime, having been born in 1838, in Maryland. The surroundings of his youth were such as were common to the lads of that day and he passed his boyhood days in a comparatively uneventful manner, alternating attendance at school with the discharge of duties at home.

In 1867 Dr. Felker was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Jane Miller, a native of Franklin County, and the daughter of Henry and Eliza Miller, who were likewise born in Frankklin County, but are now deceased, their death having occurred in Greencastle, that county. Mr. Miller and his good wife were worthy people and gave to the eleven children of which they were parents good common-school educations and such training

as would prepare them for responsible positions in the world. Their daughter Eliza was fitted by her education to hold a prominent place in society while she was also reared to discharge home duties efficiently. Dr. Felker brought his bride to Amboy December 1, 1867, and it remained their home during all their wedded life. The children granted to them who survive are May Gertrude, John B., Jr., and Abram H. H. Trusie is deceased. The two youngest children remain at home with their mother; May Gertrude is a pupil in Rockford Seminary, where she expects to complete her seminary course of six years, in June, 1892.

The political views of Dr. Felker brought him into affiliation with the Democratic party, which he always supported with his ballot and influence. He was called to occupy some of the highest offices within the power of his fellow-citizens to bestow upon him, serving as Alderman and as Mayor, as well as a member of the Legislature to represent his district. He also took a prominent part in medical societies, being identified with the American Medical Association, the Illinois State Medical Society and some local medical organizations. Mrs. Felker holds membership in the Congregational Church and is a lady of benevolent impulses, to whom the destitute never appeal for aid in vain.



**W**ILLIAM S. STRAW is one of the progressive farmers and well-to-do citizens of Palmyra Township. He operates two hundred and twenty-four acres of valuable land on sections 19 and 20, and this farm is recognized as one of the finest in the community. It is complete in all its appointments, its arrangement has all been made with an eye to convenience and it seems to be lacking in no particular. Most of the improvements stand as monuments to the thrift and enterprise of the owner, and the neat appearance of the place and the well tilled fields attest his careful supervision. The home is a commodious and substantial residence, and the barns and out-buildings are models of convenience.

Mr. Straw, who is so widely and favorably

known throughout this community, was born in Dauphin County, Pa., but reared in Seward Township, Winnebago County, Ill., and is a son of N. S. Straw, a native of Dauphin County, Pa. The family was founded in the Keystone State in Colonial days, and was represented both in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. The father of our subject became a farmer and lime burner, and in following those pursuits acquired a considerable competence. In Pennsylvania he married Miss Ann Brubaker, who was born in the Keystone State, and came of an old and respected family of Dauphin County. In 1855, they turned their faces toward the setting sun and traveled Westward until they arrived in Illinois, where they located on a large tract of land in Seward Township, Winnebago County. There Mr. Straw followed farming for some years, and at the old home the wife and mother died at the age of sixty-six. She was an attendant of the Presbyterian Church, and a lady of many excellencies of character. A few years later, in 1887, Mr. Straw retired to Winnebago Village, where he is now living, aged seventy-six years. He is still hale and hearty, and is a highly respected citizen of the community.

Under the parental roof our subject spent the days of his childhood, and in the public schools of the neighborhood acquired a good English education, which has been greatly supplemented in the subsequent years by reading and observation. A marriage ceremony performed in McHenry County united the destinies of W. S. Straw and Miss Carrie E. Finch, daughter of John H. and Eliza J. (Britton) Finch, who are well-to-do farming people of McHenry County. Her father is a native of New York, and her mother was born in New Hampshire. In an early day they came to Illinois, and both engaged in teaching in McHenry County before their marriage. Their home is about two miles east of Woodstock, and in the community where they reside they are prominent and influential people. In religious belief both Mr. and Mrs. Finch are Baptists. Their daughter, the wife of our subject, was born in McHenry County, and was educated in Wheaton College, Du Page County. She is a lady of intelligence and culture, and with her husband moves in the best circles of society. Mr. Straw is

a Democrat in politics, and keeps himself well informed on the questions of the day, both political and otherwise. Three children have been born unto this worthy couple, but one died in infancy. Verne S. and Carl C. are still under the parental roof.



**S**TANWOOD GRIFFITH, the popular Supervisor of Ashton Township, was born in New Lisbon, Ohio, December 6, 1834. His parents were Oliver and Mary (Hussey) Griffith, the former born August 8, 1797, in York County, Pa., and the mother was born the same year and in the same county as was her honored husband. The senior Mr. Griffith was an agriculturist during his early years, but later in life became engaged in money loaning. Both parents died in New Lisbon, Ohio, and belonged to that sect known as Quakers or Friends.

Our subject was the second son and fifth child in his parents' family of seven children. He received a good common-school education, and appreciating the value of a thorough knowledge of books, made the best of his opportunities, and is to-day a man of culture and education. He remained under the parental roof assisting his father in performing the farm duties until twenty-one years of age and thus received a thorough training in all those things which go to make a first-class agriculturist. When reaching his majority he left home and went to Upper Sandusky, Ohio, where he engaged in farming on his own account, remaining there until 1864 when he disposed of his farm at a good profit and came to the Prairie State, purchasing a farm in Ogle County, on which he continued to make his home and cultivate until the spring of 1868 when he came to Ashton Township, this county, and launched out in the drug business. He was exceedingly successful in this undertaking as indeed he was in every branch of work, and two years later added a fine stock of hardware, formed a partnership with George R. Charters, and carried on a successful trade in that line for the two suc-

ceeding years. Our subject then disposed of his interest in the firm and engaged in the lumber business, which he prosecuted for the next seven years.

He soon disposed of his lumber interests and with his sons, O. W. and J. C., again became a hardware merchant, the firm style being Griffith & Sons. They did a flourishing business, carrying a complete line of heavy and shelf hardware and by their square and fair dealing with their customers did an extensive business.

Griffith & Sons continued together in the hardware business for over five years when our subject disposed of his interest to his sons and has since been engaged in the lumber and stock business. He has been engaged in the active operation or superintendence of large tracts of land and at the present writing is the owner of five hundred acres of beautiful land, lying in Lee and Ogle Counties. By a proper rotation of crops his land has been brought to a high degree of cultivation, while the various buildings have been erected which best subserve the purposes of a first-class agriculturist. His life has been characterized by an uprightness of purpose and an integrity of principle which, with his high mental and moral standing, is gratefully recognized by his fellow-men.

Mr. Griffith of this sketch was married to Miss Elizabeth Charters, in New Lisbon, Ohio, October 25, 1858. Mrs. Griffith was born in New Lisbon and is the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Rankin) Charters, natives of Scotland and both of whom died in Ohio. The father was a contractor and did an extensive business in that line. The family of our subject and his amiable wife numbered seven children, namely: Oliver W., John C., Mary, who died when sixteen years old; Abbey E., Anna H., Jennette D., and Catherine.

Mr. Griffith has been chosen by the people of Ashton Township as Supervisor and is the present incumbent of the office, fulfilling every duty in an acceptable and conscientious manner. He has also been Justice of the Peace and School Director, being especially interested in educational matters in his section. He was a member of the Village Board and in politics occupies a front rank in the Republican party. In religious affairs he has always been very active and is a working member of the

Presbyterian Church, having been Superintendent of the Sunday-school for many years. His wife is also connected with that denomination. Mr. Griffith is a member of the Masonic fraternity. He is well-known throughout this section of country and the publishers of this volume would fail in their purpose of recording lives that have been useful and worthy of note were they to omit mention of Stanwood Griffith, who is one of the leading business men of the county.



**E** BENEZER H. JOHNSON. This gentleman, whose death took place at his old home in Palmyra Township, this county, August 29, 1885, was one of the old pioneers whose history is coincident with that of the township and county, and a sketch of whose life will prove interesting, not only to those intimately associated with him but to all who love to hear of the early times in the Prairie State.

Mr. Johnson was born in Bainbridge, Chenango County, N. Y., July 5, 1810. His parents were Seth M. and Mary (Hough) Johnson of English descent, who removed to New York about 1807. His parents were natives of Connecticut, coming of good old New England stock and of English ancestry. Seth Johnson was a farmer in his native State and after his marriage and the birth of two children, emigrated with his family in a very early day to Chenango County, N. Y., settling in the heavy timber near Bainbridge. There he and his wife encountered the hardships of a pioneer life and diligently toiled until they had improved and cultivated a good farm on which they spent the remainder of their days, the father dying at the age of fifty-seven, and his wife living until 1865, when she too passed away at the venerable age of eighty years. He was an active Whig in those early days and both he and his wife were consistent members of the Baptist Church. Their memory has been handed down to their descendants as an honored couple worthy of all respect and kindly remembrance which has been accorded to them.

The subject of this sketch was very young when his father became a resident of New York State and in order to make a comfortable home in the then unbroken wilderness his assistance was required as soon as he was old enough, to help his father in clearing up a farm. He left home before attaining his majority, engaging in various pursuits until his marriage, directly after which he came to the West. His wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Johnson, was born in Blanford, Hampton County, Mass., August 10, 1808. She was a daughter of Jonas and Sallie (McCray) Johnson. At the age of nine years she removed with her father's family to Colesville, Broome County, N. Y., where she was engaged in teaching quite a number of years. She was brought up in the Episcopal faith, and for many years was a member of that church at Harpersville, N. Y. She was a devoted wife and a worthy helpmate for her husband. She was upwards of seventy-six years of age at the time of her death, which occurred May 15, 1885, preceding that of her husband three months and thirteen days. A short sketch of her parents will prove interesting in connection with this sketch.

Capt. Jonas Johnson was one of the pioneers of Lee County, arriving in the fall of 1838, when he was near the age of seventy-six years. He was born near Leominster, Mass. November 30, 1762. His remotest ancestor is traced back to Hervie Hill, County Kent, England, who came to America in 1630, settling in Charlestown, Mass. He was the son of Edward and Relief (Johnson) Johnson. His first wife was Sarah Ferguson, of Blanford, Mass., who bore him five children, but one of whom is now living. The second wife was Sallie McCrary of Scotch descent, whose ancestors emigrated from Scotland to the North of Ireland. They were both members of the Episcopal Church. Mr. Johnson was the parent of three children by his last marriage, Sarah, William and Morris, none of whom survive. His wife left him for the silent land three months and thirteen days before his own summons came. Mr. Johnson died December 3, 1842, having just celebrated his eightieth birthday.

Rev. William Y. Johnson, a brother of Sarah and a son of Jonas and Sallie Johnson, came to Illi-

nois in 1837, settling at Monmouth. He came to Lee County in the fall of 1838, and purchased Government land near Sugar Grove, built a house and opened up a farm. He next removed to China Township, where he remained several years, going thence to Chicago, where he was ordained a minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church in which service he continued until his death. His wife was a daughter of Col. Leman Mason, one of the first settlers of this county. Three children were born to this worthy couple. Mr. Johnson died at Fairfield, Iowa, August 29, 1873, aged nearly sixty-four years. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Dixon, Ill.

Jonas Morris, youngest son of Jonas and Sallie Johnson, came to Lee County with his father in the fall of 1838. He settled near Sugar Grove, purchasing Government land, building a home and developing the farm now occupied by Mrs. J. P. Goodrich, of whom see sketch in another part of this volume. His first wife was Elenora Stratton, of Nineveh, N. Y., who bore him two sons, one dying at the age of three years. His wife died after a brief illness October 17, 1842, followed three weeks later by the death of the son. In 1844, he was united in marriage with Calista Mason, daughter of Col. Leman and Elizabeth Mason. Four children resulted from this union. About 1854, Mr. Johnson removed to Dixon, Ill., where he conducted a hardware store for some time. He went West during the Pike's Peak gold excitement, being one of the '59ers, and settled at Golden, Col., where he kept an hotel for many years, and where he died November 8, 1888, aged seventy-four years. He was familiarly known as the "Judge" and held many positions of honor and trust in the city and county, during a residence of thirty years.

Ebenezer H. Johnson, the subject of this sketch, came after his marriage to this county in 1838, and throughout his life time held a prominent place in its history. He became the owner of a fine property and carried on farming extensively, also being much interested in politics and taking an active part in all that related to the development and progress of the county. He was for several years the Supervisor of his Township and held other lo-



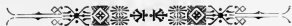
THE COMPANY

1911



Yours Truly  
Isaac Edwards

cal offices. He was a staunch Republican and an earnest member of the Methodist Church. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, two of whom are deceased, namely: Mary Janette, who was the wife of William H. Swigart, a farmer of this township and Theodore who met with a violent death at the age of twenty-two, being assassinated by a robber near Aurora, Hamilton County, Neb. The children now living are Thomas H. who married Eliza M. Rodgers, of Palmyra Township, this county, and is now a farmer in Loveland, Col.; Jane A., who resides in Dixon with her brother, Mark, and who is the owner of the old homestead in Palmyra Township, which is well improved and over which she exercises an intelligent supervision. She is a well-informed woman of much ability and is highly esteemed in the community in which her family have played such an important part; Ralph E., married Abbie Knox, of New York State, and they live in Palmyra Township; Howard married Allie A. Rogers, of Palmyra Township, and also resides in that township; Marcus M. married Miss Emma C. Flamm and resides at Seward, Neb., where he is carrying on a feed-store.



**ISAAC EDWARDS.** The name of this gentleman is a familiar one to the resident of Lee County, and especially to the citizens of Amboy, where he has resided most of the time since 1853. His financial ability is proved by the fact that, although he came to this county with limited means, he is now the owner of five hundred and eighty acres of farming lands, and ten houses and lots in Amboy, besides his livery and sales stables, an ice house and an hotel. He possesses the thrift and perseverance of a long line of English ancestors, and to those qualities adds the American characteristics of push and enterprise, a combination of traits which ensure success to the fortunate possessor.

Born July 31, 1828, in Somersetshire, England, Mr. Edwards is the son of Marmaduke and Charlotte (Tavener) Edwards, his father being a shoemaker by trade. He was one of six children, of

whom five grew to mature years, although none but Isaae ever came to the United States. The mother of the family died in 1840, and the father married again, six children being born of his second union. Two of our subject's half-brothers came to this country—Job, who is located at Warren, Ill., and William, of Amboy. Marmaduke Edwards lived to an advanced age passing away when eighty years old. At the time of his mother's death, our subject was only twelve years old and his subsequent education was somewhat limited, but as he has always been a great reader, he has become a well-informed man.

In 1850, Mr. Edwards came to the United States, proceeding westward to Illinois and stopping at Elgin, where he worked on the construction of the Chicago & Galena Railroad. The following winter he found employment at similar work in Indiana and in the spring of the ensuing year returned to this State, working first at Rockford and later at Pecatonica. He had three contracts on the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad and graded seven miles of that road. Next we find Mr. Edwards at Forreston whence he came to Amboy and worked on the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad until its completion. Before coming to this city, his work on railroads was teaming and he had several teams in constant use.

After the completion of the railroad, Mr. Edwards engaged in the livery business, also in general teaming, moving buildings, and as an ice dealer. Subsequently, he had contracts on the construction of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, the Kansas City Branch of the Chicago & Alton, the Chicago & Pacific, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, and also in Iowa, devoting some ten years to railroad work. During that time his business at Amboy was continued under his supervision. In 1879, he was elected County Treasurer, but the Board of Supervisors questioned the sufficiency of his bond, although his bondsmen were several of the most wealthy farmers of Lee County. On referring the case to the State's Attorney, he held that they could not accept a new bond after the first of December and as they had assembled at the last moment, no time was left to make a new bond and thus the office was lost

In 1882, Mr. Edwards was elected Sheriff of Lee County and during the four years in which he held office, resided in Dixon. In the meantime, his son conducted the livery business under the direct oversight of Mr. Edwards, who at the expiration of his term of office returned to Amboy and has resided here since. A faithful member of the Republican party, he has always maintained the greatest interest in the welfare of this country and during the late war furnished the Government with many horses. Since that time he has been an extensive dealer in live stock. He has held many of the highest positions within the gift of his fellow-citizens, has been Supervisor some ten years, Collector of City Taxes, and Mayor of Amboy for several terms.

The lady, who in 1853 became the wife of Mr. Edwards, was Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Saul, of Forreston, this State. Mrs. Edwards was born in the North of Ireland and emigrated to the United States with her parents when nineteen years old. She has become the mother of eight children, four of whom died in childhood, the survivors being—William J., John H., Isaac F. and James A. Possessing the genial and hospitable dispositions which win and retain friends, both Mr. Edwards and his wife occupy a high place in the regard of the people of Amboy and the surrounding country.

A lithographic portrait of Mr. Edwards accompanies this sketch.



**C**HRISTIAN B. CLASSEN. Many years have gone by with their chances and changes since Christian Classen first set foot within the boundaries of this county. He was then a poor man who had come here with his young wife to build up a home. They have worked long and well together and are now very comfortably situated on a good farm on section 28, South Dixon Township, that is provided with neat buildings and all the necessary improvements for carrying on agriculture.

Mr. Classen was born at Yaver, Oldenburg, Ger-

many, October 4, 1815, a son of Clause and Eliza (Varner) Classen, who were also natives of the same German village as himself, which is situated near the shores of the North Sea. His parents were well along in years at the time of his birth, and he was early deprived of their watchful care by their death, his mother dying when he was seven years old, and his father departing this life two years later. He was a farm laborer, and both he and his wife were upright, God-fearing people and conscientious members of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject is the only survivor of seven children. His brother John, who died some years ago in Palmyra Township, where he had been a well-known resident for a long time, had married in Oldenburg, and after the death of his wife came to this country with his two children, who grew to maturity in this county. His daughter, Eliza, subsequently died in her home in South Dakota, near Yankton. His son John, who is married, lives on a farm in Marshall County, Iowa.

He of whom we write grew up in the town of his birth and in due time took unto himself a wife, marrying the daughter of a neighbor, Sophia Christians, who was born July 14, 1823, in Oldenburg, coming of an old German family of that province, all of whom lived and died there except herself. A short time after marriage Mr. Classen and his bride decided to try their fate in the United States of America, whither so many of their compatriots had betaken themselves for the betterment of their fortunes from time immemorial. June 23, 1852, they embarked on a sailing-vessel at Bremer Haven, and on the 11th of August landed at New York City. They came thence to this State, where they have since lived. He had but little means with which to begin life in a strange land, but he and his wife had health and strength on their side, and patiently and courageously bore the hardships that fell to their lot, and which were shared by the pioneers in many cases. For some years they lived at Sugar Grove, Palmyra Township, and then for four years Mr. Classen was engaged in farming in Whiteside County. Returning to this county he purchased his present farm in South Dixon Township in 1869, and now has it in excellent condition, everything about the place in good

order and betokening the best of care. The fields are under good tillage and the pastures give support to stock of approved grades.

Mr. and Mrs. Classen are people of true piety, consistent members of the Lutheran Church, with which they have been connected from their earliest days and their Christianity enters into their everyday lives, enabling them to bear trouble when it has come to them, and making them kind, neighborly and obliging to all. Mr. Classen was formerly a Republican, but has transferred his allegiance to the Democratic party, believing its principles best for the guidance of the country of his adoption, to which he is sincerely attached.

Death early took from our subject and his wife their three children, but they were sustained and soothed in their sorrow by their firm belief in the life immortal when they shall all be gathered together in one household never to be separated again. Herman died at the age of eight months; Eliza, aged nine months and Lena when six years old.



**HUGH FITZPATRICK.** May Township is settled principally by people who were born on the Emerald Isle, and when the question is asked, who is their leading citizen, the answer invariably is, Hugh Fitzpatrick. And verily this is so. He is not only one of its foremost farmers and stock-raisers, but he is first among its office-holders as its representative on the Lee County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Fitzpatrick was born in County Cavan, Ireland, in the month of April, 1823. His parents were James and Mary (McBride) Fitzpatrick. Both were life-long residents of their native land, the former dying in 1848, and the latter in 1835. There were three children in the family, and all came to the United States. Bernard enlisted during the War to fight for the stars and stripes in the Sixteenth New York Heavy Artillery, and yielded up his life for his adopted country while in the service. Ann came to America in 1845 and was married in Hollidaysburg, Pa., to John Keefer. She is now a widow and resides in Chicago.

Our subject is the oldest of the family. He was reared to the life of a farmer on his native soil, and in the opening years of his manhood sailed away from the Old Country to try life in the New World. He landed at New Orleans after a voyage of several weeks and made a stay of four months in the Crescent City. He subsequently wended his way to Broome County, N. Y., and for some years thereafter was connected with the construction of railways in various capacities. He was first employed on the New York and Erie Railway when that was being built, and later was engaged on the Pennsylvania Central Railway as foreman of a construction gang.

Nearly ten years of his life was given to that kind of work, and then Mr. Fitzpatrick joined the pioneer farmers on the prairies of Northern Illinois, coming to Lee County in 1857 and locating in May Township upon the place where he still resides. He at first purchased only eighty acres of land, but is now the owner of the south half of section 29, and has become one of the leading stock-raisers of this section, his rich pastures affording sustenance for fine herds of cattle and horses of the best grades.

Mr. Fitzpatrick was happily married in 1850 to Miss Ann DeLacy, and for more than forty years they have been together through the sunshine and shadows of a wedded life, that has brought them much joy. Grief has also fallen to their lot in the death of their two children—James, who was born in October, 1850, and died in 1889 in Montana; and Bernard, who was born in January, 1852, and died in infancy. Mrs. Fitzpatrick is also, like her husband, a native of County Cavan, Ireland. She came to this country when a young woman, braving the dangers of the ocean alone.

Our subject is a good example of our so-called self-made men, as he began life in this country under circumstances that would have been depressing to any of a less buoyant and self-reliant nature. When he landed at New Orleans two cents was all the money that he had in his possession. But he had better capital in his strength, courage and brain, and has made his way successfully to a competency. His active, enterprising spirit, his good sense and native ability, together

with his ready tact and his geniality, early elicited the favor of his fellow-townsmen, who have repeatedly called him to fill local offices, and he has held some of them twenty years. He has been a member of the County Board of Supervisors no less than ten years, and in that position as in all others, has nobly fulfilled his duties as a public-spirited citizen. Religiously he is a Roman Catholic and is an exemplary member of his church.

Hegart; Charles M. married Sarah Hegart, and Mattie J., who is the wife of Frank E. Frost, well known in this section.

Mr. Hulbert, of this sketch, was honored by his fellow-townsmen with many positions of responsibility and trust, and in all of them gave the utmost satisfaction. Among them we mention that of Assessor, Collector of his township, etc. In politics he was a firm adherent of Republican principles and hence always cast his vote in favor of that party's candidates. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Hulbert has conducted the estate which fell to her and has thus proved her efficiency and ability to manage a farm and build up a business which is both profitable and pleasant. The farm numbers one hundred and twenty acres and is cultivated in such a manner as to be exceedingly productive. Prior to his death our subject introduced the Bradford Mutual Insurance Company in Lee County and acted as its Treasurer and agent, having built up a thriving business in that line.

**G**EORGE W. HULBERT. Although death has laid its chill hand upon our subject and has stilled his pulse, there is still an emanation of his spirit breathing out remembrances of the good that he has done, and examples that might well be emulated by the young. Mr. Hulbert was born in Bradford County, Pa., January 24, 1836, and was six years of age when he was brought by his parents, Elias and Hannah Hulbert to this county. He grew to manhood in Bradford Township where the father located on coming to the county and engaged in cultivating the soil as his life occupation. He devoted his time and attention to that pursuit very successfully until his death which occurred January 5, 1888. Mr. Hulbert was married in Dixon, September 29, 1859, the lady of his choice being Miss Loraine L. Evitts. She was the daughter of Ralph B. and Elizabeth (Bosworth) Evitts, the father a native of Pennsylvania and the mother born in New York. Her parents came to this county from New York and settled in Bradford Township, where they made their home until their death. They were the parents of five children, three daughters and two sons, of whom Mrs. Hulbert was the second in order of birth.

The wife of our subject was born near Buffalo, N. Y., July 28, 1836, and was only six years of age at the time her parents removed to this county, where she received a good knowledge of books and grew to a useful womanhood. She made her home under the parental roof, where she received a careful training by her most excellent mother, until her marriage with our subject. To them were born three children: Harvey D., who married Hattie

**R**ICHARD S. FARRAND, County Judge of Lee County, has risen to his present distinguished position as a member of the judiciary of this State while yet a comparatively young man, by the force of an invincible will, a strong character, and untiring devotion to his profession, and through rare personal merit. He was born in St. Joseph Township, Allen County, Ind., October 1, 1852. His father, who bears the same name as himself, is a native of Oneida County, N. Y. When a young man he left his early home and cast his lot with the pioneers of Indiana. He bought a tract of partly improved land in St. Joseph Township, and lived there some years. He then sold that place and bought property in Perry Township, of which he is still a resident. In 1888 he was bereft of the companionship of his wife by her death. She was also a native of Oneida County, N. Y., and her maiden name was Delilah Cook.

He of whom we write, left the parental home at

the early age of eleven years, and from that time earned his own living, displaying an independence of character and a reliance upon self far beyond his years. He worked on the farm by the month in the summer season, and in winter did chores for his board while he attended school and devoted all his spare time to his books, as he was ambitious to secure an education that would enable him to win a name and a place for himself in the world. He remained in his native county until he was fifteen years old, and he then came to this State, and has ever since been a resident of Lee County. He continued his old employment as a farm laborer in the summer seasons, and devoted his winters to attending school until he was eighteen years old. At that age he began teaching in Viola Township, and taught school seven years. In 1877 he was called to public life by his appointment as Deputy Sheriff by J. N. Hill. He came to Dixon to assume the duties of his position, and soon commenced the study of law with A. C. Bardwell. He was admitted to the bar in 1879, and formed a partnership with Mr. Bardwell, with whom he practiced until 1882. He rose rapidly in his profession becoming in a few years a leading lawyer of this section of the State, and in 1882 he was elected County Judge, was re-elected in 1886, and again in 1890, and is now serving his third term in that office. He was selected for this high position, as a lawyer possessing an accurate knowledge of the common law, and as being richly endowed with those elements of character that peculiarly fit him to preside over a court of justice. And thus when he was scarcely thirty years of age he had won his way to the bench, and has since gained recognition as one of our ablest judges. Other honors have been conferred upon him, and at one time he was elected Mayor of Dixon. Politically, he is a Republican. In his social relations he is a member of Brooklyn Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; of Nachusa Chapter, No. 56, R. A. M.; Lodge No. 137, A. O. U. W.; and of Camp No. 56, M. W. A.

Judge Farrand and Miss C. J. Marsh were united in marriage in 1873. They have an attractive home wherein they dispense a charming hospitality with true courtesy and a kindly consideration for others that mark their intercourse with all, whether

friend or stranger. They have one son living, Ernest W. Their son, Wilbur A., died at the age of ten years. Mrs. Farrand is, like her husband, a native of Indiana, and she is the daughter of Harry Marsh.



**JONATHAN DEPUY.** This well-known and highly respected citizen of Nachusa Township died at his pleasant home on section 36, June 16, 1891. He made this county his home in 1844, hence was one of the very earliest settlers and has witnessed the marvelous growth of the country from a vast wilderness into beautiful and productive farms and thriving villages. He has improved two good farms and was a hard-working and intelligent farmer.

Mr. Depuy was born October 2, 1816, in Delaware, and accompanied his parents on their removal to Luzerne County, Pa., being at that time only four years of age. The father engaged in agricultural pursuits and with his wife, passed his last days in the Keystone State, dying at an advanced age, greatly respected by all who knew him.

Our subject was reared to the life of a farmer and educated in the common schools of his neighborhood. When establishing a home of his own, he was married in July, 1837, to Miss Sallie A. Klintop, a native of Luzerne County, Pa. Mrs. Depuy was of German ancestry but of American parents, and received a good education in Pennsylvania. She became the mother of eight children. On their removal to Illinois they settled in Nachusa, this county, where they labored industriously until November 30, 1866, when Mrs. Depuy was called to her long home. She was born January 19, 1816, and during her life was an active worker in the Lutheran Church.

Jonathan Depuy was a second time married, December 12, 1867, to Miss Tena Bauman, who was born in Somerset County, Pa., May 9, 1826. Their marriage was celebrated in Nachusa Township, where they still make their home. Mrs. Depuy was the daughter of Daniel and Katie (Poorbough) Bauman, natives of the Keystone State and of

German ancestry. They followed the life of farmers in Luzerne County, Pa., and died in Somerset County, near Berlin, when past three-score and ten years. In their religious connection they were members of the German Reformed Church. Mr. Bauman was a patriot in the War of 1812, and in his death the county lost one of her best citizens.

Mrs. Tena Depuy was the ninth in order of birth in a family of twelve children born to her parents, all of whom are living with the exception of four, and most of them make their homes in Somerset County, Pa. Our subject's wife remained at home until her marriage with Mr. Depuy, in the meantime receiving a good education and being trained in all those duties which go to make a first-class housekeeper. Since the death of her husband she has come into possession of the beautiful estate of eighty acres where she makes her home. She is a member of the Lutheran Church as was also her husband.


By his former marriage our subject became the father of eight children, four of whom were born prior to their removal to Illinois. Three are now deceased, two dying in infancy unnamed. We make the following mention of those living: Alex makes his home in Dixon, where he is janitor of the courthouse and Presbyterian Church. He married Mary Bittner, a native of Somerset County, Pa.; Rosanna is the wife of John Heller, a farmer of Henson County, S. Dak.; Fidelia is Mrs. Robinson, and makes her home in Chicago; Jane is the wife of Fred Eggert, and they reside on a farm in Missouri; Miriam is the wife of Charles Hess, and they reside in Pennsylvania.

tors were among the colonists of Massachusetts and Connecticut, and the city of Worcester, in the old Bay State, is his birthplace, December 21, 1850, being the date of his birth.

Our subject's father, who bears the same name as himself, was born in Worcester County, Mass., and is a son of John Knight, who was also a native of that State, and for many years was a prominent citizen of Worcester, where he held a position as secretary and clerk of a railway company, and he died in that city at an advanced age. Edward B. Knight, Sr., grew up in the city of Worcester, where he was given good educational advantages. He was married in Woodstock, Conn., to Miss Mary A. Stone, who is a native of that State, of which her parents were life-long residents, and she also traces her ancestry back to some of the old Colonial families of New England. After the birth of their only two children—our subject and his sister, Clara J., widow of Joseph B. Peacock, now residing at Dixon—Mr. and Mrs. Knight came to this county from their old home in Worcester in 1854, and after a short residence in Amboy Township, located in the township of South Dixon. Later they removed to Dixon, where they are still living an active life, and are well known and honored for their sterling merits. They are members in high standing of the Presbyterian Church, and their names are associated with all who are an influence for good in their community.

The first five years of the life of our subject were spent in his native city, and in its public schools he laid the foundation of a practical education. After the family came to this county he acquired that knowledge of farming and that true interest in agriculture that led him to adopt it for his life-work. In 1884 he bought the farm in South Dixon Township upon which he has since lived. It has an area of one hundred and thirty acres of soil that is very fertile, and produces abundantly all the crops that are commonly raised in this climate, besides affording pasturage for a goodly amount of stock, and its improvements are first-class.

To the lady who presides over his home, formerly Miss Emma B. Woodruff, Mr. Knight was married in this township. Mrs. Knight was born



**E**DDWARD B. KNIGHT, JR., has made himself a thorough master of his calling as a farmer, conducts his farming interests in a systematic and business like way, and his farm on sections 15 and 22, South Dixon Township, compares favorably with other fine farms in its vicinity. In him we have a representative of the vigorous New England stock that has done such conspicuous service in reclaiming the Western wilds. His ances-



in Grant County, Wis., January 18, 1855, and is a daughter of E. J. and Adaline (Doty) Woodruff, who are highly respected residents of Dixon. Mr. Woodruff is a native of New York, born of Massachusetts parentage, and is a lineal descendant of Pilgrims of the "Mayflower." He and his wife were married in Wisconsin, whence they came to Illinois in 1865. They lived in Lee County until 1883, and then spent a few years in South Dakota. Returning to this county they have since made their home in Dixon, where they are serenely passing their old age. Mr. Woodruff is a farmer. He holds to the Republican party in politics, as does his son-in-law, of whom we write.

The pleasant home circle of our subject and his wife has not been exempt from the sorrows that falls to the lot of all, as death has taken from them two of their children, Frank L., and Georgia L. Three children still gladden their household by their presence—Lucy E., Laura E., and Olive A.



**J**OHAN F. STAGER. It is sometimes thought by superficial people who know nothing of agriculture, that no special intelligence is required to till the soil, and indeed, if the mechanical work were all that is necessary this would be so, but, as in every branch of industry, the thoughtful and logical carry out theories that have been proved by experiment and science to be advantageous and to the profit of the farmer. He of whom we write is of the class who believes in progress and advancement. He is the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and sixteen acres, on section 22, Palmyra Township, where he is living a retired life from the active duties of farm work.

The estate of Mr. Stager is supplied with all needful farm buildings which are the work of his own hands, he being a mechanic as well as a farmer. He began his active life as an agriculturist in Palmyra Township in 1861 or 1862, and since that time has been wonderfully successful, having started for himself a poor man, and his possessions are the direct result of his good man-

agement and perseverance. He came to Dixon in 1856, and to the State in 1852, locating first at Cedarville, Stephenson County, where he learned the trade of a carpenter. He worked at his trade there until 1855, when he went to Iowa, but only remained there a few months, however, when he returned to this State and located in Lee County.

Our subject was born in Lebanon County, Pa., in 1833, and is the son of John and Sarah (Fensler) Stager, also natives of the Keystone State, the former tracing his ancestry back to Switzerland and the mother to England. The parents were farmers by occupation, in Lebanon County, and lived and died in Shaffertown, Heidleburg Township, at the respective ages of eighty-three and seventy-five years. They were active members of the German Reformed Church, and were highly esteemed by all who knew them.

Ten children were included in the parental family, of whom John F. was the fourth in order of birth. He was married in Palmyra Township, this County, in 1859, on the farm he now owns, the lady of his choice being Miss Harriet Seavey. Mrs. Stager was born in Saudwich Township in 1839, and was brought by her parents, Jesse and Sarah (Norris) Seavey, to this county early in the '40s, where they located on an unbroken tract of land which had been taken up from the Government, and which the father brought to a good state of cultivation. They made that their home until 1862, when the father died in middle life. The mother is still living at the advanced age of seventy-eight years, and makes her home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with a daughter, Mrs. Joseph Renchin.

Mrs. Harriet Stager passed from this life December 1, 1887, at Pasadena, Cal., whither she had gone hoping to regain her health. Mr. Stager realizes that he owes much of his success in life to the good management and advice of his faithful wife. She had become the mother of four children, only one of whom is living at the present time. Lillian became Mrs. E. B. Smith, and died when young; John died when sixteen years of age; Lloyd when two years. Hattie L., who was born January 30, 1884, is residing with her father.

In politics, Mr. Stager is a true-blue Republican, and his influence for good is felt in the community, where he is respected for his sterling character and true kindness.



**H**ENRY SANDERS is one of the pioneers of Lee County, whose wise forethought, active enterprise and practical skill in conducting the business of farming and stock-raising made him a valuable agent in developing the rich agricultural resources of this part of Illinois. He is now living in honorable retirement at Franklin Grove, although he still retains large landed interests.

Mr. Sanders was born in Adams County, Pa., March 6, 1826, to Henry and Mary (Buck) Sanders, who were also natives of the Keystone State and were of German ancestry. His paternal grandfather was wealthy, but his estate was squandered by administrators, and the father of our subject was left a poor orphan to struggle with adversity as best he might. While yet in the prime of life his useful career was cut short by his death in Adams County, May 24, 1834. He was the father of five children, as follows: Peter, who died in this county; Frank, who resides in Harrisburg, Pa.; Henry; Elizabeth, wife of James Toper, of Adams County, Pa., and Christina, wife of Mr. Hodeyschell, of Adams County, Ill. The mother of our subject married a second time, becoming the wife of Jesse P. Toper, and she died in Pennsylvania May 24, 1874. She had two children by her second marriage—Mary A., wife of Joseph Smith, of Adams County, Pa., and Kate, wife of Frank Ackenrode, of Adams County, Pa.

Our subject was reared on a farm in his native State. At the age of nineteen years he set out in the world to try life on his own account, being well-equipped to make his own way, as he was active, independent, frugal and prudent, and possessed, withal, an enterprising spirit, seconded by good habits and a capacity to do well whatever he undertook. It was at that time, in the year 1845,

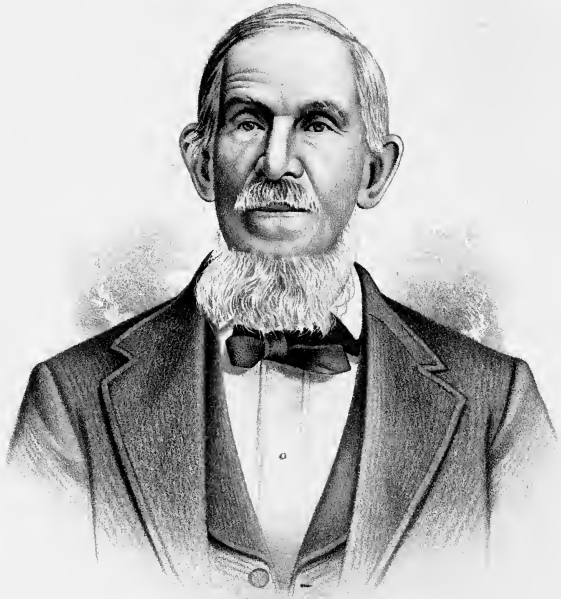
that he paid his first visit to this State and county. He staid here a year, and then returned to Pennsylvania whence he went to Washington County, Md., where he worked for a time. Coming back to Lee County in the spring of 1848 he took up his residence in a cabin at Franklin Grove, and when the land came into market in 1852, he purchased a quarter of section 29, Ashton Township, of which he thus became an early settler, and he played an important part in its upbuilding. He assiduously tilled the soil and raised stock extensively for many years. As the years passed by his property increased both in amount and value, and he became one of the wealthy men of his township. In November, 1888, he abandoned farming to spend his remaining years in well-earned retirement in the enjoyment of a handsome income, and since then has made his home in his substantial, well-appointed residence in the town of Franklin Grove. During his active business life he invested his money judiciously, and still owns over six hundred acres of land on which he has made good improvements.

When he was married in 1851 to Rachel C. Morgan, it was our subject's good fortune to secure one of life's choicest blessings, a true wife, who has been to him a faithful helpmate. She is an exemplary Christian, and for thirty years has been a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Her marriage with Mr. Sanders has brought them six children, of whom the following is the record: Winfield B., born August 27, 1852, is a resident of Ida County, Iowa; Joseph was born March 9, 1855; Alice, born October 3, 1856, married Wilton Buck, and died August 26, 1879; Milton J., born November 11, 1857, died December 31, 1880; Samantha J., born November 16, 1859, is the wife of Cornelius Sanders; John was born July 4, 1861; Edward, July 27, 1867, and Luey May 29, 1870.

Mrs. Sanders comes of one of the old pioneer families of Illinois, and is a native of the State, born in Vermilion County March 12, 1835. Her parents, Edward and Naney (Stull) Morgan, were early settlers of that county, where they located in 1829, coming to this State from Ohio, of which they were natives. In 1836 they removed to Lee

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*N. G. H. Morrill*



*Caroline Merrill*

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County and were pioneers of Franklin Grove, where Mr. Morgan improved a choice farm. He was yet in life's prime when he died November 2, 1847, at the age of forty-two years. His wife survived him until April 10, 1863, and then passed away at the age of fifty-eight years. Of their nine children, these six are living—Williamine, Martin, Rachel C., John W., Mary E. and Sarah J.

All honor is due to our subject as a self-made man, who can point with true pride to what he has accomplished, and it gives us pleasure to place this brief record of his life on these pages, as it should be preserved for the benefit of his children and children's children unto the latest generation. He was but a boy when he began to earn his own living, and though his wages were only \$7 a month by the time he was twenty years old he had saved \$200. He attained success in his chosen career by fair means, and during his many years' residence in this county has always shown himself to be entirely worthy of the high estimation in which he is held by his many friends and acquaintances. Mr. Sanders is possessed of an abundance of sturdy common sense, his judgment is sound and clear, and he is perfectly able to form opinions of his own on all subjects with which he is conversant. He was formerly a Republican as regards his politics, but he is now independent, giving his support to whichever party or candidate for office that he deems best. He is public-spirited, and is always heartily in favor of whatever scheme is advanced to promote the interests of his adopted country.



**N**ATHANIEL G. II. MORRILL. This name is widely known and honored throughout Lee and adjoining counties as that of a prominent pioneer of this part of Illinois, who was long and intimately associated with the rise and growth of Dixon. For nearly half a century he made this city his home, and was a conspicuous figure in the annals of the city from that day, far back in its past history, when first he settled within its borders, until death stayed his busy

hands and stilled his active brain, while nature all around him was awakening into renewed life that seemed to whisper in every spring breeze of the life immortal, in which he had such abiding faith.

Mr. Morrill was born October 6, 1808, in Massachusetts, a son of Joseph Morrill, who is supposed to have been a native of the old Bay State. He was there married, and when our subject was in his childhood removed with his family to Contoocook, N. H., where he and his wife passed his remaining days on a farm, and died when full of years. Our subject grew to manhood on that pleasant New England farm set among the eternal hills of the Granite State. He early displayed a mechanical genius, which was cultivated, and he became very skilful in that line. He was in due time married, but having the misfortune to lose his wife after a brief wedded life of a few years' duration, the year following her death he decided to try life on the frontier, and in 1838 came to Illinois, which was then regarded as in the far West, being accompanied on his journey by his younger brother, Jacob, and by the families of John Lord, S. S. Crowell and Gilbert Messer.

Dixon was then scarcely more than a hamlet, and in the years that followed, Mr. Morrill became prominent as a mechanic and contractor who was very active in the upbuilding of the city, and there are many buildings still standing within the precincts that attest to his skill and ability. The old stone schoolhouse wherein a generation now passing off the stage of action, received the rudiments of an English education forty years ago, was the joint handiwork of himself and John Brown; and nearly all the old residences and public buildings in the city bear evidence to his craft. He built the first bridge across the river at this point, and did efficient work in the construction of the dam.

A fine stroke of policy prompted Mr. Morrill to build at his own expense a wagon bridge connecting that part of Dixon with the rich agricultural districts of Palmyra Township. The bridge is now defunct, but for a time it secured the trade of that section for that part of the city. One of his memorial's is that portion of Dixon known as Morrilltown, which he laid out when the Illinois Central

Railway was constructed through there. He also built the large hotel on Water Street, which has been used for other purposes for a good many years. In connection with his extensive business as a contractor, he ran the North Side saw-mill for a number of years, it being the only one then in operation in his section of the country.

For some years in the early history of Dixon, Mr. Morrill was Constable, an office that was by no means a sinecure in those days, and he vigorously aided in bringing outlaws to justice. He was the means of suppressing much counterfeiting in this section of the country when it was new, and also helped run down several noted horse thieves, including the famous trio, Fox, Baker and Rogers.

Not alone with the material welfare of his adopted city did our subject concern himself, but he was deeply solicitous to advance its moral, educational, and religious status, and was a promoter of all schemes that tended to the spiritual uplifting of the people. He was generous almost to a fault, his benevolent principles being vital with him, and his unostentatious benefactions were scattered far and wide. His features are said to have borne a remarkable semblance to the rugged but benevolent face of old John Brown, of Harper's Ferry fame.

For many years Mr. Morrill held strongly to the Universalist faith, and was the prime mover in the construction of the church of that denomination, which is one of the large public edifices of the city, and giving liberally of his money toward its erection. He afterward, however, renounced Universalism, finding himself more in sympathy with the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which he connected himself for a time. But that change did not satisfy his religious nature, and he shortly after embraced the Spiritual philosophy, and to that he clung with all the fervor of his being until death drew aside for him the veil that separates the visible from the invisible world, and he stepped across the border May 12, 1886, into "his Father's house, where there are many mansions."

Mr. Morrill was twice married. His first marriage, which took place before he left New Hampshire, was with Miss Eliza Giles, who was born

and reared in that State, as were her parents also. Their wedded life was terminated by the untimely death of the young wife in 1837. She left two children, one a babe that soon followed her. The other is Susan, wife of Dr. McKinney, of Deadwood, N. Dak.

The maiden name of our subject's second wife, to whom he was married in Dixon, and who survives him, was Caroline Meyers. She was to him all that a true wife can be. She assisted and encouraged him in his work, and sympathized with him in his religious views, finding strength and consolation in Spiritualism, and accepting that faith with him while he was in the earth life. Since his death she has conducted the business that he left with remarkable success, displaying a genuine talent for managing affairs. In 1888 she moved to the farm on section 17, South Dixon Township, which comprises a quarter-section of well-improved land, and which came into Mr. Morrill's possession before his death.

Mrs. Morrill was born in the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, December 26, 1818. Her father, Christian Meyers, was also a Hanoverian by birth, and was of German parentage. He was preparing to come to America when death terminated his career, when he was only about thirty years of age. He was an active young farmer. He had married Miss Dorothea Dunkelmeyer, who was of German antecedents, and five children had been born to them. After the sad death of the father, the mother came to the United States with four of her children in 1832, and settled in Chicago before the completion of the old Lake House, when the World's Fair City was a mere hamlet lying in the mud and swamps of the early years of its settlement. She removed with her family to Dixon in June, 1838, and here died April 15, 1872, when nearly eighty-four years old. She was a devoted Christian, and all her life was connected with the Lutheran Church, in which her husband also held membership while he lived.

Mrs. Morrill is the mother of seven children, of whom these five are now dead: Joseph, who married Miss Lydia Hayes, and died leaving one child, who is with her in Dixon; Mary, who married Harry Meyers, and both died in Leadville, leaving one



child, Charles M., who now lives in New Mexico; Lucy; Jacob, and an infant, all of whom died young. The two children remaining to Mrs. Morrill are Elizabeth and Eliza. The former married Seth Thomas, a farmer near Dixon, and they have six children. Eliza married Everett Post, and they live on and manage a farm belonging to her mother. They have seven children. The reader will notice elsewhere in this volume lithographic portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Morrill.



**G**EORGE W. BRUNER. The farming interests of this county are conducted by an intelligent set of men, who have a full understanding of their business, employ the most approved methods of carrying it on, and are excellent financiers. George W. Bruner is one of these. He is engaged in general farming on section 13, South Dixon Township, where he owns a very good farm of seventy acres, that is finely improved, and he also has eighty acres of land on section 23, of the same township, which is likewise under admirable cultivation and improvement.

Mr. Bruner was born in the township of Jefferson, Somerset County, April 23, 1849, the sixth of a family of eight children, four sons and four daughters, five of whom are living, all married but one, and four of them residents of Illinois. His parents were Joseph and Mary A. (Mull) Bruner, who were natives of the same county as himself. His father was a son of John Bruner, who was born in Pennsylvania, and passed the most of his life in Somerset County, where he died at the age of sixty-six. He was of German antecedents. He married a lady of German extraction, who lived and died in Somerset County. The maternal grandfather of our subject was George Mull who was of Pennsylvania birth and German descent, and died in Somerset County at the advanced age of ninety-eight years. His wife, who was also a Pennsylvanian, lived to be very old too. Joseph Bruner and wife came to Illinois with their family in 1865. They began their new life on the prairies of Illinois on a farm at Franklin

Grove, China Township, but after some years removed to another farm of one hundred twenty acres that lay around the village of Eldena. Mr. Bruner died April 14, 1887, when nearly seventy years old. His wife had preceded him in death, dying May 23, 1885, at the age of nearly sixty-five years. Both were nearly all their lives members of the Lutheran Church, and were consistent Christians. Mr. Bruner was a life long Democrat.

The subject of this biography was sixteen years old when he accompanied the family in March, 1865 in their exodus from the State which had been the home of themselves and their ancestors for many years. He afforded them valuable assistance in establishing the new home at Franklin Grove, and he remained with them until twenty-five, becoming their stay and support in their declining years. He acquired skill as a farmer, and in 1876 purchased his homestead farm in South Dixon Township, which he has made a fine piece of property, and he has since invested in another choice tract of land, as before mentioned. Besides attending to the management of his farm, he has for several years been engaged profitably as a thrasher of wheat, etc. He has manifested considerable enterprise in the conducting of his business, and is deservedly prospering. He is a man of true piety, who carries his religion into his every-day life, and is strictly honorable and upright in his conduct. He has a strong mind, and his decided opinions are shown in his political sentiments, he being a straightforward Democrat. He is one of the leading Lutherans of this section, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Assembly at Dixon.

Our subject was married in the city of Dixon to Miss Clara E. Mosely. Their marriage is an example of a true wedded life, and has been blessed to them by two children. Their daughter Hazel E. died at the age of two and one half years. Their daughter Maude M., eleven years old, is the sunshine of their home. Mrs. Bruner was born at Utica, N. Y., October 3, 1855, to William and Jane (Dunlap) Mosely, natives respectively of Leicester England and New York. Mr. Mosely came from his native isle to America when a young man, and in the State of New York

he found his wife, who was of Scotch extraction. They lived in her native State some years, Mr. Mosely following his trade as a miller. In 1858 they migrated with their family to Illinois, and located at Binghampton, in this county, where Mr. Mosely was head miller for Bagger Bros. for some years. His health failing, he went to farming near that village, and is living there still, at the age of nearly three-score and ten. He is very well known in the southern part of the county where he has spent so many years and to know him is but to respect him. His wife died in Binghampton in 1876, at the age of forty-six years. She was a sincere Christian and a member of the Advent Church. Mrs. Bruner was only six months old when brought to this county, and here she was reared to a true womanhood, and is a valued member of the same church to which her husband belongs.



**A**LFRED P. PORTER, who is actively engaged in farming in Harmon Township, is a native of Lee County, born in the city of Dixon April 16, 1858. He is a son of James Porter, Jr., who was a pioneer of the county, and for many years a prominent citizen of Harmon Township. He was a native of the Empire State, his birthplace being near the city of Buffalo. He was reared on a farm, and early in manhood was married to Miss Paulina Bowman, who was born in the same neighborhood.

In 1845 the parents of our subject emigrated to Milwaukee, Wis., which was then a small village, and the following year they came from there to Lee County and located at Dixon, where Mr. Porter was engaged in the construction of railroads and in other work as a contractor, employing several men and teams, and doing a good business. In February, 1859, he removed to Harmon Township and turned his attention to farming. He located on section 25, purchasing two hundred acres of good farming land thereon, which he improved and occupied until February, 1880, when he took up

his residence at Harmon Station. He did not live to enjoy his new home long, as his death occurred the following July. His wife survives him, and still resides at Harmon. They reared a family of seven children, namely: Salena, who married Albert Sanborn, and died in Minnesota; George M., a grocer in Chicago; Cytha M.; Gulia E., wife of George W. Hill, of Harmon; Lane, who was accidentally shot; Gertrude, who died in childhood; Alfred P.; and Arthur, who died at the age of eleven years. Mr. Porter was a staunch Republican in politics, and he figured in public life as Supervisor of Harmon Township and in numerous minor offices, and always displayed commendable public spirit on all occasions where his assistance was needed in carrying out any scheme for civic improvement.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the common schools. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, and when he arrived at years of discretion he chose farming as his calling, and has become an excellent farmer, keeping his harvest fields well tilled, taking good care of his stock, and having everything about his place in good order.

Mr. Porter still resides on the old homestead where his boyhood days were passed. To the lady who presides over his home he was married February 4, 1880. Four children complete their household, of whom the following is the record: Ferris was born May 13, 1882; Lula, October 8, 1883; Wayne H., February 4, 1886; and Erma Z., January 5, 1890.

Mrs. Porter's name in her maiden days was Jimima D. Keith. She is also, like her husband, a native of Illinois, born at Rockford, November 14, 1860, to George and Ann (Eddy) Keith. Her parents were natives of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, whence they emigrated to Nova Scotia, and subsequently came from there to this State, and were early settlers of Winnebago County. They afterward removed from there to this county and settled in Marion Township, where the mother died in 1877. Mr. Keith is still living. Mrs. Porter is an active working member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is a sincere Christian.

Our subject follows in his father's footsteps in

politics and gives his allegiance to the Republican party. He has been School Director, and in 1890 he took the census of Harmon and Nelson Townships. He is a young man of sound principles, bears a good reputation among his associates for fairness and strict honesty in money matters, and is in every way worthy of the citizenship of his native county.



**I**SAAC EARL. This prominent business man is a popular grocer in Ashton, where, by his honest and courteous treatment of his customers he is carrying on a thriving business, keeping in his splendid store a full line of staple and fancy groceries and all table delicacies in their season. He is ambitious and industrious and is bound to succeed in all his undertakings.

Isaac Earl was born May 20, 1830, in Grauville County, Canada, where he grew to manhood, receiving a good education and when starting out to battle with the world for himself at the age of twenty-one, he was well qualified to bear bravely with the discouragements and hardships which were sure to befall him in a strange and thinly-settled region. He came to Ogle County in 1851 and engaged to work out on a farm by the month, having nothing with which to begin life but strong and willing hands and a determination to succeed. He continued as a farm laborer for two years, when learning the trade of a stone mason, he worked industriously at that occupation in Lee and Ogle Counties for a number of years.

Our subject resided in Ogle County for some fifteen years, at the end of that time coming to Lee County where he followed his trade in Ashton. A few years later he started in the coal and salt business, continuing to give his time and attention to that occupation for a twelvemonth, then, in 1872, he started his grocery, and is numbered among the prosperous merchants of Ashton.

Miss Cynthia Hitchcock became the wife of our subject, the marriage taking place in Ogle County. Mrs. Earl was born in the Buckeye State, and was a lady greatly esteemed in her neighborhood for

her many excellent traits of character. She became the mother of two children—Francis A., and Alice M., who is the wife of Charles Crum. Mrs. Cynthia Earl passed from this life in Ogle County. Our subject was a second time married, the lady of this occasion being Sarah A. Worthington, also a native of Ohio, where she was born. This worthy couple make their home in a comfortable residence which indicates that its inmates are people of refinement and education. They have a large circle of acquaintances and have the goodwill of all who know them. In politics Mr. Earl is a staunch Republican, hence always votes for the candidates of that body. He has served acceptably in the office of Township Treasurer and is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. All in all he is well worthy of the estimation in which he is held by his fellow-townsmen and by his honest and upright life is destined to become even more popular than he is.



**J**EREMIAH HETLER. The enterprising farmer and good citizen whose name we now give is a native of this county, having been born in Dixon Township, October 4, 1843. He is engaged in cultivating his beautiful tract of one hundred and twenty acres, which he has well improved and embellished with all the necessary farm buildings. He has his place well stocked with cattle of good breeds and in addition to his farming interests is carrying on a thriving dairy trade. Mr. Hetler located on his present purchase in 1873, having previous to that time been engaged in farming in another portion of Dixon Township.

Our subject is a son of Nathan Hetler, a native of Pennsylvania, who had come overland to Illinois some time in the '40s, and on making Lee County his home, purchased Government land in what is now Nachusa Township which he improved and resided upon for a number of years. Later he removed to another portion of the township where he spent his last days, his decease occurring in June, 1877, when sixty-three years of age. At

the time of his death he left four hundred acres of excellent land which he had accumulated by his industry and good management. For a fuller history of Nathan Hetler the reader is referred to the sketch of Hiram Hetler to be found elsewhere in this volume.

The gentleman of whom we write was the fourth in order of birth of a family of seven children, of whom four sons and two daughters are yet living and who are farmers by occupation. Our subject received a good education in the common schools and remained at home assisting his father on the farm until five or six years after reaching his majority. He thus received thorough training in farm duties which is perhaps the secret of his subsequent success in life.

Jeremiah Hetler was united in marriage in Nelson Township to Miss Mary E. McCleary, the ceremony being solemnized December 25, 1872. Mrs. Hetler was born in Pennsylvania, March 4, 1844, and is the daughter of William McCleary, also a native of the Keystone State, who came to Illinois in 1866 and located in Nelson Township, where he resided until his death, being one of the prominent and influential citizens of the county. A fuller history of Mr. McCleary will be found in the sketch of George McCleary on another page in this volume.

Mrs. Mary Hetler received a thorough education in the English branches in Pennsylvania and accompanied her parents to the Prairie State when a young woman. She is the only one living in a family of five sons and one daughter born to her parents and by her marriage with our subject has become the mother of four children, one of whom is deceased, and who bore the name of Nettie S., dying when fifteen years of age. Those living are Grace M., and Kittie M., both of whom are graduates of the city schools at Dixon, the former taking a course in the Business College at Dixon; and Florence A. The three daughters still remain under the parental roof where they are receiving that training which will make them good and useful homekeepers. Religiously our subject and his excellent wife are members in good standing of the Presbyterian Church, are respected members of society in this part of the county and are worthy

of the esteem which is granted them. The political views of Mr. Hetler have brought him into active co-operation with the Republican party, in which he has great confidence and for which he is glad to cast his vote.



**L**AUREN T. MERRIAM. This gentleman, who is the proprietor of the City Steam Laundry, one of the leading enterprises of Dixon, has had a varied experience in life, and that he has succeeded in building up such a lucrative business after the many ups and downs of fortune to which he has been subjected, does credit not only to his good judgment but speaks well for his enterprise and perseverance.

Mr. Merriam was born in Connecticut June 22, 1822, was there reared and educated, and in early life engaged in the manufacturing business, at which he acquired a comfortable fortune. He then came West, hoping to still increase his gains and at one time was interested in three different banks, one in Connecticut and two in Indiana. Unfortunately his partner in whom he had placed great confidence, proved dishonest, subjecting him to heavy losses. He afterward owned and ran a large store in Chicago in 1856. Mr. Merriam remembers being in Chicago before any railroad was built from that place, and of taking a trip to St. Louis by way of the canal and river which occupied five days' time. For seventeen years he followed the occupation of a commercial traveler, being for the most of that time employed by H. H. Shufeldt, and also for Samuel Meyers, extensive liquor dealers, selling spirituous liquors during the whole of that time, but seldom if ever, allowing himself to touch intoxicating beverages.

On coming to Dixon, of which city he has been a resident for twenty years, Mr. Merriam opened up his present business in a very small way. It, however, increased rapidly and in 1888 he felt himself warranted in erecting a fine two-story brick building, 60x24 feet in size, a portion of which he uses as a residence. The ground floor

and basement are fitted up especially for laundry work, with every necessary appliance and modern improvement in that line. Here he turns out first-class work and enjoys the patronage of the best people in the town and surrounding country. As an example of the growth of his business it may be stated that the amount of work done in one month at present equals that done in a whole year when it was first established. He employs from eight to ten assistants and is kept constantly busy.

Mr. Merriam was married in Connecticut, his wife being Miss Susan Hubbard, who was born and reared in that State. She has been a true helpmate to her hard-working husband and a devoted mother to her children, of whom she has had four. Of these one, Frank H., lived to reach the interesting age of seventeen years and his death was a severe blow to his parents. Of the remaining children, Jennie became the wife of Richard Southgate, and they resided in Silver Cliff, Col.; Edgar H. married Miss Benjamin, and is manager in a large warehouse at Council Bluffs, Iowa. Lauren B. married Leona Mead, and resides in Dixon. He is the civil engineer for the Northwestern Railroad and has been eminently successful in his calling, having accomplished many signal achievements in that line, possessing unusual abilities for a man of his years. In politics Mr. Merriam is a staunch Democrat. Mrs. Merriam is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and the family is highly respected and esteemed.



**T**ERTIUS A. LYMAN. We are pleased to present to the consideration of our readers an old settler of China Township, who stands high in the estimation of his neighbors and is justly considered one of the prominent men in the county. He is a progressive and successful farmer whose beautiful estate of sixty-four and one-half acres on section 35, is exceedingly productive and most thoroughly cultivated.

This gentleman was born in Winchester, Chesapeake County, N. H., March 13, 1812. He made

that place his home until 1846, when with his family he came to Illinois and made location in Lee County, where in Bradford Township he purchased a tract of three hundred and twenty acres. He continued to live there and cultivate his land in a most satisfactory manner until 1869, when he came to China Township where he has since made his home.

The subject of this sketch was married in Winchester, N. H., to Miss Sarah P. Coddington, the date thereof being March 13, 1834. Mrs. Lyman was a native of the county in which she was married, her birth occurring October 19, 1809. She received a good education and has been a helpmate in the truest sense of the word to her worthy husband, for his removal West was at a time when the country was but thinly populated and hardships were everyday occurrences. She bore them all bravely, doing what she could to make the home bright and comfortable, and now in her later years can look back with pride to what has been accomplished by her aid.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyman have become the parents of five children, of whom we make the following mention: Sarah A. is the wife of Charles Wilber; George A. married Miss Mary E. Jones and is a very intelligent young man and is at present editing the *Amboy Journal*; Levi H. married Miss Sarah F. Bruce and is residing on a fine farm in China Township; Cyrus O., who married Miss Jane Evitts, met his death at Dubuque, Iowa, while in a sail boat on the Mississippi River; at the time of his death he was thirty-one years old; Clymea O. died in infancy.

In political matters the gentleman of whom we write is independent, reserving the right to vote for the man whom he thinks will best fill the office rather than for party principles. He has always taken an interest in local affairs and is liberal in his contribution to all good works. Mr. and Mrs. Lyman are conscientious and influential members of the Congregational Church, having identified themselves with that religious denomination when twenty years of age.

When fifteen years old our subject, in choosing an occupation for himself, learned the trade of a carpenter, working successfully at that calling for

a number of years in New Hampshire and wielded the hammer and saw for two years after coming to the Prairie State. But after locating here, feeling that he was better fitted to pursue the life of a farmer and the duties of that occupation agreeing in every way with his tastes, he gave up the carpenter trade and became an agriculturist. That he chose wisely and well can not be doubted by those who have the opportunity to view his beautiful farm, for in every department is displayed the thrift and enterprise of the owner. He has placed upon it good and substantial buildings of every description which are necessary for the successful prosecution of a first-class estate and is enabled to live comfortably and well in his later years. He is well known in Lee County and is universally esteemed and honored.



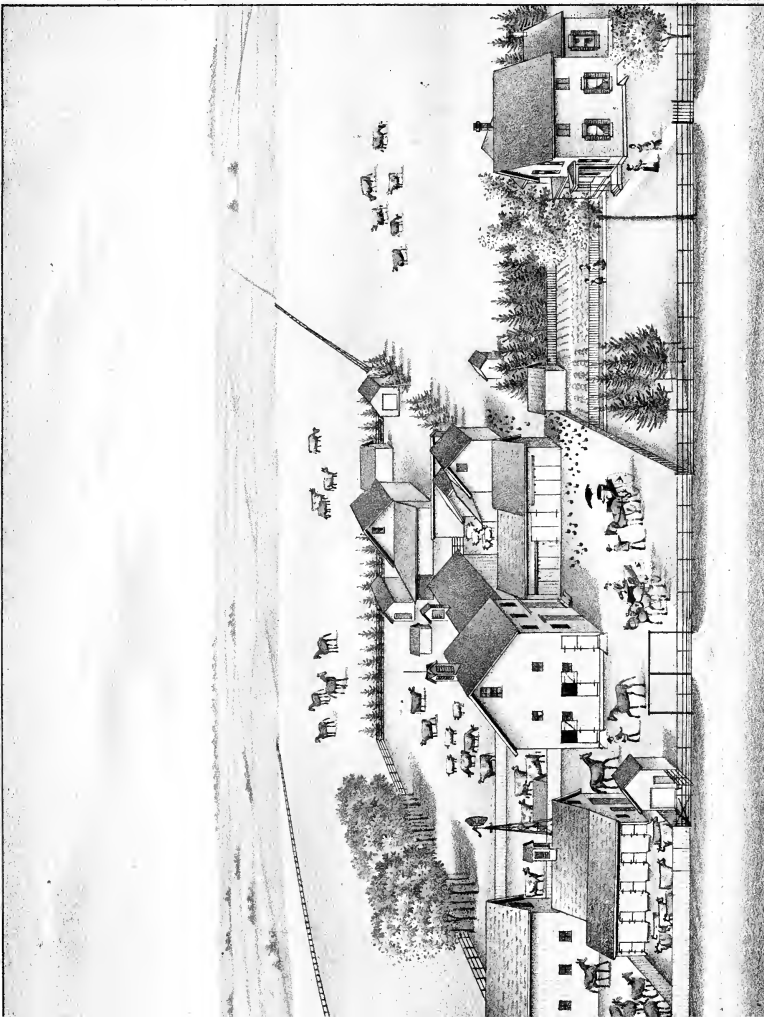
**J**ACOB BETZ, Jr. one of the best known citizens of Brooklyn Township, where he resides on his well appointed farm on section 25, is a man whose native force of character, far-seeing enterprise and practical ability have placed him among the foremost farmers and stock-raisers of Lee County, where he has acquired extensive farming interests, and become prominent in its public and political life. He was born in Wayne County, N. Y., July 11, 1841. His father Jacob Betz, an honored pioneer of Northern Illinois, has been associated for nearly half a century with the rise and growth of Bureau County, of which he is still a resident.

The father of our subject is a native of the town of Mentz, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany and a son of Adam Betz, who was also of German birth and antecedents. The latter served in the army eight years, and was with Napoleon in his raid on Moscow, suffering all the terrible hardships and privations of the retreat through the winter snows from that Russian city. He came to America in 1843, and spent his last days in Bureau County. These six of his children also came to this country; Jacob, John, Mary, George, Josephine and Catharine.

Our subject's father grew to man's estate in the

land of his nativity, and was there united in marriage with Gedrich Faubel, who was also a German. Ambitious to make the most of his life, and thinking that the New World offered better opportunities of success than the old, he resolved to emigrate to these shores, and in 1840 came hither with his wife. He resided in New York until 1843, and after coming here he had the misfortune to be bereft of his companion and helpmate, who had cheerfully left the Fatherland to cross the waters with him and assist in founding a new home in a strange country. In 1843 Mr. Betz came to Illinois, travelling by the way of the Lakes to Chicago. From that city he went with a team to Bureau County, where he found a sparsely inhabited region, with but few settlements, as at that time the northern part of the state was almost in its original wildness, and the greater part of the land was in the hands of the Government. He entered a tract and also bought another partly improved in Clarion Township. For some years there were no railroads in the vicinity, and he had to draw all his grain to Chicago, more than a hundred miles distant. In the course of years he improved a fine farm, and has thus contributed materially to the development of his adopted county, of which he has been a witness almost from the beginning.

The subject of this biography was only two years old when his mother died, and after the death of the mother the father married a sister of his first wife Elizabeth Faubel. He was two years old when his father brought him to this State, and here he was reared and educated. He attended the pioneer schools of Bureau County, which were taught in log houses, and had seats made of slabs without desks or backs. Holes were bored in the logs, in which were inserted wooden pins and the board laid on them served as a writing desk for the older scholars. As soon as Jacob was large enough he had to do chores and make himself generally useful on the farm, and when he began his independent career as a farmer and a stock-raiser he had had a good experience in farming to serve as the foundation of his future success. He remained with his father until 1865, affording him valuable aid in the management of his farm, and then settled in Wyoming Township on a farm



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which he still owns. In 1875 he removed to the farm on which he now resides, which is finely located on section 25, Brooklyn Township. He now has four hundred seventy acres of well-improved land, amply supplied with well-ordered and conveniently arranged buildings for every purpose, and well-stocked with horses, cattle and hogs of the best breeds. A view of the homestead is shown elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Betz has been twice married. In 1865 he wedded Margaret Kessler, a native of Germany, and a daughter of Andrew Kessler. Less than two years of wedded happiness was vouchsafed to them ere her death February 28, 1867. She left one son, Ezra. The second marriage of our subject was to Miss Margaret Pope, a native of Germany, and a daughter of Jacob Pope. Their union has been blessed by the birth of a son, J. Fred.

A stalwart Republican in politics, Mr. Betz uses his influence to promote party interests. He is a member of the Evangelical Association, and earnestly supports all things that tend to the moral and religious elevation of the community. His eminent fitness for public office has been recognized by his fellow-citizens, and when elected to a position of trust he has given his best efforts to discharge the duties thus imposed upon him. He has served five terms as a member of the County Board of Supervisors, and his township never had a better representative, or one who more zealously guarded his interests, while at the same time seeking to promote the general welfare of the county.



**S**INGLETON W. RIEGLE, one of the leading citizens of China Township, has been closely connected with the material interests of Lee County as a practical, sagacious agriculturist for more than thirty years, and is the fortunate proprietor of one of the well appointed farms for which this region is celebrated.

Mr. Riegle is a native of the State of Maryland, his birthplace in Carroll County, and November 11, 1835, the date of his birth. His father, Peter Riegle, is thought to have been born in that com-

mouwealth also. He married Elizabeth Wilt, who was born in Maryland near the Pennsylvania line, and during some period of their wedded life they settled in Adams County, in the latter State, where they died in the fullness of time.

The parents of our subject had a family of seven children, of whom he was the fourth in point of birth. He was three years old when they sought a new home in Adams County, Pa., in 1838, and there his years were passed until he attained the age of twenty-four. He was reared on a farm, and besides being well trained in agricultural pursuits, gained an excellent education in the common schools and High School Academy of York, Pa. At the age of eighteen he commenced to teach school, and followed that profession during the school terms for eight years. In the spring of 1859 he visited Illinois, and remained in Lee County through the following summer. Returning to Adams County, Pa., he taught school there through the ensuing winter, and it was at that time he took upon himself the solemn obligations of married life.

Mr. Riegle had been very favorably impressed with this part of the country during his sojourn here, and in the spring of 1860 he came to Lee County with his bride, \$75 in gold, and plenty of ambition as a germ upon which to build a future home; by economy and industrious perseverance he succeeded fairly well. He commenced farming first on shares among strangers (but good, true friends) on section 13, China Township, owned by B. F. Dysart, who had volunteered and enlisted in Company C, Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry, and served faithfully until peace was declared in 1865. In 1866-67 he traveled all over the West and Southwest in search of a better location, which he failed to find. In 1867 he purchased one hundred and twenty acres in section 10, China Township, to which in 1876 he added forty acres on section 16, Nachusa Township, and in 1891 forty acres more on section 10, China Township.

In the years that have since followed he has spared neither time, labor or expense in making his farm of two hundred acres of land of surpassing fertility, into one of the best in its cultivation of any in the neighborhood. His fields

are neatly fenced and admirably tilled; he has erected a commodious and conveniently arranged set of farm buildings, of a tasteful style of architecture, has good accommodations for his well-kept, finely graded stock, and is conducting his operations with financial success, the true test of a practical, systematic skillful farmer.

Our subject and Miss Caroline Matilda Hermon were united in marriage December 29, 1859. Mrs. Riegler was born in Adams County, Pa., November 6, 1838 and was the only daughter of David and Anna M. (Moritz) Hermon, who were the parents of five children. They were also natives of Adams County, Pa. The mother is still living but the father died in 1885, in Newton County, Mo., in which they had located in 1866. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Riegler: Stella Maggie, Willis Luther, Charlie Peter, Paul Singleton, Virgie Caroline, Hermione Elizabeth, and Bertram Leroy are still living, Herman Elmer, Mary Lilia and David Rudolph died in their youth.

June 15, 1891, the beloved wife of our subject died very suddenly at Table Rock, Adams County, Pa., while on a visit with her husband to old friends near the scenes of her early home, her death being caused by apoplexy. The locality of her birth, the place of her marriage, and the scene of her death were all within five miles of each other. Her wedded life, with the exception of a few months, was passed in China Township where she had come as a bride, and in the thirty years that she lived here she made many warm friends, who were attracted to her by her many pleasing attributes and strong personal worth. She was a devoted wife and a tender mother, and her household reverently cherish her memory. She was a true "home maker", and mayhap beyond "that soundless, sailless, solemn sea" over which she has voyaged to some fairer land, she is waiting to welcome the loved ones still on this side, to a home not made with hands, where there shall be no more parting. Mr. Riegler is a man whose rectitude of purpose and actions, firmness of character, obliging disposition, and helpfulness in time of need, commend him to his fellow-citizens from the first, and these traits, together with others of a more practical nature, have made his services of

value in the various civic capacities in which he has acted since he became a resident of this township. He has been Justice of the Peace for several years, has served as Assessor, and has been School Director for twenty years. His political views find expression in the principles promulgated by the Republican party. Religiously, he is a believer in the tenets of the Lutheran Church, in which he was reared.



**F**ERDINAND W. HEGERT, whose death occurred in Dixon, February 27, 1883, was born in Prussia, April 12, 1848. He came of German stock and parentage, and had the misfortune to lose his mother when fifteen years of age, she dying when scarcely past middle life. He was sixteen years old when his father, Carl Hegert, with the remainder of his family emigrated to the United States, settling in Amboy, this State, to which place some of the older sons had come some time previously. Here the father died in 1882, when about sixty-seven years old, having been remarkably hale and healthy up to the time of his death. He was a consistent member of the German Lutheran Church.

After coming to this country our subject acquired a knowledge of the English language in the public schools and then entered the drug store of Phinney & Sanger, of Amboy and was there engaged as head clerk for some years. Later he came to Dixon and formed a partnership with Constant Wild, a well-known druggist. Upon the death of Mr. Wild, Mr. Hegert continued the business in which he was very successful and accumulated a good property. He was married in Amboy in 1873, to Miss Wilhelmina Molly. She was born in New York City in 1852, and was the daughter of Charles and Wilhelmina (Blackman) Molly, who were natives of Germany, coming of Rhinish-Prussian parentage. Her parents emigrated to this country and after living for some time in New York City, removed to Amboy in 1853, where they

are still living, Mr. Molly having retired from business.

Mrs. Hegert was carefully reared and given an excellent education and is a woman of great intelligence and ability and a devoted wife and mother. Mr. and Mrs. Hegert are the parents of four children, one of whom, Fred, died when a child. The others—Emma M., Charles F. W. and Ina W. H. are at home. Mrs. Hegert and all her children are members of the Lutheran Church, in which she is prominent in all good works. The family occupy a prominent position in society and are deserving of the esteem in which they are held.

Mr. Hegert during his life was a constant attendant of the Lutheran Church. In politics, he was a Republican, and was an honorary member of the Fire Department at Dixon. He was prominent in the order of Odd Fellows of that city, and his loss was greatly felt in both business and social circles.



**H**IRAM B. BATES. We are gratified to be able to place in the hands of our readers a sketch of Mr. Bates, who is well known throughout Amboy Township and Lee County, and who is most highly esteemed personally, as is also his family. He is at present residing on his fine tract of land, located on section 11, Amboy Township, and which is improved with every needful building that will facilitate his active operations as an agriculturist.

Mr. Bates is a native of the Green Mountain State, having been born in Westford, Chittenden County, October 28, 1828, and in which place he received his education and grew to manhood, remaining there until 1855, when, with his wife and one child, he came West and located in Pierce County, Wis., opening up a farm, and residing there for the succeeding twelve years. In November, 1868, however, our subject disposed of his property in Wisconsin, having been encouraged to make Lee County his home, and on coming hither lived for two years in China Township.

Later he purchased the beautiful tract on section 11, where he makes his home at the present time. He has put his land under a thorough course of cultivation, and the result is that he is the proprietor of one of the finest estates in the township, and he has the satisfaction of knowing that it has been brought about by his own untiring industry and perseverance.

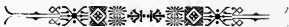
This gentleman established a hearthstone of his own before he came West, having been united in marriage May 13, 1851, to Miss Marion E. Brackett, the ceremony taking place in Orange County, Vt. Mrs. Bates was born in Braintree, Orange County, Vt., May 26, 1828, and by her union with our subject has become the mother of four children, of whom we make the following mention: Armina H. died at the interesting age of twelve years; Ida J. is the wife of Jarvin Leake; Charles A. died when a lad of five years, and George D. married Miss Effie Evitts.

Mr. Bates has been keenly alive to all measures that would in any way benefit his community, and is looked upon as being one of the most public-spirited men in the county. He invariably gives of his times and means to promote all good works and will be greatly missed in this section when he shall have passed from earth. He has been especially interested in educational matters, and served his fellow-townsmen most satisfactorily as a member of the School Board. While a resident of Wisconsin his good qualities as a public servant were recognized, and he became Supervisor of his township, and while in that office studied how to best promote the welfare of his townsmen. Mrs. Bates is a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which society she is active in all good works.

The father of our subject was Hosea B. Bates, who was born in Westford, Vt. His mother was Mrs. Hannah (Bowman) Bates, also a native of the same town and State as her husband. They lived honored and useful lives, and when called from this life were residing at River Falls, Wis., whither they had removed in 1850. The father of Mrs. Bates bore the name of Charles Brackett and claimed Vermont as his native State, his birth taking place in Braintree. Her

mother was Armenia Parrish, who was born in Brinkfield, Vt.; she died in Braintree, same State, in 1843. The father, however, came to Lee County in 1855, and died in China Township in 1881.

Mr. Bates owns eighty acres of land and is numbered among the prominent and successful farmers of Amboy Township. Mrs. Bates is a very capable and intelligent lady and is noted for her skill as a housewife and caretaker.



**J**ONAS BURGER is one of the most successful farmers in Palmyra Township. He owns a very attractive and productive farm of one hundred and ten acres on sections 16 and 17 of the above-named township, every foot of which is under the most excellent cultivation. He came to this county in 1854 and landed in Dixon with \$110 in his pocket and a wife and one child to care for. They thus began at the bottom of the ladder, erecting on their purchase a log cabin, which has since been supplemented by a comfortable and convenient frame dwelling.

Mr. Burger removed to Crawford County, Mo., in 1858, but two years later returned to Lee County, and has since made this county his abiding place. He was born in Columbia County, Pa., June 1, 1824, and is the son of Abraham Burger, also a native of Columbia County, Pa., and of German ancestry. His mother was Miss Mary Hower, a native of the same county and State as was her husband. After their marriage the parents located on a farm in Columbia County, where they lived good honest lives and died, the father when seventy-nine years of age and the mother two years younger. They were active and influential members of the Presbyterian and Lutheran Churches, respectively. Mr. Burger was a believer in Democratic principles and always cast his vote and influence in favor of the candidates of that party.

The parental family of our subject numbered twelve children, five sons and seven daughters of whom our subject was the youngest but one in the order of birth and the only son now living. Mr.

Burger has three sisters living, two making their home in Pennsylvania and one in Nebraska. He was reared to man's estate in his native county and received a good education in the common schools. He was married November 23, 1848 to Miss Rebecca Loreman, who was born in Columbia County, Pa., January 15, 1830, where she was reared and was given an excellent education.

Mrs. Burger was the daughter of Jacob and Lydia (Drumm) Loreman, both of whom were natives of Franklin Township, Columbia County. They were well-to-do people and died at the respective ages of seventy-nine and seventy-two years. They were of Pennsylvania Dutch stock and very prominent in the work of the Lutheran Church, of which denomination they were members. Mr. Loreman was a believer in Democracy and took a lively interest in local politics.

Mrs. Burger, the wife of our subject, was the eldest child of three sons and four daughters born to her parents and besides a sister and brother, is the only one now living. Her union with our subject has been productive of eight children, two of whom are deceased: Lydia A. and Anna M. Those living are Alice, who is the wife of Abraham Cliets, and makes her home in Mills County, Iowa, on a farm; Amanda M., the wife of Jacob Kline, now resides in Jordan Township, Whiteside County, Ill.; William, who took to wife Miss Barbara Wolford, and who lives on a farm in Ogle County, this State; Sarah, the wife of Erastus A. Covert, she resides on a farm in this township; Ida M., wife of Samuel McGaffy, also making Palmyra Township their home; Eldora makes her home under the parental roof. Our subject and his wife are conscientious members of the Presbyterian Church and in politics Mr. Burger votes with the Democratic party.



**C**APT. WILLIAM S. FROST. This gentleman, who is an extensive landowner, and also largely engaged in farming and stock-raising, is well known throughout the county, not only as an intelligent, enterprising business man,

but as an old soldier who fought bravely during the War of the Rebellion, and who carries with him the marks of wounds received in the service. He resides on section 28, Bradford Township, Lee County, which he has made his home for many years.

Capt. Frost was born in Windsor, near Augusta, Me., October 7, 1832. When five years of age he was brought by his parents to Illinois, spending the first winter in Morgan County, and in the spring of 1838 coming to Lee County and settling in what is now Amboy Township, near Lee Center. He remained at home until he was eighteen years of age, when he went to Mt. Morris, and was for two years a student in the seminary at that place. After finishing his schooling he went to California by way of the Isthmus, and was there engaged in mining and also in hotel keeping for the next six years, when he returned to Lee County. A short time afterward he purchased a lot of stock, and in 1859 drove them across the plains to California, there disposing of them to good advantage, and returning in the fall of 1861 to Lee County.

When the Civil War broke out, Capt. Frost entered the service of his country, and in the spring of 1862 enlisted in Company E, Seventy-fifth Illinois Regiment, of which he was commissioned Captain. He was mustered in, June 14, 1862, and continued in command of the company, until July 23, 1864, when he was severely wounded at Atlanta by a minie ball, after which he was unable to do active service. He was mustered out January 23, 1865. Capt. Frost took part in the following engagements: Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Resaca, Lookout Mountain and Kenesaw Mountain. He was wounded at Perryville by a minie ball which passed through his thigh, and was confined in the hospital for two months. His record through the war was that of a brave soldier and one which he can look back upon with pride. After his discharge from the army he returned to Lee County, and engaged in farming, also feeding and shipping live stock, and has since followed that business. He owns a large and finely improved farm, on which he has a fine residence and excellent buildings.

Capt. Frost was married in Lee Center, October

25, 1865, to Miss Sophia E. Shaw. This lady was a daughter of the late Sherman Shaw, who with his wife, whose maiden name was Melinda DeWolf, was among the first settlers of Lee County. The father died April 25, 1891, and the mother is still living. Mrs. Frost was born in Niles, Mich., March 31, 1837, and was but five months old when her parents came to Lee County, where she grew to womanhood. Our subject and his wife are the parents of five children, namely: Frank Eels, who married Martha Hurlbert; Melinda S., who is the wife of Andrew Asehenbrenner; S. Donald; William S., Jr., and Mary A.

Capt. Frost is a staunch Republican, and has always taken an active part in political affairs. His good counsel and judgment have been appreciated by his fellow citizens, who have bestowed some important local offices upon him. He has been Supervisor for Bradford Township for some fourteen or fifteen years, and for some time has held the office of Commissioner of Internal Improvement of the Drainage District. The commission has spent about \$100,000 in draining that section. He is one of the prominent and influential men of his township, and his many friends will take pleasure in reading this brief sketch of his life.



ARTHUR PHILLIPS, a well-known stockbreeder and farmer, who conducts an extensive business in his line on section 17, Nelson Township, has here a valuable and well arranged stock farm, beautifully located on the banks of the Rock River. Mr. Phillips was born in Warren County, Ohio, February 18, 1822, coming of the sturdy pioneer stock of that State, of which his father, John Phillips, was also a native. He in turn was a son of Virginia parents who had settled in Ohio in an early day, and died in Warren County. He was reared in that county near the town of Franklin, and when young learned the trade of a carpenter, which he followed some years. He then abandoned that calling in favor of farming, which he pursued in his native

county until his life was rounded out by his death at the age of seventy years. He was a man of remarkable physique, being very stout, hardy and rugged, and in personal character he was above reproach. He married Miss Elizabeth Howard, who was also a daughter of pioneer parents, who died in the Buckeye State when very old. She was born and reared in Warren County, and her death occurred there about ten years before that of her husband.

Our subject is one of seven children, five sons and two daughters, he being the fourth in order of birth, and one son and one daughter are now dead. Arthur is the only one living in Illinois. His brothers, John T., and George, are residents of Ft. Wayne, Ind., and his brother Lewis, is a farmer in Marshall County, Iowa. A sister, Mrs. Mary Grimes, lives at Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Phillips, although not one of the earliest settlers of this county, may well be denominated one of its pioneers, as he has been such an active factor in redeeming the land from the wilderness. He came to this county in 1852, and first located in China Township, where he improved a small farm. In 1865, he sold that place at a good price and purchased his present homestead in Nelson Township. This comprises two hundred and eighty acres of rich alluvium, well watered by the beautiful stream that flows by, and admirably adapted to stock-raising purposes. The buildings are of a good style of architecture, and every convenience is to be found on the place for the numerous cattle, horses and swine raised here, Mr. Phillips making a specialty of Short-Horns, besides having cattle of other grades. All of the improvements in the way of buildings, etc., have been put upon the place by him since it came into his possession.

The marriage of Mr. Phillips with Miss Louisa Wingert, took place at Winchester, Ohio. Mrs. Phillips was born in Pennsylvania, and was young when her parents, Henry and Anna (Bentz) Wingert, removed to Ohio, and settled near Winchester, whence in 1852 they came to this county with their daughter, Mrs. Phillips, of this notice, and located at Franklin Grove, China Township, and is now nearly eighty-seven years old. He has

been a hard-working man and a good citizen, and none know him but to respect him. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Phillips, of whom all are living but Anna, who died at the age of fourteen years. The surviving children are Mary, wife of Harry Williams, a farmer of Woosung in Ogle County; Laura, wife of George Mooers, of Belle Plaine, Iowa, who is engaged as a railway conductor; Wilbur, who now resides at home, having married Miss Zula Williams, of Walnut, Bureau County, Ill.; Henry, the youngest son, still remains with his parents.

Mr. Phillips is highly regarded as one of our most upright, fair-dealing and conscientious citizens although no church claims him as a member. He has an evenly balanced mind, is independent in his opinions, especially so in regard to politics, being a strong Democrat, and his successful management of his affairs has placed him among the substantial and well-to-do farmers of his township.



**N**ATHAN A. PETRIE is a member of the banking firm of Mills & Petrie, and is a gentleman who enjoys the confidence of the business community, where his word is considered as good as his bond. Character must always tell in its effect upon those who meet it, and there is no such argument for intelligence and uprightness as an intelligent and upright life.

Nathan A. Petrie was born in Parish, Oswego County, N. Y., November 14, 1843, and is the son of Rudolph and Elizabeth (Vrooman) Petrie, the former being born in Herkimer County and the mother in Schoharie County, N. Y. Mr. Rudolph Petrie was an agriculturist by calling and cultivated his estate in such a manner as to bring him a handsome income. They both passed from this life in Parish, N. Y., after having become the parents of seven children, five sons and two daughters.

Our subject was the youngest member of the household, and remained under the parental roof until reaching his nineteenth year, in the meantime receiving a good education in the schools of

his neighborhood, and the knowledge of books gained therein has been supplemented by thorough and systematic reading until to-day he is a man of culture and education. When starting out in the world to battle with life for himself he was only nineteen years of age, but thinking that the advantages offered a young man in his circumstances were better in the Prairie State than in New York, he came West to Lee County. For the two years succeeding his advent into this county our young hero was in the employ of S. F. Mills in Ashton engaged in his grain elevator and lumber yard, doing all the work given him to perform in such an admirable and conscientious manner that in a short time Mr. Mills took him in as his partner and they have since continued together in their various changes of business to the present time. That one fact alone speaks volumes for the character of our subject.

In 1865 the firm of Mills & Petrie engaged in the mercantile business in Ashton, carrying a complete stock of goods well fitted to supply the needs of the village and country household, and by their honest and courteous treatment of their customers did an extensive business. They continued as merchants in Ashton for four years, when in 1869, they sold out their store and engaged in the banking business, the bank being known throughout the State as the Ashton Bank, and which receives a flattering degree of patronage from the people of this section. The firm owns two farms in addition to their bank, which they rent.

Mr. Petrie of this sketch has been Supervisor of Ashton Township for two years, and was Notary Public for sixteen years. We are thus gratified to be able to place in the hands of our readers a sketch of Mr. Petrie, who is so well known and highly esteemed personally. In politics he is a staunch Democrat, always casting his vote and influence to the support of that body.

Miss Sarah E. Howard became Mrs. Petrie in 1880, their marriage being solemnized in Ashton. She was born in Port Clinton, Ohio, and was the daughter of William and Mary Howard, the latter of whom died in Jefferson County, Neb.; the father is residing in that county. Mrs. Petrie is

an estimable lady and is beloved by every one who has the pleasure of her acquaintance. She is well fitted to be the wife of a gentleman who is so thoroughly esteemed as is her worthy husband and the subject of this sketch.



**G**EORGE E. SMITH, a well-known railroad engineer, is now retired from active life, residing just outside the city limits of Dixon, where he has a comfortable home of five acres. His place is supplied with good buildings and in 1890 he erected a pleasant dwelling. Our subject has been enterprising and industrious and when only fifteen years of age possessed property of his own. He has ever since continued to be a landowner.

Mr. Smith, of this sketch, is prominent in railroad circles, having been connected with the Wabash Railroad for thirty years and was in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad for one year. He began life for himself when fifteen years of age by working in the railroads shop of the Boston & Lowell Road in the cities of Boston and Lowell, Mass. He remained with them until reaching his majority when he was given charge of an engine in the yards at Cambridge, Mass., and so efficiently did he perform his duties as engineer that he was soon given charge of an engine in regular service.

In 1855 our subject came West and located in Springfield, Ill., where he was given charge of an engine on the Great Western Railroad, running between Springfield and Naples, a distance of about fifty-five miles. That road was later merged into what is now the Wabash and our subject remained in their employ for thirty years, or until he retired in 1890. He has passed through all the various stages of an engineer's life and during the entire period of his service he has never had an accident which resulted seriously to his passengers. During seven years of that time he never even had a wheel off the track and in recognition of that fact he was highly complimented by the then acting Passenger Superintendent, Robert Andrews.

He claims that the people at large are responsible to a great extent for the many accidents on railroads as they ask and expect trains to be run at such an enormous speed.

Mr. Smith looks back with much pleasure to the time when he was in active service on the road and numbers some of his best friends among the highest officials of the company. Beginning at an early age the serious business of caring for himself, Mr. Smith has continued through life to be prudent and industrious and in his old age is able to retire with a comfortable competency that insures him immunity from want or care, and Dixon may feel proud to have so honorable a gentleman among her citizens.

The subject of this sketch was born at Lowell, Mass., December 9, 1833 and was the son of John L. Smith, a native of New Hampshire. The father made his home for a number of years at Lowell, but passed from this life at Dixon, Lee County, when sixty-two years of age. Our subject came honestly by his love for railroad life, as his father was employed for a number of years by the Boston & Lowell Railroad. The maiden name of Mrs. Smith was Miss Alvira Perkins, also a native of the Granite State, who died at Dixon, aged seventy-two years, having come West a number of years before her decease. Religiously she was a consistent member of the Baptist Church, and a kind and loving wife and mother.

The gentleman of whom we write was educated in the public schools in Boston, Mass., and after he became of age was married in Cambridge to Miss Eliza Underwood, the date of the ceremony being 1854. Mrs. Smith was the daughter of Isaac Underwood, a native of Massachusetts, who lived and died at Cambridge, his decease occurring when he was seventy-six years of age. He followed the trade of a carpenter and was fairly successful in that calling. The mother of Mrs. Smith was Miss Rebecca Slocum and was the first white child born in East Cambridge then known as Craig's Point; she died in 1875 when nearly sixty-two years old. The parents were members of the Universalist Church and were greatly esteemed in their community for their upright and honest lives.

Mrs. Eliza Smith, wife of our subject received a

good education in her native town and by her marriage with our subject has become the mother of two children, only one of whom is living at the present time, Martha, who remains under the parental roof. Ella died when fourteen years of age. In politics he is a believer in Republican principles and hence always casts his vote and influence in favor of the candidates of that party.



ANDREW VENTLER is another of the well-to-do citizens of Bradford Township, who were born in the Fatherland. His industry and frugality have enabled him to take a place in the front rank among the farmers who have made a success of their calling. He was born in Germany, May 11, 1830 and received his education in the model schools of his native land, where he learned the principles, which put into practice, have made him an intelligent agriculturist.

Our subject remained in Germany until 1853, when, hearing such glowing accounts of the good fortune to be met with in the New World, he embarked from his native country and landed in New York in August of the above named year. He came directly West and resided for two months in Wisconsin being engaged on a railroad. He later came to Lee County and was employed by the Northwestern Railroad for the succeeding four months, at the end of which time he began to work out on a farm as a laborer, being thus engaged for about four years.

Mr. Ventler whose name stands at the head of this sketch was married April 21, 1860, the lady of his choice being Miss Elizabeth Ginnterman, also a native of Germany, having been born December 15, 1836. Our subject began life as a farmer by renting a tract of land situated between Franklin and Dixon, which he continued to cultivate for some three years, when by his economy and frugality he was enabled to save a sufficient sum with which to purchase eighty acres. That tract was located on section 14, Bradford Township, and which is included among his possessions.



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Ever Yours  
Riley Paddock

Mr. Ventler is now the proud possessor of six hundred and eighty acres of excellent land which his intelligence and good judgment enables him to cultivate in a very profitable manner and is thus numbered among the wealthy and prominent farmers of Lee County. A stranger in the county, not acquainted with Mr. Ventler, would know that his estate was under the supervision of an industrious, ambitious gentleman, as it everywhere bears the marks of the care and expense which has been lavished upon it.

Mr. and Mrs. Ventler have been granted a family of nine children, seven are yet living and bear the respective names of Mary, Marcus, Conrad, John, Anna, William and Katie. Two children died when young. In politics our subject is a staunch Democrat and, with his excellent wife, is an active member of the Lutheran Church. Mrs. Ventler is a very intelligent and capable lady and noted for her skill as a housewife and caretaker.



**W**ILLBOURNE E. PADDOCK. This gentleman is a resident of Ashton, which he has made his home for a number of years, and is highly esteemed as a public-spirited and enterprising citizen. He comes of an excellent family and a short sketch of his father, the late Riley Paddock, whose portrait is presented on the opposite page, will not be out of place in this connection.

Riley Paddock was born in Clarke County, Ohio, February 3, 1810. When he was nine years old he went with his father, Col. Ebenezer Paddock, to Vigo County, Ind., where he was reared to manhood on a farm. When he was about twenty-one years old, he engaged in the mercantile business in Middletown, that county, which he pursued for some five or six years, being the only merchant at that time in that section of country. He was obliged to haul most of his goods from Louisville, Ky., there being no public means of transportation.

In 1837 Mr. Paddock sold out his stock, and

removing to Washington Grove, Ogle County, Ill., there purchased a tract of land, comprising some five hundred acres. He devoted himself to farming on this place until 1866 when he removed to Ashton and lived retired, not being actively engaged in any business from that time until his death which occurred April 28, 1887. He was a man who took an active interest in public affairs, being a warm advocate of education and the promotion of churches and schools. He was for two years President of what is now the First National Bank of Rochelle. He was an active member of the Christian Church, of which he was a liberal supporter, and also contributed most generously toward the erection of churches and the seminaries at Mt. Morris and at Wheaton. His influence was cast for good wherever he resided, and his memory will long be cherished by his fellow-townsmen and associates.

The wife of Riley Paddock, to whom he was married in Vigo County, Ind., March 8, 1836, was Miss Eliza Snoddy, who was born in Bourbon County, Ky., August 31, 1810. Her parents were Fergus and Elizabeth (McNeal) Snoddy, the latter of whom was born in Virginia of Scotch parentage. They died in Vigo County, Ind., where they settled on coming from Kentucky in 1825. Mrs. Paddock was an intelligent and refined woman and a devoted wife and mother. Mr. Paddock, at the time of his death, was the owner of one-half section of well-improved land in Cherokee County, Iowa, and two hundred and sixty acres in this county.

To this worthy couple were born four children as follows: Burella, who is the wife of Moses D. Martin; Mary E., widow of the late J. B. Williams; Victoria N., the wife of Capt. W. S. Miller, and Wilbourne E. our subject, whose birth took place in Ogle County, November 8, 1842. From 1865 until 1882 Mr. Paddock was engaged in the mercantile business in Ashton, being in partnership during that time with the late J. B. Williams, with the exception of the last five years when he conducted the business alone. He deals in general merchandise, and is looked upon as an enterprising and successful business man. He owns seven hundred acres of land in Cherokee and Lyon

Counties, Iowa, all of which is well improved. He has a comfortable residence in Ashton, and is highly respected by his fellow-citizens.



**W**ILLIAM H. VAN EPPS is numbered among the former merchants and farmers of Dixon, but at present is not engaged in any special line of business. He was born in East Bethany, Genesee County, N. Y., December 18, 1842. He is descended from early Holland ancestry who settled in the Empire State in Colonial times. His grandparents, John A. and Deborah (Housman) Van Epps, removed to Western New York in 1813, going to their pioneer home in Genesee County with teams. Grandfather Van Epps was a valiant soldier in the War of 1812 and for his services received a pension until his death in 1816.

Hon. William H. Van Epps, father of our subject, was born in Schenectady County, N. Y., August 12, 1812, and passed the early years of his life in Genesee and Monroe Counties. He had an active, intelligent mind and made the best of his opportunities for obtaining an education, which was completed by a course at Wyoming Academy. Thus well equipped for his struggle with life, at the age of eighteen he embarked in the mercantile business at Brockport, a fine situation for business purposes, as it was located on the banks of Erie Canal, then the great highway of travel for Western-bound emigrants.

Later Mr. Van Epps, Sr. was engaged in business at Caryville, where his store was burned. He then settled in East Bethany of which he was the principal merchant for several years. In 1837, he came to Illinois, and was a pioneer of Fulton County, engaging in business at Bernadotte and as there were no railroads in that part of the country then, his goods had to be shipped to him by rivers. Some years later he returned to New York on account of his wife's failing health, and resided in Bethany until 1854.

In the year above-mentioned, Mr. Van Epps once more became a resident of the Prairie State,

and for twenty years was a prominent merchant of Dixon, where he kept a general store and aided in building up the business interests of city and county. When he first settled here, Rochelle was the nearest railroad station, Dixon was but a village and the surrounding country was not very thickly settled. He lived to see the wonderful development of the county and bore an honorable part in bringing it about. He died October 8, 1877.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Charlotte R. Churchill. She was born in Genesee County, N. Y., in 1813 and died at East Bethany in 1848. Afterward Mr. Van Epps was again married in 1850, taking as his wife, Mary A. Peck, a native of East Bethany, who survived him ten years, her death occurring December 27, 1887. William H. was the youngest of four children by the first marriage, the others being Marion and Ellen, who died in Fulton County, Ill., and Adelia, who died in New York. Of the second marriage there were two daughters—Louise P. (Mrs. George Steel), and Katie, who died March 7, 1862, when five years old.

The maternal grandparents of our subject, Josiah and Charlotte (Rumsey) Churchill, were natives of Vermont and pioneers of Genesee County, N. Y. The Churchills and Rumseys went from their native Connecticut to Vermont before the Revolution and were residing at Hubbardton when the battle was fought there. Afterward members of the families made their way back to Vermont or Massachusetts. In 1783-84, some of them with other families returned to the Green Mountain State, and from there the grandparents of our subject finally removed to the State of New York. Grandfather Josiah Churchill was in the small force of the American Army which attacked the British at Queenstown Heights near Niagara, in October, 1812, and was wounded.

William Henri Van Epps laid the foundation of his education in the public school of his native town. In 1854, he came to Fulton County, Ill., and resided with an uncle, James Churchill there for one year. Later he attended school in Dixon under William Barge and the Gow Brothers, eventually concluding his education in the Chi-

ago University. In the intervals of attending school he was acquiring excellent business habits as a clerk in his father's store.

In 1861, our subject attended the first war meeting held at the Court House and his name was the eighteenth on the roll of volunteers, who afterward became Company A, Thirteenth Illinois Infantry. For two weeks he was with the company every day, drilling under Capt. A. B. Gorgas, but he was persuaded by relatives and friends to leave the company, a decision which he afterward had good cause for regretting. His father then gave him an interest in a dry-goods store at Morrison, Ill., with J. R. Ashley as a partner. He remained in that village until August, 1862, and then came home to join the Express Battery, a company of which William Snyder was Captain.

Upon going to Chicago and finding the regiment already filled, Mr. Van Epps and thirteen others enlisted August 12, 1862 in Company B, First New York Marine Artillery. In September of the same year he went South with his regiment, by way of Ft. Hatteras and Newbern to Roanoke Island, and was stationed there on the gunboat "Sentinel" until December 1. During that time, there was much sickness in that unhealthy locality and fifty or one-fifth of the men died. On the 1st of December, our subject and twenty-five others were detailed to go on an expedition up the Neuse River on the gunboat "Seymour." The most that the "Seymour" accomplished was in helping to save the gunboat "Lockwood" from falling into the hands of the enemy below Kinston, where the battle was fought.

Returning on the sick list, Mr. Van Epps was sent to the hospital in Newbern for treatment. The same month he received a medical director's discharge, which was later supplemented by his regular discharge on account of disability. Ever since that ten days trip he has been troubled with deafness. After his return from the South at the close of his military experience and as soon as his health permitted, Mr. Van Epps entered into the mercantile business with A. J. Brubaker and Albert S. Ferguson, under the firm name of Brubaker, Van Epps & Ferguson, succeeding his father. Upon the withdrawal of Mr. Ferguson, the title of the

firm was changed to William H. Van Epps & Co.

Until 1870 Mr. Van Epps devoted himself exclusively to his business affairs, and then went to California, spending one year there and in Oregon. Returning to Dixon, he sold out his interests in the mercantile business and afterward carried on general farming and stock-raising, making a specialty successively of Devon cattle, Merino sheep and pure-bred Short-horn cattle. In 1876, he bought a lot and built a store in Yankton, Dak. and the following year erected the double house on the corner of Galena Avenue and Third Street, Dixon. In 1878, he built the two-story brick store, No. 17 Main Street, and in the summer of 1888 erected the fine three-story brick block, corner of Galena Avenue and Main Street. In 1886, he sold part of his farm, retaining sixty-seven acres. During the thirty-seven years in which he has resided at Dixon he has been closely occupied with his business interests and in many ways has contributed to the advancement of the city.

In December, 1877, Mr. Van Epps was married to Miss Leah, daughter of Jacob and Lena Emery, and a native of Bedford County, Pa. One daughter has blessed their wedded life—Charlotte Isabel. They have a home replete with those comforts which add to the pleasure of living, and made pleasant by its tasteful arrangements, and whoever crosses its threshold is sure of a cordial reception from genial host and gracious hostess.



**T**HEODORE RUST, who is engaged in the jewelry business on First Street in Dixon was born at Helgelen, an island in the North Sea. His father, Charles Rust, was born in Bavaria, Germany, and was a son of Dr. Peter Van Rust, a prominent physician and minister of the Lutheran Church. By the members of the family who have come to America the title part of the name, Van, has been dropped. The Doctor was the medical attendant and also the spiritual adviser and secretary of the Queen of Bavaria. He

lived during an important epoch in the history of that country and his counsel was much sought by the Queen who renounced the Catholic religion and accepted the Lutheran faith. Dr. Van Rust spent his entire life in Munich, as one of its most prominent citizens, and died at the age of sixty years.

Charles or Carl Van Rust, father of our subject, was his only son. He was educated for the Lutheran ministry, but not wishing to enter that profession, he went to England and became a lieutenant in the British Army. He fought for seven years in the German Wars against Denmark and Sweden and throughout his life followed a military career. In England he was stationed at a garrison and during that time married Eliza Rimus, who was born on the island where our subject's birth occurred. Some years afterward at about the time the late war broke out, Mr. Rust came with his family to the United States and aided Gen. Black in organizing the cavalry troops of Rhode Island. With the cavalry he then went to the South and afterward was made Quartermaster General with headquarters in New York City and Washington. He served in the regular army for some time and died from sickness and the effects of a wound in New Orleans, at the age of forty-two years. His widow, who is now sixty-five years of age resides in New York, where four of her children also make their homes, namely: Peter, a book-keeper; Anna and Charles who are living with their mother; and Emma, wife of George Stekewaldt.

Theodore Rust, the member of the family in whom the citizens of Lee County are most interested, crossed the Atlantic with his parents and in 1863 came to the West, locating in Dixon. He afterward returned, however, to New York, and thence went to Hamburg, Germany, where he learned the jewelry trade. After mastering the business he returned to this country and for some time worked as a jeweler in Detroit, Mich., St. Paul, Minn., Denver, Col. and New York. He made a permanent location in Dixon in 1879, and in the years which have since come and gone has built up an excellent trade. On the 10th of August, 1886, he bought out E. J. Hobart and now has a fine

store, occupying the east half of a large room, 22x72 feet. He does all kind of general repairing in the jewelry line and carries a large and complete stock.

In Geneseo, N. Y., Mr. Rust led to the marriage altar Miss Alice Williams, a native of the Empire State, born of Scotch parentage. When she was a young maiden her parents removed to Baltimore, where she was educated, becoming a cultured lady. She holds membership with the Episcopal Church, and has a host of warm friends throughout the community. Her home is the abode of hospitality and all who know her esteem her highly. Mr. Rust takes considerable interest in civic societies. He is a Knight Templar Mason and belongs to the Modern Woodmen and the Independent Order of Red Men, of which he is Past Great Prophet. With the determination to succeed he entered upon his life work and as the result of his industry, good management and by the exercise of correct business principles he has worked his way upward to a position of affluence.



JOSEPH SHULTZ, who is a retired farmer, now living in North Dixon has made this his place of residence since the winter of 1880, at which time he came from South Dixon Township, where he had been engaged for some years as a successful farmer. He became a resident of the latter place in the fall of 1864, coming there from Somerset County, Pa., in which county he was born, May 30, 1819. He lived there until forty-five years of age, when he came to Illinois.

The father of our subject, Conrad Shultz, was also a native of Somerset County, and came of German parentage on his father's side, his mother being of English descent. His paternal grandfather, John Shultz, came from Germany when young, settling in Somerset County, Pa., in an early day before the Revolutionary War, in which he served as a soldier. He followed the occupation of a farmer and died at a good old age. He was a Lutheran in his religious belief. The grand-

mother, of our subject, whose maiden name was Mary Sample, was a native of England, emigrating when young to America and settling in Delaware and from there to Somerset County, Pa., where she spent the remainder of her life, surviving her husband for some years and dying at the advanced age of eighty-five. She also was a member of the Lutheran Church.

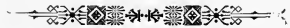
Conrad Shultz was one of a family of four sons and two daughters. He was born in 1780, and followed the calling of a farmer in his native county, where he spent his entire life, and died when about seventy-three years of age. He was married in Somerset County to Miss Catherine Kooser, who was born and reared in that county, her parents being of German descent. She died when seventy-six years of age. She and her husband were members of the Lutheran Church from their early childhood. Of the family of this worthy couple but two children survive—our subject and his sister, Mrs. Henrietta Thaler, who resides in Somerset County, Pa.

Joseph Shultz was reared to manhood in his native county and was there married to Miss Catherine Hannah, who was born and reared in that county, where she died at the age of forty-two years. She left a family of thirteen children, four of whom are living. One daughter, Minerva, died after her marriage to Augustus Dorsey, and the birth of a family of children, while a resident of Nebraska; her husband is now living in Kansas. David married Miss Fannie Bagley and they reside in Mills County, Iowa; Norman, whose wife was Miss Addie McPherron, is a farmer, in Fremont County, Iowa; George married Miss Addie Fritz and is a hardware dealer in Imogene, Fremont County, Iowa; Mary E., who became the wife of James Kingston, resides on a farm in York County, Neb. The mother of these children was a most estimable woman and a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Our subject was again united in marriage to Miss Maria McCloskey, who was born in Elk Lick Township, Somerset County, Pa., April 10, 1840, and was the daughter of Thomas and Ailee (Johnson) McCloskey. Her father was born in the North of Ireland and came of sturdy Scotch-Irish

stock. His wife was of American birth and of Scotch ancestry and their marriage took place in Pennsylvania. He was a fuller by trade and died in Somerset County, at the age of seventy-one years. His wife, who was many years younger than himself, departed this life when sixty-eight years old. She was a member of the Methodist Church.

The present wife of our subject is one of six children, who are all that survive of a large family. She was carefully reared by her parents and given a good home training and an excellent education. She was the mother of three children, two of whom are deceased, Richard dying at the age of fourteen years and William when six years old. The daughter, Sarah Ailee, is the wife of Marion Sneed. They reside in Dixon, and are the parents of one child, named Kathleen L. Mr. Shultz and his family are members of the Evangelical Association. In politics he is a staunch Republican and has for a number of years held the office of Justice of the Peace.



ANDREW J. MYERS, who is engaged in farming and stock-raising on section 27, Palmyra Township, has the honor of being one of the native-born citizens of the county. He first opened his eyes to the light of day on the farm which is still his home, March 11, 1842, being a son of William Myers, an honored pioneer of this community.

The family is of German origin and was established in America by John Myers, the grandfather of our subject, who was born in the Fatherland and when a young man crossed the briny deep to America. In Ohio, he married and subsequently resided in the Keystone State until he came with his family to Illinois. Both he and his wife died at a ripe old age in Marshall County, this State.

William Myers, the father of our subject, was born in Philadelphia, Pa., where his childhood was passed. When a young man he came to the West and in Polo, Ogle County, led to the marriage altar Miss Phoebe Hull, a native of the Empire

State, and a daughter of Stephen Hull, who was born in England. Her father was married after coming to the United States and in the '30s cast his lot with the early settlers of Ogle County, Ill. Both he and his wife spent their last days in Polo, and died when well advanced in years.

A few months after their marriage, William Myers and his bride settled upon a new farm in Palmyra Township, Lee County, which he had purchased about a year previous. They were then in limited circumstances but by their united efforts they won prosperity and the once wild land was made to bloom and blossom as the rose. The wife and mother died October 26, 1863, in middle life and Mr. Myers passed away February 17, 1889, when nearly eighty years of age. He had obtained an excellent education, possessed superior intellectual ability and ever continued to be a close student. He became a Methodist minister and studied hard to fit himself for that work. His peculiar insight into the future won him the title of "the prophet." Near his home he made a miniature garden of Eden, typical of that mentioned in the Bible and his plaster casts of the various Bible figures were remarkable for their accuracy and attracted people for miles around who came to see the work of Mr. Myers' genius. Respected by all who knew him, his friends were many and his enemies few indeed. In business affairs he possessed excellent judgment and was quite successful in his transactions.

Andrew Myers is the third in order of birth in a family of eight children, all of whom are now married and winning for themselves success in life. He too followed the example of his brothers and sisters and chose as a companion Julia E. Kentner, their union being celebrated in Palmyra Township, December 24, 1864. Mrs. Myers was born in Pennsylvania November 21, 1847 and was quite young when brought to Lee County by her parents, William and Susannah (Heller) Kentner. Her father, who was born September 6, 1802, died December 30, 1856; her mother, who was born September 30, 1805, was married a second time and is now living in Nebraska, at the age of eighty-five years.

Liberal educational advantages were afforded to

Mrs. Myers in her maidenhood and she is a lady of culture and refinement, who presides with grace over her home. In her religious connections, she is a member of the Methodist Church. The family circle numbers three daughters. Minnie B., born December 12, 1867, was educated in the Dixon schools, and at the college in that city met Charles F. Weatherby, formerly of Indiana. They were married March 20, 1889, and are now living at Friend, Neb. Phœbe, born December 1, 1870, is attending college, and Harriet B., born June 8, 1876, is at home.

The entire life of Mr. Myers has been passed on the farm which he yet occupies. There he spent the days of his boyhood under the sheltering roof of his parents' home and since he has arrived at man's estate has engaged in the cultivation of the old farm. It has been his property since 1872 and comprises one hundred and twenty acres of improved land that yields a golden tribute to his care and cultivation. In all business affairs his dealings have been upright and honorable, and thereby he has secured the confidence of his fellow-men. In politics he is a supporter of Democratic principles and keeps himself well informed on the issues of the day.



**A**DAM KOEHLER is a prominent representative of the foreign-born population of Lee County, which has been his home since his early childhood when his father located here in pioneer times, and he has risen to be one of the most prosperous farmers and stock raiser of Sublette Township, where he has two good sized, substantially improved farms.

Our subject was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, November 7, 1847, being a son of Franz Adam and Sophi Koehler. His parents emigrated to the United States in 1851, and at once came to Illinois, and took up their residence in Lee County, although the father began his farming operations after his arrival in this State in the ad-



joining county of La Salle, renting land there the ensuing two years. After some eight or nine years he purchased eighty acres of land in this county, which was but little improved, and industriously devoted himself to its development, making it his home until his death in 1890, at the venerable age of eighty-one years. His township was thus deprived of a good citizen, who had contributed to the advancement of its agricultural interests. His wife had preceded him in death, dying in 1882, at the age of sixty-six years. They were the parents of four children, one of whom died in Germany, and the others came with them to the United States. Their son Jacob is a resident of Odebolt, Sac County, Iowa. Their son Adam is our subject; and their daughter Kate is the wife of Fred Conrad, of Ohio Station, Illinois.

Adam Koehler passed his boyhood on a farm, and was early inured to agricultural labors. After he attained manhood and became an independent farmer, he carried on his work with untiring perseverance, with accurate judgement, was economical where economy was wise, spent money when needful in carrying out his plans, and made his improvements on a solid basis, so that to-day his farms are among the best in this part of the county, both being supplied with a good class of buildings and prime farming machinery, including a steam threshing machine and corn sheller. His homestead is on section 23, Sublette Township, and his two farms comprise four hundred and seventy-five acres of land.

Mr. Koehler has by no means become so prosperous without the help afforded by a good wife, as he was married in 1871 to Miss Josephine, daughter of Jacob Baker, of May Township, who is, like himself, a native of Germany. Nine children have blessed their marriage to them, whom they have named Jacob, John, Fred, William, Kate, Peter, Adam, George and Tena.

This brief life-record of our subject is sufficient testimony to his ability as a farmer, to his value as a citizen, and to his worth as a man, without further comment on the part of the biographer. We will simply add that he has served his township well in the diverse capacities of Highway Commissioner and School Director; that in his politics, he

is a Democrat sound and true; and religiously, adheres to the faith of his fathers, who were staunch supporters of the Roman Catholic Church.



**R**ALPHI E. JOHNSON. Our subject who is a general farmer and dairyman, is the owner of one hundred and forty acres of land on section 22, Palmyra Township, which he cultivates to such good purpose that it yields him a very comfortable income. He keeps from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and twenty-five cows and is doing an immense business as a dairyman.

Mr. Johnson was born on the old homestead of which he is the present owner, January 22, 1847, and which has always been his home. He is the son of Ebenezer H. Johnson, a native of Chenango County, N. Y. and of New England parentage. The grandparents of our subject were natives of Connecticut, but later went to New York where they were among the early settlers in Chenango County and where they passed their last days. Ebenezer Johnson received a good education in his native county and there married the mother of our subject, who was a native of the same county and State as was her husband and soon after their marriage in company with a number of other families came West to Illinois by the overland route, settling on a "squatter's" claim on section 22, Palmyra Township, this county, the same tract on which our subject makes his home. Their removal here was made in 1835 and the young couple at once set about improving their place and at the time of his death Mr. Johnson left a beautiful farm. He died on the old homestead, August 29, 1885, after having reached the advanced age of seventy-five years. He was a prominent man in his township and one of the earliest pioneers. He always took an active interest in politics and at one time served as Township Supervisor, holding the office for a number of years. He favored the platform of the Republican party and was loyal to its principles. In religious matters he was a member of

the Presbyterian Church to the support of which body he always gave liberally and cheerfully. The wife of Mr. E. H. Johnson died in Palmyra Township, May 15, 1885, when seventy six years of age. She was a member of the Episcopal Church.

Ralph E. Johnson established a hearthstone of his own March 10th, 1875, at which date he was married to Miss Abbie M. Knox, the ceremony being solemnized in Broome County N. Y., which was her native State and where she was reared to womanhood. Her parents, George and Jerusha (Brown) Knox, and are well-to-do and are residing in Broome County N. Y., retired from the active duties of life. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are the parents of three children, all of whom are yet under the parental roof. They bear the names respectively of Anna G., Rena E. and Myra.

In politics, the Republican party claim our subject as one of its most efficient workers. He is liberal and broad-minded and with his estimable wife is highly prized in his community.



**J**OHAN HETLER, who carries on general farming on sections 15 and 22, Dixon Township, has the honor of being a native-born citizen of Lee County, his birth having occurred in this township, November 25, 1847. He is descended from an old Pennsylvanian family of German origin that was founded in America at an early day. His paternal grandparents lived and died in Luzerne County, Pa., where his father, Nathan Hetler, was born. In the Keystone State, he married Catherine Culp, also a native of Pennsylvania, and some years later they started with their three children for Illinois, making the trip in a covered wagon.

On the 13th of June, 1837, they arrived in Dixon Township, Lee County, and Mr. Hetler secured a piece of raw prairie land on which he built a log cabin. The family began life in the West in true pioneer style and the hardships and trials of the frontier were not unknown to them. However, as the years passed, and financial resources were increased, Mr. Hetler was enabled to supply his

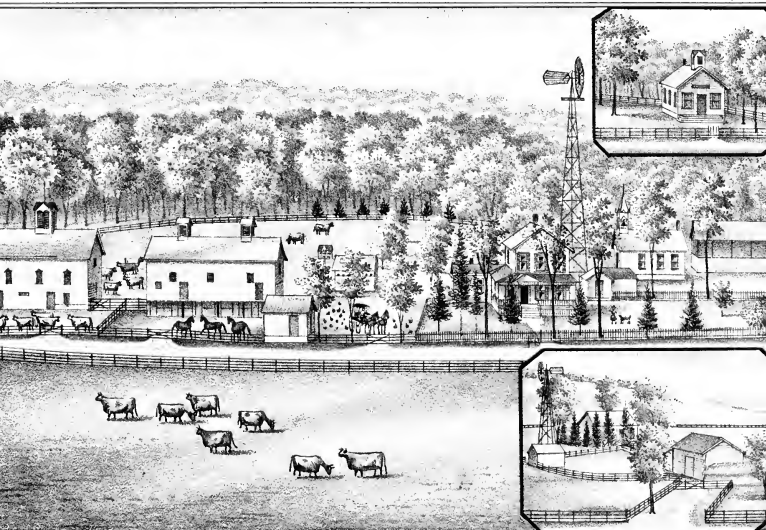
home with the comforts of life and extend the boundaries of his farm until it comprised four hundred acres. He was an industrious and hard working man who labored untiringly in the interests of his family. He died on the old homestead, where our subject now resides, May 27, 1877, at the age of sixty-nine years and his loss was deeply regretted by many friends. His wife is yet living and makes her home with her son, John. She is now eighty-nine years of age but is yet hale and hearty, except that for the past ten years she has suffered the complete loss of her eye-sight. She is a member of the Lutheran Church to which Mr. Hetler also belonged. In politics he was first a Whig and afterward a Republican and held a number of local offices, the duties of which he discharged with promptness and fidelity.

Our subject is one of six children. In the district schools of the neighborhood his education was acquired and in the days of his boyhood and youth he worked upon his father's farm throughout the summer months. When it became time for him to engage in business for himself he determined to follow the occupation to which he was reared and is now recognized as one of the successful farmers of the community. He owns three hundred and forty-three acres of valuable land, which have been his property for twelve years and the farm is pleasantly and conveniently situated four miles from Dixon. A view of the homestead is shown on another page. All the necessary buildings are there found, together with the latest improved machinery and other accessories and the place is well stocked, having on hand twenty-five milch cows. Mr. Hetler is a man of good business ability with a degree of carefulness that insures success.

A marriage ceremony performed in Dixon Township, united the destinies of Miss Lassetta Miller and Mr. Hetler. The lady was born in Franklin County, Pa., and in 1866, came to Illinois with her parents, Samuel and Mary (Munn) Miller, who located in Nachusa Township, Lee County, where they afterward lived. Mr. Miller died at the age of seventy-eight years in 1888. His wife is still living in Nachusa Township and is beloved by all know her.



RESIDENCE OF MRS. JUDITH HILL, SEC. 19, SOUTH DIXON TP., LEE CO., ILL.



RESIDENCE OF JOHN HETLER, SEC. 15, DIXON, LEE CO., ILL.

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By the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hetler were born six children but only two are now living—Della and Harry. They have lost four—Shelby, Mary, Grant and Nora. The parents are quite prominent people in Dixon Township and move in the best circles of society. Their own home is a hospitable one where their friends are warmly welcomed and entertained. Mr. Hetler exercises his right of franchise in support of Republican principles and keeps himself well informed on the issues of the day. Throughout long years he has witnessed the growth and development of his native county, has taken a just pride in its progress and has ever borne his part in the promotion of those enterprises calculated to advance the general welfare.



**N**ATHAN HILL was during his life closely connected with the leading interests of South Dixon Township as an extensive farmer and land-holder, and as one of its wealthy citizens and in his death this section of the county met with a serious loss. He was born in Luzerne County, Pa., July 3, 1818, and was a son of Jacob Hill, who was also a native of Pennsylvania, and passed the most of his life as a farmer in Luzerne County. He married Miss Catherine Haight, who was born and reared in the Keystone State, and in after life they abandoned their farm in that section of the county and came to Illinois in 1854 with their children, including our subject and his wife. The father died in this country when past seventy years old, and the mother was over eighty years of age when she died in Dixon in 1880. Both were members of the Lutheran Church.

Nathan Hill received his education in the schools of his native county, and was carefully instructed in all kinds of agricultural work on the farm where his boyhood days were profitably and pleasantly spent. Some years after marriage he came here with other members of his father's family to establish a new home on the virgin soil of Lee County, greatly aided in his work by his devoted helpmate. He had many difficulties to contend with in his

pioneer life, but a strong will, a good capacity for hard and persistent labor, and excellent business tact enabled him to surmount all obstacles, and in time he became prominent as a farmer and large land-owner. He had passed the meridian of life but by no means was an old man when death came to him June 10, 1876, in the pleasant home on section 19, South Dixon Township, that was the result of the joint labors of himself and wife. Thus was brought to a close an honorable career that had been beneficial to his adopted county, as he had added to its wealth by every acre of his landed possessions he had placed under cultivation, and he was valued as a citizen. He was a man of strict moral integrity, who never willfully wronged another, and was conscientious in the discharge of his duties as a husband, father, neighbor and friend, and none knew him but to trust and esteem him. In politics, he was a straight forward Democrat.

Our subject was eminently happy in his domestic life with his wife and children. He was married in his native county to Miss Judith Billheimer, who was also born in that part of Pennsylvania, her birthplace being in Salem Township, and the date of her birth October 14, 1818. Her parents, Christian and Catherine (Hoover) Billheimer, were born in Northampton County, Pa.; but were reared, married and died in Luzerne County, her father being past three-score years and ten when death summoned him, and her mother more than eighty-four years old when she died. They were staunch and true in their allegiance to the religious faith in which they were bred, that of the Lutheran Church, of which they were members. Mrs. Hill is the only survivor of the children born to her parents. She attended the public school of her native county, and was well drilled at home in all that goes to make a good housekeeper. Since the death of her husband she has owned in her own right a valuable farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres, and is managing it in a manner that shows that she is sagacious, thrifty and far-sighted, and is perfectly capable of conducting her affairs in a business-like way, and so as to make the best of everything. She is a motherly, large-hearted woman, and her

neighbors find in her a true friend. She is a tender mother, and her children, of whom she has eleven, hold her in the warmest regard. They are named Esther, Christiau, William Henry, Thomas J., John L., Reuben A., Mary C., Anna M., Andrew J., Jacob S. and Lydia E. Mrs. Hill is a devoted member of the Lutheran Church, with which she has been connected all her life.

The attractive residence in which this hospitable family entertain their many friends, is among the most pleasant in the community and we are pleased to present a view of the homestead on another page.



**W**ALTER F. PRESTON, (or as he is familiarly known, Frank Preston) Assistant United States Attorney at Chicago and Special Agent of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, is a talented and distinguished member of the bar of Lee County. A leader in local politics, he has been the recipient of many honors both public and professional. His aptitude for business is by no means restricted to the performance of legal and official duties, but he has also acquired prominence as a practical farmer and successful breeder of Hereford stock. He carries on his agricultural operations in connection with his father, and for several years has had control of the latter's farm on which he makes his home, which is finely located on sections 14 and 15, South Dixon Township.

Of New England birth, the blood of some of the first families of the Colonial and Revolutionary period runs in the veins of our subject, and some of his ancestors figured extensively in the history of the early settlement of that part of the country. The Preston family originated in England, their ancestral home being in the village of Preston, and since 1640 they have been represented in America. Samuel Preston, born in Lexington, Mass., had a son James, whose son Isaac was the great-grandfather of our subject. Isaac Preston was a Minute Man and came from his home in New Hampshire to aid in driving away the red-coats from Lexington, where that "first shot was fired,

heard round the world," in the opening battle of that great and glorious struggle for freedom from the oppression of British rule, and he served honorably throughout the Revolution under Gen. Washington. The family were among the early settlers of New Hampshire and were active in its public life.

Jeremiah Preston, Sr., grandfather of our subject, was born in New Ipswich, N. H., and grew to manhood in his native place. He became prominently identified with the city of Manchester as one of its leading business men and manufacturers and was potent in making it a wealthy manufacturing center. He retired in 1868 from the successful business that he had conducted for so many years, and removing to Cambridgeport, Mass., passed the remaining years of his life quietly in the home of his daughter, Mrs. John S. Verity, dying in 1879, at the venerable age of eighty-eight years.

The maiden name of the grandmother of our subject was Ann Proctor, her family being prominent in New England during its early settlement. She was born and reared in Hollis, N. H., and survived her husband only one year, dying at the age of eighty-six years. Both husband and wife were liberal in their religious views and were identified with the Unitarian Church. In politics he was an old-line Whig in early life, but after the formation of the Republican party became one of its staunch supporters and remained true to his allegiance to the day of his death.

In New Ipswich, N. H., where he was born, Jeremiah Preston, Jr., father of our subject, passed his boyhood, though he was still quite young when he removed to Mason Village and thence to Manchester. Very early in life he manifested a rare genius for mechanics and when only ten years of age began his training as a machinist. In his youth he helped to build the first steam fire engine made in this country, and also the first power loom made in the United States. He was identified with the political history of New Hampshire and during the war engaged in the manufacture of guns for the Government. He has since been connected with various railroads in the country in the mechanical department and was master mechanic for the Northwestern Railway Company. An expert in

his line, his wide experience and thorough knowledge of the principles of mechanics make his services of inestimable value, and they are held in high appreciation by the officials of the company.

Mr. Preston resides on his homestead in South Dixon Township, where, in company with his son, he devotes his leisure to raising high graded stock. He purchased that place in 1868 when it was in a wild condition, it being the last piece of prairie land to be bought in this county, and with characteristic prescience he saw its possibilities. His investment proved a wise one and to-day he is the owner of one of the choicest farms of its size in this section of Illinois. Aided by his son, he has brought it to a fine state, supplying it with the best modern improvements, including a handsome set of buildings of a pleasing style of architecture and conveniently arranged for its various purposes. Its one hundred and twenty acres of land are situated on section 15, and are under excellent cultivation.

The marriage of Jeremiah Preston in Manchester, N. H., united him with Miss Lucretia M. Hanaford, who was born at Alton Bay, on the shores of that beautiful lake, which, lying amid the rock-ribbed and everlasting hills, is one of the picturesque features of the scenery for which the old Granite State is noted. Mrs. Preston is of English extraction and a descendant of some of the old Colonial stock of New England, numbering among her ancestors the Tilton family that came to America in 1640. She inherited fine mental endowments and is a woman of superior character and intelligence.

Every advantage for a liberal education was afforded Walter F. Preston, in his native city—Manchester, and he afterward pursued his studies in Chicago. To a young man of his astute, logical and comprehensive mind the legal profession presented many attractions, and he devoted his whole energies to fitting himself for the bar, to which he was admitted in due time, with promise of a brilliant career before him, which has been more than fulfilled. He was for some time in the law office of Judge Farrand, County Judge of Lee County, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume.

After his admission to the bar, Mr. Preston

easily worked his way to the front. He has been Official Reporter of the Circuit Court for several terms and has often been honored by high positions. He is now Assistant United States Attorney at Chicago as well as one of the special agents of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, with headquarters at Room 40, Government Building, having been connected with the commission since 1890. During the last session of the Fiftieth Congress he was private secretary to Senator Cullom. He is a prominent politician of the best type, who while working hard for his party is guided by patriotic motives and has the dearest interests of his country at heart. He takes an active part in local and State politics, is prominently identified with the progress of the Republican party in this section, and has been delegate to State Conventions.

The marriage of our subject to Miss Ettie Smith was solemnized in South Dixon Township and their pleasant wedded life has been passed on the paternal homestead on section 15, Mr. Preston having had control of the farm since 1875. The three children born unto them complete their household, namely: Lelia F., Clarence G. and Ethel M. Mrs. Preston is a bright and prepossessing lady and was born in South Dixon Township, being a daughter of one of its early pioneers, Joseph E. Smith, a native of Germany. Her mother was born in Frostburg, Md., whence after her marriage she removed with her husband to Lee County in 1838, coming among the first settlers of South Dixon Township. They are now living in retirement in the village of Nachusa, where they are serenely passing the twilight of useful and honorable lives.



**J**OHAN A. ANDRUS, attorney-at-law at Ashton, was born in Stepentown, Rensselaer County, N. Y., November 30, 1833. He is descended from patriotic ancestors, his grandfather, Benjamin Andrus, having served during the Revolutionary War as a member of a Green Mountain regiment. Grandfather Andrus,

who was born in Wallingford, Conn., was married to Miss Annes Case, a native of Hartford, the same State.

In the family of Benjamin and Annes Andrus was a son, Elam Tilden, (named for the father of Samuel J. Tilden), who was born in New Lebanon, Columbia County, N. Y. He grew to manhood in in the Empire State and in his youth learned the trade of a tanner and currier, but followed farming pursuits during most of his life. His marriage united him with Miss Angeline Mooney, who was born in Stephentown, Rensselaer County, N. Y., and ten children were born unto them, of whom our subject was the eldest. The wife and mother passed away at her home near Clarendon, Orleans County, N. Y., in 1885, her death resulting from the accidental breaking of one of her limbs. Elam T. Andrus died of la grippe January 20, 1892, at the family homestead. Having united with the Presbyterian Church at the age of nineteen he had been a faithful, consistent member of it for sixty-nine years until his death.

The early years of John A. Andrus were passed in his native county, where he gained a good common-school education. In 1852 he removed with the family to Orleans County, attending school at Broekport, Holly and Albion Academies, and teaching at Pine Hill, Sweden Centre, Clarendon and near Broekport. In the fall of 1856 he came West to Michigan, where for two terms he followed the profession of a teacher near Marshall. At the close of his first term he returned to New York and attended college at Buffalo, graduating in the fall of 1857. The same fall found him once more in Marshall, where he taught another term of school and continued the reading of law commenced in New York.

From Michigan Mr. Andrus came to this State, securing employment first in Chicago and proceeding from there to Roehelle, where he accidentally found a relative. Purchasing a yoke of oxen, he engaged in farming to some extent for a few months, but after the harvest was gathered in he sold his wheat and oxen and engaged for one term as a teacher in the city. In the fall of 1858 he came to Ashton where he taught school the following winter. In the spring of 1859 he formed a

partnership with E. B. Clark in the grocery business, but at the expiration of one year purchased his partner's interest and continued the business alone. After conducting the establishment until 1864 he sold out and engaged for some time in buying and selling cattle.

In the fall of 1866 Mr. Andrus commenced building a store, and the following spring opened up a good stock of general merchandise, continuing thus engaged until November, 1870, when he sold out, but was unfortunate in losing heavily by the parties to whom he sold. Next he went West to Colorado, there buying cattle, but not meeting with success in the enterprise it was abandoned. Between the years of 1871 and 1873 he was in partnership with Henry Bly in the grocery business in Ashton, the firm name being Bly & Andrus. He had read law both in New York and Michigan and had been admitted to the bar to practice law both in Michigan and Indiana, and at the expiration of his four years' term of service as Police Magistrate in the fall of 1878, he was admitted to practice law at the bar of Illinois. His standing at his examination was high as he answered perfectly eighty-five out of one hundred questions.

Since his admission to the bar Mr. Andrus has practiced law continuously, with the exception of the three years he was in South Dakota. He went there in the spring of 1883 and engaged chiefly in farming. He was defeated as candidate (being a Democrat) for County Judge in 1885 and for the Legislature in 1886, in the fall of which year he returned to Ashton. February 18, 1890, he met with great misfortune by fire. His office with all the furniture, all public and private papers, and eighty-five volumes of his law library and two large two-story store buildings were totally destroyed, entailing a net loss of at least \$5,000 to Mr. Andrus.

Mr. Andrus has one of the most pleasant homes in the village, presided over by a lady whose maiden name was Rhoda A. Seipel. Mrs. Andrus was born in Delaware County, Ohio, and is the daughter of John and Harriet (Cox) Seipel. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Andrus, which occurred in Ashton, has brought them two daughters—Dora A., a graduate of the University of Illinois, of the



Class of '82, the wife of John C. Griffith, and Bessie B., a bright school girl.

In his political belief Mr. Andrus is, like his forefathers, in hearty sympathy with the principles of the Democratic party, and is interested in local politics. Socially, he is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and in his religious views is liberal, while his wife and daughter are members of the Presbyterian Church. As he is thoroughly practical, Mr. Andrus is in touch with the people of Ashton, working for their welfare with all his energies and sounding the depths of human experience in his varied labors on their behalf.



**WESLEY HYDE.** No class of men has contributed more to the substantial prosperity of Lee County than its farmers and stock men, among whom the subject of this brief life record is well worthy of mention. He is conducting his agricultural operations in Willow Creek Township, on section 19, which is the location of his finely-tilled and well-stocked farm.

Mr. Hyde was born eleven miles from Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio, January 14, 1835. Benjamin Hyde was his father, a native of New Jersey, and he was the son of another Benjamin Hyde, who is supposed to have been a native of the same State, and was of English descent. He was a farmer, and always carried on his occupation in New Jersey, where he died in the fullness of time. The father of our subject was reared and educated in his native State and when a young man went from there to Ohio in the pioneer days of the settlement of that State and was engaged in his trade as a cooper in Richland County, where he lived until 1853. The remainder of his life was passed in Michigan.

The maiden name of Mrs. Hyde was Mary Folks. She was born in Pennsylvania, and died in this State, in Lee County. She was the mother of nine children that grew to maturity, as follows: Saloma, wife of O. H. Perry, of Des Moines, Iowa; Margaret, wife of John Hough, of Chicago; J. W.; Jonathan, a gallant soldier, who served in the Seventy-fifth

Illinois Infantry during the war, and spent his last years in Dixon; Barbara E. wife of William Dawson, of Leavenworth, Kan.; Theodore, a resident of Lee County, who served in the war as a member of the Thirteenth Illinois Infantry; Francis, who was a member of an Illinois infantry regiment during the war, and now lives at Harvey, Ill.; Rhoda, who resides in Milwaukee; and Samuel McClure, a resident of Malugin's Grove, who was in the Fifteenth Illinois Infantry during the war. As will be seen by the foregoing, the family was well represented in the army when the great conflict between the North and South was being waged, and proved the value of their citizenship by their loyalty and devotion to the cause on many a bloody battle-field. Our subject was one of the five sons that his parents thus sent forth to fight for their country. He enlisted March 2, 1865, in Company I, Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, and was honorably discharged the following September, on the 17th of the month, with a good record as a faithful and efficient soldier.

Our subject's boyhood days were passed in his native State. He was quite young when he commenced to earn his own living, but he was independent and very capable for his years. He began life working on a farm by the day or month in the county where he was born, and continued thus occupied until 1853, when he turned his attention to the cooper's trade and worked at that two years. In 1857 he took an important step in life which resulted greatly to his benefit, as he then came to Lee County to east in his fortunes with its pioneers, and years of toil have brought him prosperity. He worked by the month one summer after his arrival in these parts, and then bought a tract of land in Brooklyn Township. He erected necessary buildings, placed his land under good tillage and resided there ten years. It was during that time that he was mail carrier from Mendota to Malugin's Grove for a period of three years, and his experience of life as a soldier occurred while he was a resident of that farm.

In 1867 Mr. Hyde sold his first farm, and for a year worked out by the month. He then bought a farm of one hundred and fifty-five acres of land in company with his brother. After living on it

seven years he sold his share of the place and bought the farm that he now owns and occupies on section 19, Willow Creek Township. Its fields are under admirable cultivation, its pastures are rich and its improvements of a good class. Mr. Hyde devotes it to general farming and stock-raising, and has cattle, horses and hogs of fine grades. Our subject is a man of sterling principles and sensible views, is kindly and helpful in his relations with his neighbors and others of the community, and is deserving of the fellowship and good wishes of all about him. His interest in politics centers in the Republican party, of which he has been a staunch advocate since he cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. Fremont, its first candidate for the Chief Magistracy of the United States.

Mr. Hyde was first married in 1858, to Miss Mary Hough, a native of Lee County, and a daughter of William and Hannah Hough, who were among the early settlers of the county. She died in 1867, leaving two children—Harvey and Minnie. Minnie married Albert Petty, and they have two children, Mamie and Robert



**J**AMES BLISS has developed a fine farm from the wild prairies of Alta Township, placing it under substantial improvement, and has thus materially contributed to the wealth of Lee County. He was born in the town of Exeter, Otsego County, N. Y., June 28, 1812. His father, whose name was Palatire Bliss, was a native of Connecticut, and was reared and married in that State, Elizabeth Lathrop, also a native of that commonwealth, becoming his wife. He was a cooper by trade, and after his removal in 1795 to Otsego County, N. Y., of which he was a pioneer, he also gave his attention to farming, working at his trade only in the winter seasons and the remainder of the year clearing his land and tilling the soil. He bought a tract of heavily timbered land in what is now the town of Exeter, and his first work was to build a log house, which was the birthplace of the son of whom we write. There

were no railways or canals in that part of the country for many years, and Albany, eighty miles distant, was the nearest market. Mr. Bliss lived and labored there for more than half a century, and there death found him in 1853 at a ripe old age on the farm that he had hewed from the wilderness, and his wife, the mother of our subject, also died there. Seven children were born of their wedded life. He was three times married and reared two other children.

James Bliss, of this biography, was reared amid the pioneer scenes of his birth, and was educated in the local schools. He commenced when very young to help his father on the farm, and was thoroughly drilled in agricultural pursuits. He remained an inmate of the parental household until he married, and after that he gave his time to learn the trade of a cooper. He lived in his native county until 1848, and then bought a home in the village of Nineveh, Chenango County, where he manufactured barrels, etc., for some years. In 1856, he disposed of his possessions in New York, as he had decided to try the calling to which he had been bred on the prairies of Illinois. He settled among the pioneers of De Kalb County, buying one hundred and ten acres of land in Somanauk Township, at \$12 an acre. It was a tract of wild prairie, and he went to work with a good will to develop it. He placed the land under good tillage, erected good suitable buildings, and so increased its value that he was enabled to sell the place in 1869 at \$35 an acre. He then came to Lee County, and bought his present farm at \$17 dollars an acre. At the time of purchase it was merely a tract of wild, uncultivated prairie, with never a furrow turned. To-day he reaps from its well tilled soil abundant harvests, and has the place in a fine condition. The land is fenced and cross fenced into convenient fields, choice fruit, shade and ornamental trees have been planted, and a good set of frame buildings has been erected, everything indicating thrift and prosperity.

By his marriage more than fifty years ago, in the year 1839, Mr. Bliss was so fortunate as to secure for a life-companion a woman who has been to him a true helpmate, and has done her share in

the upbuilding of their comfortable home. Mrs. Bliss who bore the maiden name of Roxie C. Rose, was born on Block Island, in Long Island Sound. Her married life with our subject has been blessed with these three children—James A., John Adelbert and Ella. Mr. Bliss was formerly a Whig, but when the Republican party was organized he fell into line, and has ever since been firm in his support of its principles. He is in all respects a good citizen and a most estimable man, whose life-record is honorable and worthy of emulation.



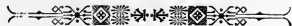
**h**ALDOR NELSON. Lee County is indebted to the sons of Norway who live within its limits for what they have done in various walks of life to help forward its varied interests. Our subject is a native of that far-away country, although for many long years, forty in number, he has been a loyal citizen of this, and has made his home in Illinois since he landed on these shores. When he came he was poor in pocket, but rich in those qualities that go to the making of an honest, capable man, and by using his faculties in a practical manner he has become one of the substantial farmers of Willow Creek Township, and owns as good a farm as is to be found within its bounds.

Mr. Nelson was born in Bergensteft, Norway, August 29, 1823. His father, Nels Hillison, was also born in that locality, and spent his entire life in the land of his birth, his occupation being that of a farmer.

Our subject was an only son, and he grew up under good home influences. As soon as large enough he began to assist his father and in time became very useful in helping to carry on the farm. He remained with his parents until 1851, and then ambitious to see more of the world, and try life in the United States of America, where he felt sure he could get better returns for his labor, he embarked at Stilanga in the month of April, on the sailing vessel "Ebenezer," and five weeks later found himself in the metropolis of the New World, with but \$50 in his pocket with which to begin

his new life. He immediately started for Illinois, leaving New York on a steamer bound for Albany, from there going on the canal to Buffalo, whence he went by the Great Lakes to Chicago, from that city to Peru on the canal, and then by team to Sublette, Lee County, his final destination. A man of his capability and trustworthiness is always in demand among the farmers, and he had no difficulty in securing work as a farm hand, being employed by the day or month in that township for the ensuing year. After that he went to Lee Center, where he was similarly engaged by the month for two seasons. By that time he had laid by money enough to become more independent, and he bought a tract of land in Bradford Township, for which he paid \$2 an acre. He built on the place and commenced at once to develop its soil, and had placed it in a very good condition when he sold it in 1865, having so increased its original value, that he obtained \$30 an acre for it. He then came Willow Creek Township, and invested in two hundred and thirty acres of excellent farming which forms his present farm. When it came into his possession only a part of the land was improved, and there were no buildings on it. It now presents a very different appearance, with its neatly fenced, well tilled fields, with its abundance of fruit and shade trees, planted by Mr. Nelson, and a comfortable dwelling and substantial out-houses adorn the place.

In January, 1868, our subject was married to Martha Christopher, who is a native of the same Norwegian town that is his place of birth. In her he has found a valuable helpmate, and a devoted companion. They have four children living—Helga, Annie, Nellie and Christopher. Julia N., their second daughter, who was married, died in February, 1889, leaving two children, who are being tenderly cared for by their grandparents.



**W**ILLIAM WINFIELD HARDEN. The highly improved and prosperous condition of Lee County is in a large degree due to its farming population, which is for the

most part composed of men who are strong in character, energetic in disposition, keen of vision, discriminate and sensible in judgment and prompt to take advantage of whatsoever will accrue to their benefit. It is of one of this class, of whom we write. His homestead farm, comprising a quarter of section 23, Nelson Township, is one of the finest in this region, with its farm buildings of a modern style of architecture, its rich harvest fields, and its pastures devoted to the support of sleek and well-kept cattle, horses and swine of the most approved breeds, best adapted to this part of the country. He also has eighty acres of land on section 27, of the same township, which is under admirable cultivation and is well improved.

Mr. Harden comes of Pennsylvania stock and is himself a native of that commonwealth, born in the county of Somerset, October 19, 1852. His father, Solomon Harden, also had his birth in that county, he being a son of a Pennsylvania farmer, named George Harden. Solomon grew up in his native place and when he began to think of marriage he selected Miss Susan Uhl to share his fortunes with him, and their union took place in the town of Somerset, in Somerset County, where she was born and had been reared and educated. She came of the old Pennsylvania Dutch stock, and her ancestors were farmers by occupation and strict Lutherans in religion.

After the birth of two children, Pierce and our subject, the Hardens emigrated from their old Pennsylvania home to Illinois in 1853 and began life again on the homestead now owned and occupied by their son of whom we write. The land composing it was bought of the Government and has never been out of the family. When Mr. Harden purchased it it was in a wild condition, with never a furrow of its sod turned. He immediately entered upon the hard pioneer task of changing it into a well-cultivated, nicely-improved farm, and labored patiently and with good results until death stayed his hand forever from his work May 17, 1865. His demise was felt to be a sad loss not only to his family and friends but to the community at large, as during his twelve years' residence here he had been associated with everything good and progressive in the way of advancing

the material and moral interests of the township. He was a sincere Christian and a member of the Lutheran Church. In politics he was a sturdy Democrat. His wife now makes her home on South Galena Street in the city of Dixon. She is sixty years of age and is in the full vigor and energy of all her faculties. She worships at the Lutheran Church, of which she is a devoted member.

Our subject is one of five brothers yet living. The others are: Pierce, a farmer in York County, Neb.; Edward E., a banker at Liberty, Gage County, Neb.; John T., also a banker at Liberty with his brothers, including another brother, Hiram Albert and our subject, the latter being a director in the bank, as is John; Edward is President of the bank, while Hiram is cashier.

William Harden was reared to the life of a farmer on the old homestead that has since come into his hands. He early manifested an aptitude for agricultural pursuits, and brings to his work a good equipment of brain, skill in management and practical experience. He is a man of sterling merit, conscientious and straightforward in his dealings, and his credit is high, for he is prompt in his payments, always does as he agrees to do in all his transactions, and the township where the most of his life has been passed holds him as one of her best citizens. He is its present Highway Commissioner, and he always enters heartily into any plans for public improvement. In politics he is a Republican of no uncertain type. The religion that was the comfort and stay of his forefathers in the days of its founder, Martin Luther, finds in him a faithful supporter, and he and his wife are among the most active members of the church of that denomination in the township, a half-mile distant.

Mr. Harden was married in this township to Miss Margaret Gruver, a native of this county, born in South Dixon Township, January 6, 1857. She received an excellent education, which was completed at the Dixon High School. She is a daughter of Uriah and Catherine (Wright) Gruver, a native of Pennsylvania and a descendant of some of the old Dutch families of that State. He came to Illinois after his first marriage, and his wife dying he was married, a second time, to Miss

THE HISTORY  
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*Erastus Anderson*

Elizabeth Kelley. He is now living retired in Dixon. He occupies an honorable place among the pioneers of the county, and is highly esteemed by his many acquaintances and friends. He and his present wife are respected members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. and Mrs. Hardin, of this sketch, are very pleasantly situated in an attractive home, and their peaceful married life has brought to them three children—Florence E., Minnie S. and Walter G.



**E**RASTUS ANDERSON. Prominent in the annals of Lee County as the first settler of Ashton Township is the gentleman whose portrait appears on the opposite page. He owns a farm situated on section 23, that he has placed under substantial improvement, but makes his home in the village of Ashton. He is a son of John H. Anderson, who was a pioneer of the aforementioned township, and was for many years one of its most respected citizens until death called him hence. He was born in New Brunswick, and it is thought that 1793 was the year of his birth. He married Martha Martin, who was born in Lower Canada, near the town of Prescott, in 1802, and after marriage they settled in the township of Bayam, Upper Canada, in 1819. He took part in the War of 1812, and was present at the famous battle of Lundy's Lane.

A farmer by occupation, Mr. Anderson carried on his calling in Upper Canada until 1844, when he became a pioneer of Lapeer County, Mich. Two years later, in the month of October, 1846, he came with his family to Illinois, and resided in Naehusa Township, Ogle County, until December, 1849, when they removed to Lee County and cast in their lot with the pioneers of Ashton Township who had preceded them. They located on section 23, and here the good old father and mother tranquilly passed their remaining days, and at length departed this life full of years, his death occurring August 26, 1868, and hers in November, 1872. During the greater part of their lives they

were active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They had ten children, all sons, one of whom died at the age of nineteen, and another when ten years old, the others growing to manhood.

Our subject, who was the third child of the family, was born in the township of Bayam, Canada, May 19, 1824. Being one of the older members of the household he assisted his parents in the support of the family, and in bringing up his younger brothers. He continued to live in Canada some six months after the removal of his parents to Michigan, and then joining them, remained with them until the spring of 1846, when he came to Illinois. He first located in Ogle County, engaging in farming there, but in March, 1849, came to Lee County with his wife, whom he had married in Ogle County the previous fall. He was the first one to settle in Ashton Township, and has been an honored resident of this locality since that time, with the exception of two years, when he was engaged in a mill in Oregon. Farming has been his chief occupation in life, and he has a choice farm of one hundred and sixty acres as the result of his patient and well-directed labors. He has his land under fine tillage, and his fertile fields produce abundant harvests, and neat and conveniently arranged buildings adorn the place.

Mr. Anderson has filled the office of School Director for a quarter of a century, and has in various other ways faithfully fulfilled his obligations as a true citizen who has the dearest interests of his community at heart. He is a solid Republican, and has stood firmly by his party these many years of its existence as a political organization. He is known of all men as moral and upright in his character, and truly religious, not only in profession, but in conduct, and for half a century he has been a valued member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The first marriage of our subject occurred in Ogle County, November 13, 1848, and was with Miss Mary Halverd, a native of Norway. Their pleasant wedded life was brought to a close by the death of his faithful wife December 11, 1888. She was a sincere Christian, and a worthy member

of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in dying left behind her the record of a life well spent. Three children were born of that union—Rhoda A., who is the wife of William F. Clark; John H., who married Miss Elsie Kaufman; and Mary A., who died in infancy.

Mr. Anderson was married a second time in Ashton Township September 9, 1889, Mrs. Mary J. Lundy, nee Vosburg, widow of Alfred Lundy, becoming his wife. Mrs. Anderson was born in Susquehanna County, Pa., November, 17, 1836. She was married in early womanhood to Alfred Lundy, who died at Standing Stone, Bradford County, Pa. She is a very intelligent, efficient woman, an excellent housewife, and looks well to the ways of her household. She belongs to the same church of which her husband has so long been a member, and is one of its most zealous workers.



**J**ASON C. AYRES, President of the Dixon National Bank, capitalist, and one of the largest dealers in real estate in northern Illinois, has long been one of Lee County's ablest business men and financiers, who is widely known and honored for his high personal standing, for the value of his citizenship and for the generous, progressive and far-seeing public spirit that has exercised such a powerful influence in the making of his adopted city.

Our subject was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., August 22, 1835. He is a descendant of some of the old families of New England, his forefathers being among the Colonial settlers of that part of the country. The following facts concerning his ancestry are taken from the "History of the Ayres Family," written by William Henry Whitmore. His father, Col. Sylvanus Ayres, was born in April, 1780, in New Braintree, Mass., and was a son of Jabez and Persis (Stewart) Ayres. Jabez Ayres was born in Newbury, Mass., April 26, 1737, and was a son of Jabez and Rebecca (Kimball) Ayres, who were also natives of that town. The great-grandfather of our subject was born December

27, 1690, and was a son of Samuel and Abigail (Fellows) Ayres. Samuel Ayres was the second son of Captain John and Susanna (Simonds) Ayres. Captain Ayres was born in England, and was one of three brothers who came to America as Colonists in the early years of the settlement of New England. He went with others to the present location of Brookfield, Mass., where he secured a tract of land and set about building a home in the wilderness. That section of the country was inhabited by a tribe of hostile Indians, and he was killed by them August 3, 1675. His family and the remaining settlers then returned to Ipswich, Mass. Samuel Ayres was married in that old New England town April 16, 1677. He departed this life in 1717, at a ripe old age. Jabez Ayres, the great-grandfather of our subject, was married December 8, 1718, to Rebecca, daughter of Henry Kimball. He removed from Ipswich to New Braintree, in the same State, in June, 1721. His son Jabez, grandfather of subject, served in the French and Indian War and in the War of the Revolution. He removed from New Braintree to Salisbury, Herkimer County, N. Y., in 1792, and thence to Manheim in the same county, where he died February 24, 1824. His widow died there in 1833, aged sixty-eight years.

The father of our subject was a lad of twelve years when he went with his parents to Herkimer County, N. Y., where he continued to live until a short time after his marriage, when he went to Montgomery County and thence to St. Lawrence County, in the same State. He became one of the leading citizens of his community. After serving in the War of 1812 he joined the New York Militia, and June 13, 1814, Daniel D. Tompkins, then Governor of New York, commissioned him Captain of a company of the Eighth New York Infantry. In May, 1818, he received a commission as Major of the regiment from Governor DeWitt Clinton, and in April, 1821, Governor Clinton commissioned him Lieutenant-Colonel of the same regiment. In the year 1839 Col. Ayres migrated with his family to Indiana and took up his residence in the primeval wilds of Allen County, going to his destination by lake to Toledo, Ohio, from there up the Maumee River to the head of navigation, and



thence with a team to the end of his journey. He was not destined to enjoy his new home very long, as, ere the year was closed, he was numbered among the dead.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Anna Bean. She was a native of Saratoga County, N. Y., and was a daughter of William Bean, who was a native of Boston. He was the son of an Englishman, who came to this country in Colonial times and settled in or near Boston. He met his death at the hands of the Indians, being shot by them and mortally wounded, and dying shortly after in his home. The maternal grandfather of our subject was the youngest of six children. When the Revolutionary War broke out he entered the Continental army, fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill and served with devoted patriotism throughout the entire struggle for freedom. Previous to going into the army he had worked in a shipyard, but after the war he turned his attention to farming, and was thus engaged in his native State for a time. He then resided in Vermont a few years, and from there went to New York. He first located in Saratoga County, but subsequently removed to Montgomery County, and buying a farm near Johnstown, spent his remaining days there. The maiden name of his wife was Lydia Nutting, and she was born in Salem, Mass. Her mother, the great-grandmother of subject, was a Severance. She was very young when her father died, and she was reared by an aunt in Fitchburg. She died on the home farm in Montgomery County. The mother of our subject was reared in New York. After the death of her husband in their newly founded home in Indiana she returned to the East with six of her eight children, and taking up her residence in Buffalo, devoted herself to rearing and educating her children. She came to Dixon with her son, of whom we write, and was a beloved inmate of his home until her death February 20, 1884, in her ninetieth year.

Jason C. Ayres was but four years old when his father died. He was principally reared in the city of Buffalo and educated in her public schools. In the spring of 1854, a youth of eighteen years, he came to Illinois and began life in this State as a clerk in a store in Chicago. In December of that

year he paid his first visit to Dixon, coming by rail as far as Rochelle, which was then the terminus of the railway, and from there to this city with a team. He was much impressed with the beautiful site of Dixon, and the many advantages it offered to a wide-awake enterprising man of business, and in the spring of 1855 he made a permanent settlement here, establishing himself in the mercantile business, which he conducted for a time. In 1857 he formed a partnership with Joseph Crawford and Milton Santee, and opened a land agency office. The firm did a very large business in the line of surveying and entering Government lands in the Western States, and the gentlemen composing it continued together until 1863. Since that time Mr. Ayres has conducted the business alone in the same office, looking carefully after his extensive landed interests and the management of his other property. He has dealt in lands in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska, and for many years invested money for Eastern capitalists. When it became necessary to select a new president for the Dixon National Bank, one of the substantial monetary institutions of Northern Illinois, Mr. Ayres was chosen on account of his extensive acquaintance with men and affairs, his wide experience in business, his accurate knowledge of financial matters, and the sound and sagacious policy by which he has always managed his own interests and those of other people entrusted to him. Under his careful and skillful guidance the bank maintains its old-time reputation, its prosperity resting on a firm and healthy basis and, as of yore, it enjoys the entire confidence of its depositors and all who have dealings with it.

May 7, 1861, our subject entered into a happy and congenial marriage with Miss Lavina, daughter of Dr. John S. Crawford, of Williamsport, Pa. They have a home made beautiful with all that goes to make life worth living, and their pleasant household circle is completed by their one daughter, Anna B. Their only son, George N., died when twelve years old.

Mr. Ayres is a thoughtful, scholarly man, of fine address, and in all things conforms strictly to the highest principles of honor, fairness and courtesy.

His strong business qualifications, aptitude for affairs and executive talent, combined with his personal attributes have given him prominence in this city, with whose growth he has been so intimately associated for the past thirty-six years. For many years he held two of the most important civic offices within the gift of his fellow-citizens, serving as City Treasurer upwards of twenty years, and as City Clerk for twenty-three years. In politics he is first, last and always a Republican. In his social relations he is a member of Friendship Lodge, No. 7, A. F. & A. M.; Naehusa Chapter, No. 56, R. A. M.; Dixon Council, No. 21, R. & S. M.; and of Dixon Commandery, No. 21, K. T. He has always been generous in the use of his money for public enterprises and charitable purposes. He is broad and catholic in his religious views, an attendant of the Methodist Episcopal Church for many years, but not a member of any religious denomination.



**T**HOMAS HOWELL has, since the spring of 1869, lived on section 19, Dixon Township, where he owns a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres. The fields are well tilled, the place is well stocked and the improvements, which are many, are in keeping with a model farm of the nineteenth century. As our subject is well and favorably known throughout this community we feel assured that a record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers.

Mr. Howell was born in Herefordshire, England, on the 9th of January, 1809, and was the eldest of six children. His parents were Thomas and Sarah (Davis) Howell, natives of Ludlow, Shropshire, England. In 1836, accompanied by their family, the parents crossed the briny deep to America, sailing from Liverpool on the "City of Washington," which dropped anchor in the harbor of New York after a voyage of three weeks and three days, the quickest and the last trip ever made by that boat and one of the fastest sails across the ocean which had been made at that time. In the city of Buffalo the family located, and there the

parents spent the remainder of their lives. In their native land they had been members of the Church of England but in this country united with the Methodist Church, in the growth and upbuilding of which they took an active interest.

Our subject is the only one of the family now living. The others were generally successful in their business affairs and became quite well-to-do. In the usual manner of farmer lads, Thomas spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his native county and after he had arrived at man's estate was joined in wedlock, in Shropshire, with Miss Mary A. Adams, a native of that county, born on the 28th of November, 1818. Her parents were William and Elizabeth (Page) Adams, also natives of Shropshire, where they spent their entire lives. Her father's death occurred in his eightieth year, and his wife passed away at the age of eighty-two. They were members of the Episcopal Church and both came of old and respected English families.

After coming to this country, Mr. Howell and his wife took up their residence in Buffalo, N. Y., where they made their home for eighteen years, during a greater part of which time he had a street sprinkler and engaged in watering the streets; also while in New York State he followed farming and cheese making. On the expiration of that period they came West and the attention of Mr. Howell was turned to farming, which he has since followed. For more than half a century he and his estimable wife have lived and labored together, and their united efforts have been crowned with success. They are now in comfortable circumstances, having acquired a competence which supplies them with all the necessities and many of the luxuries of life. With the Methodist Church of Dixon they hold membership, and their lives are spent in harmony with their professions.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Howell was blessed with a family of eight children, all of whom are yet living. Sarah, the eldest, is now the wife of Andrew Hatch, a farmer of Dixon Township; William H. R., who wedded Libby Hatch, is engaged in farming in Erie County, N. Y.; Albert, who wedded Mary Bernhart, follows the same pursuit near Wales Center, N. Y.; Elizabeth D. is the wife of Frank J. Parsons, a real-estate agent

of Omaha, Neb.; John H., who married Amanda Woodruff, makes his home in Dixon; James D., who married Minnie Wernick, is a resident farmer of Dixon Township; Carrie is the wife of George W. Spencer, of Chicago, who is employed as an ornamental painter by Frank Parmelee, who runs an extensive 'bus and transfer line in that city; Susie A., the youngest of the family, is yet at home.



**I** SAAC MEANS, a dealer in coal, lime, cement, salt, etc., is distinguished in the history of Lee County, as one of the oldest established business men of Dixon, who has been closely connected with its interests, and has had a hand in its upbuilding for over half a century, and no name is more deservedly held in honor by the citizens of this city than his.

Mr. Means was born October 14, 1814, in County Tyrone, Ireland. His father, John Means, was also a native of that county, while his sire, who bore the same name as our subject, was of Scotch birth. In early manhood he left his native heath in Scotland, to engage in farming on the rich soil of the Emerald Isle, and the remainder of his life was passed in County Tyrone.

John Means was reared to the life of a farmer in the place of his birth, and in due time was married taking as his wife Margie Taylor, who was likewise a native of County Tyrone. In 1848 the family came to America, and the good old father and mother spent the remainder of their days at Dixon. They reared fourteen children, of whom seven are still living.

The subject of this biographical review passed his youth in the county of his nativity, where he grew to a hale and self-reliant manhood. In the year 1840, when in the prime and vigor of life, he set forth from his old home into the wide world to see if in far-away America fortune would bless his efforts to acquire a competence. He embarked on a sailing-vessel at Liverpool, and twenty-one days later landed at New York. From there he

went to Boston, but after a visit of a few weeks in that city returned to the metropolis, and from there started westward by the way of the Hudson River to Troy, from there by the Erie Canal to Buffalo, thence by lakes to Chicago, where he secured a ride to Dixon, his final destination, which he found to be a small town, with a population of about two hundred people. The surrounding country was still in the hands of the pioneers, and was but thinly inhabited, the land being mostly owned by the Government, and deer, wolves and various other kinds of animals roamed where are now beautiful farms, happy homes and busy towns.

After his arrival in Dixon, Mr. Means invested in village property, and then set himself to work with characteristic energy to learn the trade of a stone, brick and plaster mason with a Mr. Austin. A year later, he having acquired a thorough knowledge of his trade and much skill in carrying it on, that gentleman took him into partnership, and they engaged in contracting and building together some ten years. At the end of that time, our subject went into the lumber trade, and later into the mercantile business as a dealer in coal, lime, cement, salt, etc., and has been prosperously and extensively engaged in that line ever since. His business has increased with the growth of the city, was long since established on a firm foundation, and is known as one of the oldest concerns in Dixon.

When he came to Dixon fifty or more years ago, Mr. Means was unmarried, but life had in store for him a better fate than to go to the end of the journey in single blessedness, and in this city he met and wedded Mrs. Mary A. Clay. Her father was a captain in the British army, and she was born on the ocean when her parents were en route to America.

In all his transactions Mr. Means has always displayed a scrupulous regard for the rights of others, has never been known to wilfully wrong or defraud another, and his reputation is unspotted in financial circles. He has witnessed with pride the growth of the city with which he so early identified himself, and has manifested true public spirit by doing whatsoever he could to advance its welfare, materially, socially and morally. He is prominent in social circles as a Mason of forty-seven

years' standing, and is the oldest member of Friendship Lodge, No. 7. A man of broad outlook, in his religious views he is cheerful and optimistic, and is a consistent and valued member of the Universalist Church.



**A**DAM MILLER, who now lives in retirement in the pleasant village of Steward, was for many years actively engaged in farming, and is still identified with the agricultural interests of the county as the proprietor of a farm in Willow Creek Township, whose substantial improvements are the works of his own hand, as it was a tract of wild prairie when it came into his possession.

The birthplace of our subject is in that part of what was once Northampton County, now included in Pocono Township, Monroe County, Pa., and there he was born amidst primeval surroundings August 19, 1816. Frederick Miller, his father, was a native of the same State, and was a son of another Frederick Miller, who was a farmer of Hamilton Township, Northampton County, where he died in the course of time. The father of our subject was reared in Pennsylvania to the life of a farmer, and also engaged in lumbering. He was a pioneer of Pocono Township, settling there in the primeval forest, from which he cleared a good farm, which he occupied a number of years, but his last days were spent in the home of a daughter at Chestnut Hill. For some years after his settlement on his land, deer, bear and other kinds of wild game were plentiful, and there were but few signs of approaching civilization. Easton, Allentown and Bethlehem were the nearest markets, and as there were then no railways, all transportation between those points and Philadelphia, eighty-seven miles distant, was by teams. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Catherine Brown; it is thought that she was a Pennsylvanian by birth, and she was a daughter of Sebastian Brown. She died on the home farm.

Our subject is the only survivor of a family of seven children, and the names of his brothers and

sisters are as follows—Elizabeth, Frederick, Peter, Barbara, Catherine and Sarah.

Adam Miller grew to manhood and was educated in his native county. He attended the pioneer schools of his day that were taught on the subscription plan. As soon as large enough to be of any use he was set to work on the farm, and also helped his father in the lumber business. He remained with his parents until he was eighteen years old and then commenced life for himself by working on a farm. He was thus employed a few years and then engaged in milling. He worked for a man in that business one year, and at the end of that time rented a mill in Lackawanna Township, Luzerne County, which he operated successfully for some years. In March, 1857, he abandoned milling in Pennsylvania, and coming to Lee County, turned his energies to tilling the soil. He bought eighty acres of wild prairie, of which never a sod had been turned, which was located in what is now Willow Creek Township. As there were no improvements on the place, he rented for three years, and then erected suitable buildings, and resided on his farm until 1883, when he came to Steward, where he has since lived retired, having an income ample for all his wants. During his residence on his farm he put it into good shape, placed the land under excellent tillage and added another eighty acres to the original acreage, so that he now has one hundred and sixty acres of well-improved, arable land.

For more than half a century Mr. and Mrs. Miller have enjoyed life together, their marriage taking place January 20, 1839. They have been blessed with the following children—Merritt, a resident of Steward, of whom a sketch appears elsewhere in this book; William and Seldon, who are residents of McPherson County, Kan.; Holden, who lives at Forreston, Ill.; Charles, who is on the home farm; and Leonora, the wife of Edgar E. Morgan, of Greene County, Ind.

Mrs. Miller was Mary Neyhart prior to her marriage, and she was born October 10, 1818, in Hamilton Township, which then formed a part of Northampton County, but is now included in Monroe County, Pa. Her father, Peter Neyhart, was also a Pennsylvanian by birth and was of German de-

scent. He followed the trade of a tailor in Hamilton Township until within a few years of his death, and then removed to Pocono Township, where he passed the remainder of his life. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Kester. She survived her husband some years and died at the home of a daughter in Pittston Township, Luzerne County. Mr. and Mrs. Miller joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in their younger days and were connected with that church for many years. They are conscientious Christians, kindly and charitable in their dispositions, and are held in universal esteem throughout the neighborhood.



**L**AIS L. Risetter is a fine type of the Scandinavian race that has done so much for Lee County in promoting its industries, its growth in various directions, and its welfare generally. He is one of its pioneer farmers, and has acquired moderate means by the successful management of his extensive farming interests in Willow Creek Township, of which he is an old and honored resident.

Mr. Risetter was born in Bergenstoft, Hardanger, Norway, March 30, 1826. He grew to manhood amid the pleasant scenes of his birth, and was very well educated in the local schools. He early acquired a knowledge of farming on his father's farm, and continued to live in the old home until 1847. The 20th of April, that year, was an important date in his young life, as he then bade a long farewell to his old friends and the familiar places of his youth, and set his face toward America as the goal of his hopes and ambitions. He sailed from Bergen, and after a voyage of a month on the Atlantic ocean, he landed at New York on the 20th of May. He came directly to Illinois from that city, journeying up the Hudson River to Albany, from there by rail to Buffalo, and thence by the lakes to Chicago, where he secured a ride with a farmer to the Fox River settlement, and from there came with a hired team to Lee Center. He found himself a stranger in a strange land, without money, and unable to speak the English language,

and, what was worse than all, sick with ague and from the effects of his long and tiresome journey of many thousand miles, his situation seemed serious for awhile. But a young man of his resolution, fortitude and strength of character who had traveled so far in search of a future home, was not to be defeated at the outset, and as soon as he was able he sought employment at whatsoever his hands could find to do and obtained a place to work on a farm by the month. His prospects were not bright, as he was sickly, but he was found to be a ready and willing worker, habitually industrious, quick and capable, and although not strong and robust he commanded the usual wages paid to a workman in those days. He prudently saved his money, and finally for the sum of \$63 secured a land warrant entitling him to eighty acres of land in Sublette Township. It was a part of the wild prairie, which at that time was unsettled in this county, and deer, wolves and other wild animals were frequently seen where are now rich farms and flourishing villages. The settlements had been made mostly in the timber, as the value of the prairie land for farming purposes had not been realized. There were no railways in the State, and communication with the outside world was by the way of rough roads or over the trackless prairies. As a pioneer of Northern Illinois Mr. Risetter has been an interested witness of the many wonderful changes that the years have brought, and he has been a potent factor in developing this section from the wilderness.

Our subject's first needed work was, after he came into possession of his land, to build a log house after the pioneer fashion. He obtained the logs by felling trees that stood on his place, and then, as was the custom in those days of mutual helpfulness, invited his neighbors to the "raising," and in one day by their united labors the dwelling was completed ready for occupancy, and Mr. Risetter then devoted his energies to the improvement of his home and land. He sold that place in 1856 for much more than its original price, as its value had been much increased by the time and labor he had expended in its development. He then bought a tract of land in Willow Creek Township, same county, and has resided here

continuously ever since, being to-day one of its best-known citizens. He has met with ordinary success in the pursuit of his calling, has a home replete with comfort, a finely equipped farm, amply supplied with modern machinery for carrying on the various farming operations in which he was engaged, and at one time he owned upwards of nine hundred acres of choice land, but is now retired from farming and has divided the farm between his sons.

December 19, 1847, Mr. Risetter celebrated his marriage with Miss Gertrude Hillison, and the wedded life thus entered upon that far away Christmas more than forty years ago has been one of true happiness. Mrs. Risetter was also born in Bergenstoft, Norway, and she came across the waters to a new home in this country in the same ship with her future husband. Their marriage has been blessed to them by the birth of five children, of whom three survive: Annie, wife of the Rev. A. C. Olsen, Lewis and Holden. Our subject gives intelligent heed to politics, and has mostly voted the Republican ticket. He and his wife are earnest Christians, and in the Lutheran Church find true teachings according to the Word of God revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

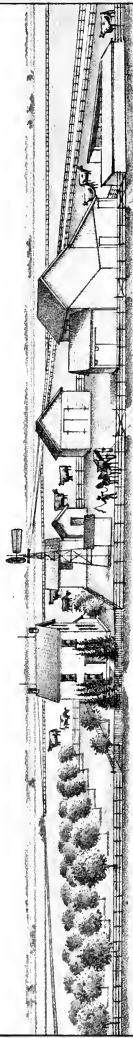


**C**OMLEY P. WILLIAMS. In presenting a sketch of this gentleman to our readers we record the life work of one of the most enterprising farmers and extensive and successful stock-raisers of Lee County. For the past six years he has resided on section 27, Palmyra Township, where he owns one hundred and eight acres of valuable land under a high state of cultivation. Its improvements, which are many, are both useful and ornamental. The dwelling, a view of which appears on another page, is an elegant and conveniently arranged two-story frame structure, situated in the midst of a beautiful lawn, adorned with flowering shrubs and shade trees. In the past year was erected a large barn 62x40 feet, with an ell 20x44 feet, and the other outbuildings are also in keeping with this structure. Twenty head of fine

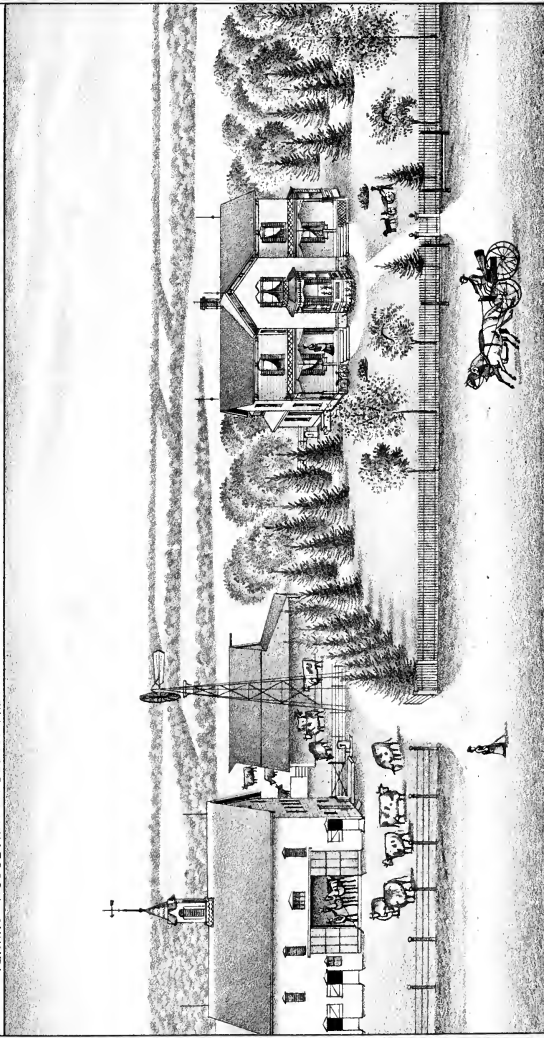
thorough-bred Holstein cattle may there be seen, among which is the well-known animal, "Netherlands Helmer." We have thus taken a brief survey of one of the finest farms of the county, and will now turn to the history of its owner.

A native of Pennsylvania, Mr. Williams was born in Columbia County, December 15, 1850, and is a son of Osborn and Martha (John) Williams, also natives of that county, where they were married. The father was a carpenter and cabinet maker by trade and followed those pursuits for some time, after which he engaged in merchandising with excellent success. Severing his business relations in the East, he came to Illinois with his family in 1857, and spent one year in Ogle County. The following year he removed to Jordan Township, Whiteside County, where he followed farming until his death July 8th, 1884. He was born October 20, 1823. His life was a busy and useful one, and though he started out in the world empty handed, at the time of his death he owned three farms, all free from debt and well improved. He was also enabled in his latter years to lay aside many of the cares of business life and enjoy the fruits of his former toil. In politics he was a Republican and took quite an active interest in the success of his party. Mrs. Williams, who was born March 12, 1823, is still living on the old homestead in Whiteside County. Under the auspices of the Society of Friends, she was reared, as was also her husband, and her life has been consistent with its teachings.

Accompanying his parents to the West, C. P. Williams was reared to manhood in Whiteside County, where his education was also acquired in the district schools of the neighborhood. After attaining to mature years he led to the marriage altar Miss Catherine Hey, who was born in New York, June 5, 1852. Her parents, Henry and Catherine (Pctleou) Hey, were also natives of the Empire State and were of German descent. In an early day they cast their lot with the pioneer settlers of Whiteside County, where in the pursuit of his business Mr. Hey accumulated a large property. His death occurred March 18, 1884. The political views which he advocated were those of the Republican party, and religiously he was a



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Lutheran. Mrs. Hey is still living on the old homestead and is now about sixty-two years of age. She also holds membership with the Lutheran Church. The family of this worthy couple numbered four children, of whom Mrs. Williams is the eldest.

Unto our subject and his wife were born three children, but Osborn H., who was born October 20, 1881, is the only one now living. Florence E., who was born July 13, 1874, died March 14, 1877; and an infant son died February 3, 1886.

In connection with his home farm, Mr. Williams owns one hundred and seventy-five acres of land elsewhere in Palmyra Township, upon which he resided for twelve years previous to locating on the farm which is now his home. He is a man of good business ability, sagacious and far-sighted, and by the exercise of correct business principles has achieved success, working his way upward to a position of wealth and affluence. In his political views he is a Republican and for some years filled the office of Justice of the Peace with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. Himself and wife are prominent people of Palmyra Township, moving in the best circles of society and it is with pleasure that we present this sketch of their lives to our readers.



**J**AMES W. SEYBERT stands among the foremost of the farmers and dairymen of South Dixon Township, and his well stocked farm on sections 16 and 21 is a beautiful and valuable piece of property, with commodious and handsome buildings of modern architecture, and all the conveniences for agricultural pursuits.

The name of Seybert is familiar in this county as belonging to a family who have been closely connected with its interests for many years. The parents of our subject, Wallace and Desire (Hill) Seybert, came to this section of the State more than thirty years ago, locating in South Dixon Township, where they gathered together a large property, including about a thousand acres of land,

and they are now living in retirement in Dixon, in the quiet enjoyment of their wealth. Further mention of their life and work is made in another part of this volume.

Our subject was born in Luzerne County, Pa., May 1, 1851, and was ten years old the year the family migrated from the Keystone State to this. The education begun in the schools of his native county was completed in the public schools of Lee County, and his experience of farming was first obtained under the instruction of his father. He was thus well fitted to pursue agriculture when he began to conduct farming on his own account. The farm to which he holds the title, and which has been in his possession six years, was one of the several that formerly belonged to his father. He is constantly adding improvements, and the fine buildings that adorn the place have been chiefly erected by himself. The substantial residence is tastefully and well built, and nicely fitted up outside and in, and the other buildings correspond. The Seyberts are noted for having large barns, and our subject has one of the largest in the county, which was erected under his supervision in 1889. Its dimensions are 48x96 feet, with twenty feet posts, and it has a roomy basement capable of accommodating sixty-five head of cattle and nineteen horses; while the upper part of the barn is well arranged for the storage of hay and grain. The farm has an area of two hundred and seventy-seven acres, of which nearly the whole is under admirable tillage, and good breeds of stock range the pastures. Besides carrying on a profitable business in general farming, our subject has been interested in the milk business for two years and a half, starting in when the condensed milk factory, to which he disposes of the milk of fifty milk cows, was established. He is both practical and progressive in the conduct of his business, plans his work thoughtfully and systematically, and keeps himself well informed in all that pertains to agriculture. In his political views he is a Democrat of the purest water, but does not seek office, and is not a politician.

Mr. Seybert was married in this township to Miss Laura Hill, who presides over their home with true grace, and cordially unites with him in exten-

ding its hospitalities to their numerous friends, or to whomsoever crosses its threshold. Mrs. Seybert is a native of this township, born June 15, 1862, and she was reared and educated here. She is devoted to her husband's interests, and encourages and assists him in his work. They have a child—Eva Pearl, born September 7, 1891, and a foster-child, named George, for whom they care tenderly, and who is being reared by them as carefully as if he were of their own blood.



**O**SBORN BEDIENT, who resides on section 33, Lee Center Township, is an old settler of this county, being the second man to settle here outside of Dixon. He has acquired an enviable reputation as an upright, honest man who has accomplished a success in life by his industry and economy. He was born in Otsego County, N. Y., at Gilbertsville, April 27, 1832, where he passed the first twelve years of his life. At that time his father removed to Broome County, in the same State, residing there until 1854, when he came in the fall of that year with his wife and two children to Amboy, this State. He lived there for two or three years, being employed on the Illinois Central Railroad and in other occupations. He then purchased a tract of land in Marion Township, this county, on which he settled and lived for one year when he returned to Amboy, there spending the following three years. At the end of this time he rented a farm in Amboy Township for four years, afterward removing to Sublette Township, renting a farm there for one year. He afterward rented the farm which he now owns, and which he purchased at the end of the second year. On this he has erected a fine set of buildings and has also built a residence, second to none in the county. His farm comprises two hundred and sixty acres and is under a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Bedient was married in Windsor, Broome County, N. Y., March 22, 1851 to Miss Hannah J. Marshall, who was a native of that place, born September 27, 1830. They are the parents of twelve

children, as follows: Lewis A. and Edwin M., are farmers both living in York County, Neb.; Mary A., (Mrs. Daniel Craig); Carrie A., (Mrs. A. J. Rogers); Eugene D., is a farmer and resides at home; Frank L. and Charlie also reside in York County, Neb., where they are carrying on farming; Addie is the wife of Jordan Tewell; Edith M. married William Fell; Fred is farming in Sublette; Grace A.; and Sarah, who died in infancy.

Mr. Bedient has spent almost his entire life in farming and stock raising, in which he has been remarkably successful. He is a public-spirited, energetic man, who thoroughly enjoys life and will therefore live to a good old age. He is a thorough-going Republican and has always taken an active part in political affairs. His wife is a most estimable woman who has greatly aided her husband by her counsel and wifely devotion in acquiring the competence which they are now enjoying together, and has been a devoted mother to her large family of children, whom she has had the happiness of seeing well established in life. The family stands high in the estimation of their fellow-citizens and they are deserving of the good fortune which has been theirs.



**F**LETCHER HUTTON, deceased, is numbered among the honored pioneers of Lee County, and the history of this community would be incomplete if his record of his life was omitted. His father, William Hutton, was a native of Berwick, Columbia County, Pa., and was of English descent. He married Elizabeth Bowman, who was also a native of Columbia County. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hutton were born four sons and two daughters. He was a second time married his wife being Mrs. Sarah (Bowman) Bacon, who had two children by her first marriage. In 1839 they came to Illinois. They traveled overland with teams, camping out along the wayside at night and at length located at what is now Gap Grove in Palmyra Township. For several months after their arrival they lived in a log cabin, which was the home and shelter of four families. As may be sur-

used their quarters were not the most commodious but they managed to get along until other provisions could be made for a home. In 1840, William Hutton pre-empted a claim not far from Gap Grove and purchased the same from the Government when the land came into market. It continued to be his property until his death, but in the meantime he retired from farm labor. He was a man of great energy and enterprise and by his perseverance and industry acquired a handsome property so that, in 1855, he determined to live a retired life and removed to Sterling. He owned a fine residence in that place and continued to make it his home until his death, which occurred August 20, 1864, at the age of seventy-three years. His wife subsequently went to Iowa and died near State Center, in 1889, at the ripe old age of ninety years. They were both members of the Methodist Church and active workers in the Master's vineyard. Some one said of Mrs. Hutton that she could do as much work as two ministers. However that was, it is certain that she labored untiringly in the interests of her church and lived a consistent Christian life.

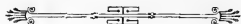
The childhood days of our subject were chiefly spent in Pennsylvania, he being nineteen years of age when the family came West. In the experiences and hardships of pioneer life he bore his share and aided in the arduous task of developing a farm. Throughout his life he followed agricultural pursuits and so successful was he in his business dealings that he became the owner of over six hundred acres of fine land. In Lee County, he wedded Mrs. Sarah Hutton, who was born on the 21st of April, 1839, in the Province of Ontario, Canada, and was a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Ferguson) Drynan, both of whom were natives of Scotland. Her father was highly educated in the schools of Edinburgh and fitted himself for the medical profession, but after coming to America, located in the timbered regions of Canada, and devoted his energies to mechanical pursuits and farming. In the midst of the forest he developed a good home and there died in 1850, aged fifty-eight years. Three years afterwards, Mrs. Drynan gave her hand in marriage to Rev. W. G. Johnson, a Congregational minister, and the following year they located in Lyndon, where Mr. John-

son engaged in preaching until 1856. Subsequently he filled the pulpits of the churches at Gap Grove and Sterling, and in the former place departed this life in 1857. Mrs. Johnson died December 22, 1890, at the age of seventy-six years. She too was a member of the Congregational Church and the father of Mrs. Hutton was a Presbyterian in religious belief.

Sarah Drynan, widow of our subject, was first married in Palmyra Township to Morris Hutton, on the 20th of November, 1857. They removed to Iowa, and when the war broke out the husband enlisted at Cedar Rapids in Company G, Twenty-fourth Iowa Infantry. He participated in eighteen battles, was several times slightly wounded and once a rebel bullet smashed his canteen. This however, saved his life. At the battle of Winchester, October 19, 1864, he was captured and carried to Richmond, Va., and later sent to Belle Isle. He was afterwards sent to Andersonville prison where he suffered terribly from ill treatment and when he was released and started homeward his health had been so undermined by ill-treatment and starvation, that he died at Benton Barracks, March 26, 1865. He was then in the prime of life. He was a brave soldier, ever found at his post and his life was given in the defense of his country. At his death he left two children—Ernest L., who graduated from Rush Medical College and is now a practicing physician of Kansas City, Mo., married Lillian C. Snow of Chicago; and Albert M. who wedded Lizzie Baker of Whiteside County, Ill., is a resident farmer of Gap Grove.

It was on the 10th of October, 1866, that the marriage of Fletcher Hutton and his brother's widow was celebrated. They resided upon the farm in Palmyra Township and unto them were born six children—Ethel Adella, Wilbur D., Earl E., Leon D., Walter C. and Lulu M. The death of Mr. Hutton occurred at his home on the 20th of May, 1879, and was deeply mourned by all who knew him. He was a valued citizen of the community who took an active interest in all public affairs pertaining to the welfare of the county and was held in the highest regard for his sterling worth. Of the Methodist Church he was a consistent and faithful member as was the first husband of Mrs. Hutton, and both

the brothers were stanch Republicans in politics. Upon the homestead left her by her husband, Mrs. Hutton still resides and in its management displays considerable executive and business ability. Her children also assist her in its care. The family is one that has a high social standing and well merits the position. The mother is a member of the Congregational Church and does all in her power to promote its welfare.



**W**ILLIAM F. SHIPPERT brings to his work a fine equipment of mind and muscle, and has a high reputation for his able management of his farming and stock interests. His farm comprises a quarter of section 35, South Dixon Township, of which he bought eighty acres first, and then purchased the one hundred and twenty acres adjoining his homestead, and the whole forms a valuable piece of property. He had not the wherewithal to pay the entire amount for his original purchase, which was partly improved, but he went to work with a good will, labored incessantly, and in time not only discharged his indebtedness, but had capital enough to add to his landed estate, as we have seen. His improvements are of a high order, and include a large and well-built barn, 44x90 feet in dimensions, with posts twenty feet in height, and a conveniently arranged basement for the accommodation of fifty head of stock. His residence is commodious and of a neat style of architecture, and beautiful shade trees ornament the grounds.

Mr. Shippert was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, April 8, 1839, that kingdom having been the home of his ancestors for several generations. His father, Frederick Shippert, was a farmer there, and in early manhood married Miss Louisa Sehlpf, who was also a native of Wurtemberg. After the birth of their six children, of whom our subject is the eldest, the family came to the United States in 1852, going from Germany to London, where they embarked on a ship bound for these shores. They landed at New York City and from there made their way to Philadelphia, Pa. Two weeks later they left that

city to settle in Luzerne County. There the father died at middle age, only a few years after he came to this country. He was a laboring man nearly all his life, preferring any honest work that he could perform to a life of idleness and possibly of want. He was industrious, had good, steady habits, and his stability of character won him great esteem. He was a member of the Lutheran Church, and was faithful in all things. After the death of the father the mother came to Lee County with her family, and was here married a second time to Andrew Huff, who is now deceased. She makes her home with her son John, and is nearly seventy-seven years old. Notwithstanding her advanced age, she is still active for one of her years. She is a true Christian and a Lutheran in religion. All of her children are living, and five of them make their homes in Illinois.

Our subject was in the opening years of a stalwart manhood when he came to this county in 1862. For three years he worked out and rented land, and then became more independent by the purchase of his first tract of land. As we have seen, he has been signally prospered, and in now in good circumstances, well fortified against the poverty that was his lot for a few years after he entered upon his new life in this region. He possesses a good head for business, has a sensible, evenly-balanced mind, and while he is shrewd in his dealings, he is never over-reaching or unjust. He has a good heart, and all appeals upon his purse and sympathies meet with a ready response, if the object is a worthy one. His religious sentiments find expression in the doctrines of the Evangelical Church, of which he and his amiable wife are members. In politics he takes a broad view of the questions of the day, and is a devoted Democrat.

Mr. Shippert and Miss Kate Bower united their lives and fortunes in Lee County in a marriage that has been of mutual benefit. It has brought them four children—Chaney, who died aged eleven years; William W., Carrie and Henry, all at home.

Mrs. Shippert was born in Germany, and was only a child of four years when her parents, William and Christina (Schaubert) Bowers came to the United States, and in an early day of the settlement of Bradford Township located there on a new farm.

They still reside there, and are now upwards of three-score years of age. They are stanch Lutherans in their religion. Mrs. Shippert is the eldest of their children, all of whom are living.



**J**AMES BENNETT is one of the extensive landowners of the county. He now resides on section 9, Dixon Township, where he has made his home for the past thirty years, but his farm is situated on sections 8, 9, 16 and 17. His landed possessions aggregate three hundred and thirty acres, most of which is under a high state of cultivation. The farm is well stocked and watered by the Rock River which flows across its southwestern boundary. The improvements are in keeping with the enterprising and progressive spirit of the owner who is classed among the the prominent and leading farmers of the community.

Mr. Bennett was born in County Down, Ireland, about 1827, and is of Scotch-Irish descent. He was the third in order of birth in a family numbering seven sons and three daughters, of whom four sons and a daughter came to this country, while four are yet living. The parents were Hugh and Sarah (Smith) Bennett, who were also natives of County Down, where as farming people they spent their entire lives and passed away when well advanced in years. They were members of the Protestant Church.

Upon his father's farm, James Bennett spent the days of his boyhood and youth and the educational advantages afforded him were those of the common schools of the neighborhood. In the county of his nativity, he led to the marriage altar Miss Martha Barnett who was born in County Down about seventy years ago. Her parents were Francis and Mary (Gibson) Barnett, also natives of that county, where their entire lives were passed. Her father died of sunstroke at the age of forty-eight years, but her mother reached the advanced age of four-score years. In the Presbyterian Church they held membership and were people of sterling worth and integrity. In their family were six sons and six daughters but few are now living.

The year 1844 witnessed the emigration of Mr. and Mrs. Bennett to America. They took passage in a sailing vessel, "John and Robert," which weighed anchor at Belfast and after a voyage of forty-three days landed in New York. For ten years they made their home in that city, where Mr. Bennett worked at any occupation he could find whereby he might earn an honest dollar. At length he determined to try his fortunes in the West, and in September, 1854, cast his lot with the early settlers of Lee County, Ill. For seven years after his arrival here he engaged in brick making near Dixon and then turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, which he has since followed with excellent success.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bennett have been born eight children, five of whom are yet living—James the eldest, wedded Eliza Patton and resides on his father's farm; Francis married Alice Lanver and is also engaged in farming in Dixon Township; Hugh married Maggie Patton and is also a farmer of the same township; Mary is the wife of Morris Leach who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Dixon Township; and Samuel is a mechanic and also helps to carry on the home farm. The three other children died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett are both members of the Presbyterian Church and their lives have been such as to win them the confidence of all with whom they come in contact. He and his sons are supporters of Republican principles but public office has had no attraction for our subject. Whatever success he has achieved in life is due to his own efforts, having resulted from his industry, perseverance and the exercise of correct business principles.



**J**AMES C. LUCE. Although not one of the early settlers of this county, Mr. Luce has resided here for so long a period that he is justly entitled to the honored name of pioneer. Since first he located here he has made his home on the fine farm located on section 11, Amboy Township, which he purchased soon after his arrival in the county, which was in 1857. The

homestead comprises one hundred and forty acres and contains good improvements in the way of barns, granaries and other important accessories of a well-managed farm. To have obtained this valuable possession through unaided exertions proves the use of excellent judgment and unceasing energy, and to those qualities Mr. Luce owes no small measure of his prosperity.

A native of Hornby, Steuben County, N. Y., Mr. Luce was born October 16, 1828, and is the son of Jacob and Sarah (Covenhoven) Luce, natives of Montgomery County, N. Y. His parents emigrated from the Empire State to Will County, this State, in 1845, being accompanied in the removal hither by their four children. They established a home in that county, and cultivated a farm until 1852, when they removed to this county and settled in Amboy Township, and there residing until their death, the father dying November 1, 1884, and the mother in 1857. Six children blessed their union, of whom our subject was the eldest. He passed the early years of his life in the Empire State, where as the eldest son he was compelled to assist in supporting the family at an early age. His school advantages, which were limited, consisted of such opportunities for acquiring knowledge as were afforded by the schools of that day.

When he had about grown to a stalwart, vigorous manhood, our subject accompanied his parents to Illinois and located with them in Will County, where they lived in Crete Township near the village of Crete. April 1, 1856, he removed from Crete to this county, being accompanied by his family, comprising his wife and an adopted child. He settled on section 11, Amboy Township and at once commenced the development of the land which he had purchased and which to-day repays his indefatigable efforts by bountiful harvests. As from childhood he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits, he is a practical and thorough farmer, having a broad and extended knowledge of the best methods of conducting farming operations.

Mr. Luce was married in Bremen, Cook County, Ill., to Miss Mary E. Mynard, and their union brought to them four children, namely: William, John J., Julia Maria and Georgia, all of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Mary Luce died in Amboy Town-

ship, July 8, 1872. Afterward Mr. Luce was united in marriage with Mrs. Margaret Jane (Keffer) Jeffrey, their wedding being solemnized in Marion Township, this county. Mrs. Luce, at the time of her marriage to our subject, was the widow of George Jeffrey, who died in Marion Township. She was born in Athens County, Ohio, December 30, 1843, and her union with Mr. Luce has brought them two children—Martha J. and Mary E., twins. A Republican in his political views, Mr. Luce takes an active part in local politics and has held some of the township offices. He and his wife are members of the Baptist Church and have always been liberal supporters of the Gospel.



**S**IMEON T. MARTIN was born in Carroll County, N. H., in 1813, and died at his home on section 7, Palmyra Township, on the 11th of March, 1890, respected by all who knew him. His life was well and worthily spent and should be represented in this volume. In the county of his nativity, the days of his boyhood and youth were passed and in its public schools his education was acquired. He was a schoolmate of "Long John Wentworth." On leaving his home to start out in life for himself he first went to Boston, Mass., but after a short time came to Illinois. He had been reared to habits of industry and inured to hard labor from early boyhood and being of an industrious nature he worked untiringly until his health gave way under the strain. It was in 1836 that he arrived in Lee County and soon afterward he secured land from the Government, which he developed into a farm, although it was then entirely destitute of improvement. Plowing and planting the land, it was soon made to yield to him abundant harvests and the improvements he placed thereon made his farm one of the best in the county. He had good buildings erected, the fields were well tilled and the place was complete in all its appointments. Mr. Martin was soon recognized as one of the leading and successful farmers of Lee County and one of

the substantial citizens. Besides the home of four hundred and twenty acres he also owned forty-two acres of timber land in Palmyra Township.

Mr. Martin was twice married. In this county he wedded Miss Catherine Montgomery, of Whiteside County, who was born in the Empire State, and by her parents was brought to the West when a young maiden. Her father and mother are both now deceased and her death occurred at her home in Palmyra Township at the age of sixty years. Two children were born of their union, Eugene and May, but died in childhood. Mr. Martin was again married, the second union being with Mrs. Elizabeth Semlow, who born in Hamburg, Germany, November 23, 1854, and was a daughter of William and Mattie (Ritter) Seams, also natives of Hamburg. With their family they crossed the Atlantic in 1865 on a sailing vessel and after some years spent in New York came to Illinois. They now make their home in Sterling, at the ages of sixty-six and sixty-four years respectively. Both are members of the Lutheran Church and are highly respected people. During the late war Mr. Seams served as a member of the Forty-seventh New York Volunteer Infantry, which was assigned to the Army of the Potomac and wore the blue for three years, during which time he participated in many battles. He was once wounded but was never captured. A brave soldier, he was faithful to the cause of his adopted country and was ever found at his post of duty. He also served in the war in the Old Country two years.

The Seams family consisted of but two daughters. The sister of Mrs. Martin, Emma, is now the wife of Charles Wallace, of Chicago. Mrs. Martin was educated in New York City and was first married to Christian Semlow, a respected farmer, who for some years resided in the East but died in the West. They became parents of one child, Christian Laura, now deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Martin was born a daughter, Nina May, who is still living with her mother.

Mr. Martin possessed a high moral character. He was reared under the auspices of the Congregational Church and lived an upright, honorable life, worthy the esteem and confidence of all. Public spirited and progressive he was a valued

citizen of the community and took a commendable interest in all that pertained to its welfare. In politics, he was a Republican and previous to the organization of that party was a Whig.

Mrs. Martin still carries on the home farm, assisted by W. W. Tilton, Jr., who gives his best efforts to making it successful. She is well-known throughout this community and is held in high esteem for her social qualities.



**D**AVID PETTICREW, a prominent farmer of Amboy Township residing on section 26, was born in Clarke County, Ohio, near where Dayton now stands, February 22, 1820. His father, James, was a native of Rockbridge County, Va., and his mother, who was known in maidenhood as Elizabeth Haines, was born in Pennsylvania. The parents moved at a very early day from Ohio to Cass County, Mich., and thence in 1837 proceeded to Missouri, where they became well known as worthy pioneers. They reared a family of nine children, who married and had families of their own; and at a good old age they passed quietly to their final rest, he dying near Ft. Scott, Kansas, and she in Amboy Township.

The second child in the family is the subject of this biographical notice, who was only six years old when he accompanied his parents to Cass County, Mich. There the early years of his life were passed until he was seventeen years old when he removed with the other members of the parental family, to Missouri, where the ensuing ten years were spent in farming and stock-raising. In 1847 he returned to Cass County, Mich., and sojourned in that place until 1855, the year that marked his arrival in this county. Upon coming hither, he at once settled on section 26, Amboy Township, where he has since lived with the exception of five years spent in Dakota. When the tide of emigration was turning toward Dakota, he was induced to rent his farm and proceed to that State, but a sojourn of five years convinced him that Illinois is the garden spot of the United States for farmers,

and he came back to his place with the intention of here spending his remaining years.

On July 12, 1843 Mr. Pettierew was married in Livingston County, Mo., to Mrs. Margaret (Roof) Miller, who was born March 3, 1823. Of her first marriage, one child was born, a daughter, Matilda, who is the wife of Henry Somes. Mr. and Mrs. Pettierew are parents of eleven children, namely: Julia A., who died when about one year old; Jasper N., who married Miss Runnells; Philena, who died when about a year old; Andrew, whose death occurred when he was ten years of age; Sylvester, who married Miss Margaret Hetherington; Frank, was united in marriage with Miss Ida Clark; Mary F., who died in infancy; Olive, the wife of S. Barlow; Alice, who was married to James Pearsley; Emma J., now Mrs. Cornelius Maine; Ella E., who is the wife of Henry Walters.

The political belief of Mr. Pettierew brings him into hearty sympathy with the Republican party, to which he has always adhered. Mrs. Pettierew is a member of the Baptist Church and he is a believer in the doctrines of Christianity, contributing liberally to the support of the cause. It may be a matter of just pride to our subject and his excellent wife that they have reared a large family of children, giving them good educations and preparing them for responsible positions in the business and social world. Their place in the community is a most enviable one and they enjoy the confidence of their host of warm personal friends.



**T**HOMAS HOWARD QUICK. The village of Ashton is the home of a number of gentlemen who operate farms in the surrounding country, and among these may be mentioned the subject of this biographical notice. From early years interested in agricultural pursuits, it is not strange that he is a thorough-going, practical farmer, and supervises his estate with excellent judgment. He owns two hundred and ninety acres in Ashton Township, and since he purchased it, has placed it under good cultivation and erected

a substantial class of buildings for the prosecution of his work.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Thomas by name, emigrated from England to Canada at an early day, and from there removed in 1833 to Ogle County, Ill. Afterward he and his wife settled in Grant County, Wis., where both passed to their final rest at an advanced age. When they emigrated from England they were accompanied by their son, James, whose native home was in the Mother Country, and who spent his youth in Canada and Ogle County, this State. He married Miss Adelia McMaster, a native of Ohio, who came to Ogle County with her parents, Alvah and Sarah (Reasoner) McMaster, when she was quite young. She grew to womanhood in Ogle County, where her parents spent their last years.

After their marriage the parents of our subject settled in Ogle County, where James Quick engaged at his trade of a mason, and also operated as a farmer. In 1855 he removed from Ogle County to Ashton, and here he sojourned for almost twenty years. In 1874 he returned to Ogle County, where he made his home until his second removal hither in February, 1891. He has established a pleasant home here, and shares with his wife the esteem of the residents of Ashton. Their three children are: Thomas Howard, Helen (better known as Dollie) and Willie. The eldest of this family, our subject, was born in Ogle County, September 22, 1850, and spent his boyhood days in this county, assisting his father as soon as he was old enough to engage in manual labor.

Mr. Quick accompanied his parents when in 1874 they returned to Ogle County, but returned to Ashton in the spring of 1883, and has since here made his home. He has always been engaged in farming, and now owns two hundred and ninety acres in Ashton Township. He was married in Reynolds Township, this county, December 27, 1882, his bride being Miss Anna Shippee, daughter of Silas H. and Phian (Millard) Shippee, natives of Vermont. Mr. and Mrs. Shippee were married January 1, 1854, and during the following year came to Kane County, from which place they removed to this county, and settled in Reynolds Township, where they still reside. They had a



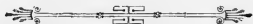
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*John P. Vosburgh*

family of eight children, two sons and six daughters, Mrs. Quick being the second. She was born in Reynolds Township, December 1, 1860, and was there reared to womanhood in her father's home. One child has blessed the union of our subject and his excellent wife, a son, Harry L.

A prominent place in the ranks of the Republican party at Ashton is held by Mr. Quick, who has served his fellow-citizens in various official capacities. For some time he served with efficiency as Highway Commissioner, and has also been Trustee of the village, doing all in his power while thus occupied, to advance the interests of his fellow-townsmen. He possesses in a marked degree the characteristics of enterprise and industry, which traits together with the use of sound judgment in his business affairs, have brought him success.



**J**OHAN P. VOSBURGH has a home very pleasantly situated on section 23, Ashton Township, and here he and his wife are serenely passing the declining years of lives spent in usefulness and well-doing, enjoying the fruits of their united labors in former days, and meriting and receiving honor and esteem from the entire community.

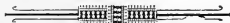
May 24, 1820, is the date of the birth of our subject at Johnstown, Fulton County, N. Y. His father, John Vosburgh, and his mother, Elizabeth Putman in her maiden days, were natives of that State, the former born in Columbia County, and the latter in Montgomery County. They both died in the town of Mohawk, Montgomery County. They reared ten children, of whom our subject was the seventh.

Mr. Vosburgh grew to a vigorous manhood on his father's farm, and gained a thorough knowledge of farming in all its branches. In 1865 he came to Illinois with his family to build up a new home, and for nineteen years was a resident of Lafayette Township, Ogle County. He has followed farming all his life, and has a thorough practical knowledge of the best methods to be used in every department of agriculture. In 1884 he moved across the bor-

der line between Ogle and Lee Counties, and settled in the Township of Ashton, of which he has ever since been a resident.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Anna Putman took place in his native county October 26, 1844, and to her cheerful co-operation he is indebted for his prosperity, and for the comfort and happiness of a wedded life of forty-seven years. Mrs. Vosburgh was born in Fulton County, N. Y., February 2, 1810, the fourth in the family of six children of John V. and Catherine Harrison Putman. Her parents were also natives of the Empire State, born in Montgomery County, and spent their last years in Fulton County.

Mr. Vosburgh is a strong Republican in his political sentiments. His portrait appears on an accompanying page. He is a man of unswerving integrity, and both he and his wife are firm believers in the doctrines of Christianity, although they are not identified with any church organization. They are true-hearted, charitably disposed towards all who are in need of help, always friendly and they hold a warm place in the regard of their neighbors and all who know them well.



**E**DWARD CHANCEY LAMB is one of the leading citizens of Viola Township, where he is engaged in the business of farming and stock-raising, and he has been prominent in public life in various high official capacities. Watertown, Delaware County, N. Y., is the place of his birth, and July 15, 1844, the date thereof. He is a son of Smith Lamb, who was at one time a resident of this county.

The father of our subject was born in Jefferson County, N. Y., and was a son of David Lamb, who was a farmer of that State, of which it is thought that he was a native. He came from there to Illinois in 1860, and spent the last part of his life in Bureau County, as did also his wife, whose maiden name was Matilda Smith. Smith Lamb lived in the Empire State until 1849, settling in Delaware County after his marriage with Eliza Dayton, who was likewise a native of New York. In that year

he became a pioneer of Wisconsin, whither he went by canal and lakes to Milwaukee. He settled near Neosho, lived there two years, and at the end of that time came to this State. He bought a farm near Lamoille, in Bureau County, where he resided until after the death of his wife, in 1854. His next move was to Victoria, Knox County, and on the farm that he purchased at that point he dwelt the ensuing five years. He then sold that place, and going back to Bureau County, farmed on rented land a few years. In 1860 he came to Lee County, and resided in Brooklyn Township until 1870, when he went to Minnesota, and buying a farm on Parker Prairie, Otter County, lived there some twenty-one years. In 1891 he went to Marble Rock, Floyd County, and is making his home there with his son Charles E.

Our subject, who is one of a family of twelve children, was very young when his parents brought him to Illinois. At that time much of the prairie land in this vicinity was owned by the Government, and was still in a wild condition, except where the pioneers had reclaimed some of the country from a state of nature, and deer and other kinds of game, not now found here, were plentiful. Mr. Lamb remained with his parents until 1864, and then at the age of twenty years, married and settled on the farm where he now resides, which is pleasantly located in a fertile and fruitful farming region in Viola Township, and under his able management yields abundant harvests, while everything about the place is orderly, and gives evidence that our subject is a good type of the intelligent modern farmer, who uses brain as well as muscle in carrying on agriculture.

Mr. Lamb and Miss Mary Little were united in marriage June 12, 1864. They have two children living: William J., and George Walter. William married Eliza Kelley, and they have two children, Wilber and Grace. The wife of our subject is a daughter of Andrew and Charity (Ross) Little, and the farm on which she lives with her husband was her birthplace and has always been her home. Her parents were pioneers of the county, and an account of them is given in the biography of Walter Little on another page of this work.

The principles of the Republican party have al-

ways had the hearty approval and support of our subject. Since becoming a resident of this county he has mingled in its public life as an incumbent of important offices, in which he showed himself alive to the interests of the community. He was at one time Deputy Sheriff, and he has represented Viola Township as a member of the County Board of Supervisors.



**J**ACOB KLEIN. Among the former prominent business men of Amboy, who now in his declining years is living retired from active labor and in the enjoyment of a competency, is the gentleman whose name introduces these paragraphs. Possessing the thrift and perseverance which characterize the German nationality, he brought these qualities to bear upon his work and success crowned his painstaking efforts. Having been a resident of Amboy since 1855, he is thoroughly identified with its progress and a man of influence throughout this section of country. Not only has he been an interested witness of the growth of the thriving village where he makes his home, but he has contributed his quota to aid in the attainment of its present prosperity.

Mr. Klein was born in the city of Sindelfingen, Wurtemberg, Germany, May 7, 1833, and is the son of John Henry and Christiana (Leibfried) Klein, the former being a baker by trade. There was another son in the family, John Gottlieb, who came to Amboy many years ago and was engaged in the restaurant business until his death about ten years ago. In his youth our subject received a good common school education and learned the baker's trade of his father. In 1851 he came to the United States and first stopped in Luzerne County, Pa., where he worked in a mine. But feeling dissatisfied with that kind of a life he sought the West in the fall of 1854 and settling in Lee County, this State, worked as a farm hand for one year.

Upon locating in Amboy in the year 1855 Mr. Klein embarked in the bakery and restaurant busi-

ness, and after serving as a clerk for two months, engaged in business for himself and continued steadily and uninterruptedly in business for thirty years, meeting with a fair degree of success and becoming known as a reliable dealer and public-spirited citizen. He was married in 1858 to Miss Caroline, the daughter of Jacob and Mary (Sthare) Bacher, and a native of Pennsylvania. Six children have blessed this union, viz.: Henry, Mary L., wife of John Engel, of Franklin Grove; Amelia C., who married J. W. Gaver, of Chicago; Ida, who became the wife of J. D. Derr, of West Brooklyn, Ill.; Clara H., who is at home and a music teacher; and Rena F. at home.

The business which Mr. Klein carried on successfully for thirty years is now managed by his son Henry, who has a fine establishment in the business block erected by his father. Mr. Klein is a large property owner as besides the house and lot which he owns in Amboy and his business block, he also owns four hundred and eighty acres of land in Cherokee County, Iowa. His religious sentiments have brought him into affiliation with the Lutheran Church, of which he and his family are consistent members and he is an active worker in all benevolent undertakings. In his political views he is a staunch Democrat, but has never been an office seeker, preferring to devote himself entirely to his business.



**G**EORGE STEELE, Mayor of Dixon, is not only the chief magistrate of this city, but he is one of its leading citizens, and his name is associated with some of its most important enterprises. He is a native of this State, born in the city of Lockport, Will County, May 10, 1842. He is a son of George Steele, who was one of the early settlers of Chicago, locating there early in the '30s, and may well be considered one of the founders of that city, and he was also for many years one of its most stirring and successful business men, and was the originator of some of the enterprises that have contributed most largely to its growth and wealth and have given it

world-wide fame. He was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and came to this country when a young man. His brother Alexander Steele also came to America, but he located in Montreal, Canada, the father of our subject being the only member of the family to settle in the United States.

Going to Chicago when it was scarcely a frontier village, he became the prime mover in the establishment of important industries that not only encouraged the more rapid upbuilding of the city, but greatly aided in developing the natural resources of the country tributary to it. He it was who built one of the first elevators ever erected in the city, and he was one of the first to engage in the pork-packing business, which has since assumed such enormous proportions. His energies were by no means confined to these two enterprises, but extended in other directions, and he did important work as one of the contractors of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. It was during his connection with that, that he was for a period a resident of Lockport. His name will always be indissolubly linked with the history of the rise and progress of Chicago as one of the great commercial centres of the world, as it was largely due to his influence that the Board of Trade was founded, which is to-day one of the foremost institutions of that great metropolis from a financial point of view. It was in his building that it was organized, he being one of its founders, one of its first presidents, and for many years one of its most active and efficient members. In 1866 Mr. Steele's long and honorable career was brought to a close by his death in the city for which he had done so much, and where so many busy years of his life were passed. He was widely known and honored as a business man of the strictest integrity, as a citizen of noble public spirit, and as a man whose character was above reproach. His good wife, in whom he had found much happiness, died before he did, her death occurring in Chicago in 1854. She was also a native of Scotland, and her maiden name was Anna Stein Morrison. She was the mother of nine children, eight of whom grew to maturity.

The subject of this biographical sketch was but two years old when his parents returned to Chi-

ago after a brief residence of a few years in Lockport. He received his early education in the public schools of the former city, subsequently entered Racine Academy, and after pursuing a course of instruction there, was sent to Mt. Pleasant Academy, New York, and finally returning to Illinois, became a student in Lake Forest University, where he completed his literary studies. After leaving the university, he assisted his father for a time in the office, and when twenty-one years of age formed a partnership with his brother James to do business as contractors for street building, paving, etc. They built the first crib for the water works and the second lake tunnel, and had control of an extensive business during the five years they were together. In 1873 Mr. Steele came to Dixon, and has been a resident here continuously since. He has proved from the very first a valuable acquisition to the citizenship of the city, for, as a clear-sighted, far-seeing citizen, he has invested his money judiciously in various enterprises of import that have greatly benefited the place; his open-handed liberality and the weight of his influence have given an impetus to schemes devised for public good; and in all the civic offices that he has held he has shown himself entirely worthy of the confidence of his fellow-men.

Mr. Steele is a member of the Building and Loan Association, and is Secretary and Treasurer of the Dixon Gas & Electric Light Company. In his politics, he is a Democrat, and is well known for his devotion to his party. He has been an incumbent of several offices of trust. He has been a member of the City Council, and has been influential in the cause of local education as a member of the School Board. In 1891 he was elected Mayor of the City, and re-elected in 1892. Dixon is fortunate in having at the head of its municipal government a man of such high standing in the business world, whose sound sense, broad and practical views of civic polity, and enlightened public spirit can but add a new impulse to the progress of the city, and it is the united testimony of all, irrespective of party, that his administration is all that can be desired.

In 1871 Mr. Steele was united in marriage with Miss Louise Peck Van Epps, a native of East Beth-

any, Genesee County, N. Y., and a daughter of Hon. William and Mary (Beck) Van Epps, of whom an account is given in the sketch of William H. Van Epps. Our subject and his wife occupy a commodious, home-like residence in a pleasant quarter of the city, and its hospitalities are marked by tact and true courtesy in the entertainment of friend or stranger who may enter its doors. They had four children,—William Van Epps, Bella Georgiana and Gladys Catherine. The second child, Anna L., died in her twelfth year.



WILLIAM B. TALCOTT, who is now practically living a retired life in Dixon, although he still owns considerable real-estate, has been numbered among the leading business men of this city. A man of prominence and influence he well deserves representation in this volume and it is with pleasure that we present his sketch to our readers. Mr. Talcott was born in Hartford County, Conn., May 16, 1831, and is descended from the old Talcott family which was established in New England at an early day and has figured prominently in many of the States of the Union.

The father of our subject, Asa Talcott, was born in Vernon, Tolland County, Conn., and was in early life connected with the United States Arsenal at Springfield, Mass., where he made his home for seventeen years. At one time he owned sixteen acres of land on the hill, which is now in the heart of the city. He spent his last days in Hartford, Conn., and was called home when well advanced in life. He was quite prominent in public affairs, was a Democrat in politics and served as a member of the home militia. His wife, whose maiden name was Delana Russell, was a native of Springfield, Mass., and came of a family of English origin, which at an early day had been founded in the Bay State. Her father once owned all of the boats that plied the Connecticut River and two of his brothers were drowned in that stream. Mrs. Talcott, the mother of our subject, died in Broadbrook, Conn., twelve miles northeast of Hartford. She

was a noble lady, a consistent member and active worker in the Methodist Church, and her home was hospitably thrown open to its ministers. Her death was deeply mourned by many friends as well as her immediate family, for her many excellencies of character had won her the esteem of all.

The first twenty-four years of his life William Taleott spent in Hartford County, Conn. He then determined to try his fortune in the West and in Chicago first located, making his home in that city for three years. Changing his place of residence he then came to Dixon, and during the greater part of the time which has since passed, or for thirty-four years, was associated with the United States Wind Pump Company. In his business affairs he prospered and by industry, good management and enterprise won a handsome competence which now enables him to live a retired life. Although he has practically laid aside all business cares he yet owns a portion of the Taleott Addition to West Dixon, which comprises blocks 37, 38, 39 and 40. This is now a valuable property.

A marriage service performed in Dixon united the destinies of William Taleott and Miss Ellen V. Barnes, a native of the Keystone State. In 1845, she came with her father, U. O. Barnes, to Lee County, Ill., the family settling on a farm not far from Dixon, where the death of Mr. Barnes occurred when well advanced in years. He was a prominent citizen of the community, a successful business man and a leading member of the Methodist Church of Dixon, to the construction of which he gave liberally. Mrs. Taleott was a maiden of twelve summers when brought to Illinois, and under the parental roof she remained until her marriage. She is a lady of culture, possessed of a high order of intelligence and in social circles is a leader. She too, holds membership with the Methodist Church and has a host of warm friends. In his political affiliations Mr. Taleott is a Republican and keeps himself well informed on the issues of the day.

Unto this worthy couple have been born the following children—Arthur, who died at the age of sixteen years; George E., who is one of the managers of the Electric Transit Road of Newark, N. J., wedded Miss Mary Olvaney, of that place;

E. Z. is now an electrical engineer of Chicago; W. Day left Dixon March 14, for Ft. Collins, Col., accompanied by Jacob Armstrong, a native of this county, who was born in 1851, on the old Woodford farm, but is now a resident of Ft. Collins. Blanche, a young lady of much promise, died at the age of twenty-three years, and Star died when two years old.



STEPHEN H. ULINE is one of the leading farmers and stock-raisers of Wyoming Township, who has done valuable work in helping to redeem Lee County from its original wildness. He was born at Sand Lake, Rensselaer County, N. Y., December 15, 1829. His father, Bernhard Uline, was a native of that same town, while his grandfather was of German birth. He came to America before the Revolution, and leasing land from the Van Rensselaer estate, built a grist-mill, which he operated many years, residing there until death terminated his useful career. He reared four sons: Adam, who settled in Canada; and Andrew, Bernhard and John, who remained life-long residents of Sand Lake.

The father of our subject assisted his father in the mill, and also worked on the farm during his youth. After marriage he opened a hotel at Ulinesville, now West Sand Lake, and managed it in connection with farming several years. His whole life was passed on the farm that was his birthplace, his death occurring at the venerable age of eighty years. The maiden name of his second wife, the mother of our subject, was Lucy Holmes Doty. It is thought that she was born in Stephentown, Rensselaer County, of which her father was a pioneer farmer, clearing a good farm from the forest wilds, whereon he dwelt until his demise. She died on the home farm at Sand Lake at a ripe age.

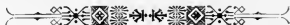
Stephen Uline, the subject of this life-record, passed his boyhood on the old homestead where he was born, and obtained his education in the local schools. A capable, sturdy, self-reliant lad,

at the age of fourteen he commenced to earn his own living by working in the mill owned by his uncle, and he was engaged in milling until 1856, when he came to Illinois to enter upon his successful career as a farmer. He selected a suitable location in what is now Wyoming Township, buying forty acres of wild prairie land on section 29, and became actively identified with the intelligent, hard-working, energetic pioneers who had preceded him to this region and were laboring to reclaim the rich prairies and timber lands around them from a state of nature. His first work was to erect a small frame house for the shelter of his family, and he then devoted his energies to developing his land into a farm. He has made it his home ever since, for a period of thirty-five years, and has prospered exceedingly in his undertakings. He has bought other land, has erected a neat and commodious set of frame buildings, and has greatly increased the attractiveness of his place by planting with his own hand beautiful shade and fruit trees.

Mr. Uline was married in 1854 to Miss Gertrude Sharp, a native of Greenbush, N. Y., and a daughter of Nicholas and Mary (Craver) Sharp. Our subject has found in her a true wife, whose encouragement and constant help have been important factors in the making of their home, where comfort abides and a generous hospitality awaits the coming and speeds the parting guest. They have five children all living: Frank N., Elva, Mattie, Sadie and Eva. Elva married Philip Niebergall, of Wyoming Township, and they have two children, Glenn and Baby Wayne. Mattie married B. P. Edwards, of Earlville, and they have one child, Orin. Frank, who lives in Polk County, Neb., married Miss Emma Kirby, and they have two children, Gertie and Sadie.

Stability of character, honesty of purpose and good business habits have had much to do with Mr. Uline's success in life, and have placed him among our best citizens. He is public-spirited, and has always given generous support to all schemes devised for the good of the community. As a stock-raiser, he was, of course, very much interested in the formation of a society to put an end to the depredations of the horse thieves in this

part of the country, and he was active in the organization of the Wyoming Protective Anti Horse-Thief Association, being one of the original members. This society was thoroughly organized and did effective service during its existence of upwards of twenty-five years, as in that time not a horse was stolen from its members that was not recovered. In politics, Mr. Uline is a true Democrat. Religiously, he and his estimable wife are members in high standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



**B**URGHART ALBRECHT. This steady-going and reliable citizen is one of those forming the bone and sinew of the community, and who has assisted in establishing its financial prosperity and upholding the standard of morality. His life occupation has been that of a farmer, in which he has been very successful, accumulating a good property and fortifying himself against the days when by reason of advancing years he may be unfitted for active labor. His farm is one of the best in Bradford Township and is pleasantly located on section 20. With its well-tilled fields, substantial buildings and general air of plenty, the place is one of the most attractive in the locality.

A native of Hesse, Germany, Mr. Albrecht was born February 10, 1839. His childhood days were passed in his native land, where he gained a good common-school education. When he was fifteen years old he left Germany and came to America alone, his parents having previously died in the Fatherland. After landing in New York, he remained there for three months, and then came West to this county, where for nine years he was in the employment of Adam Schuchart. Upon commencing as a farmer for himself he rented a place for nine years, and then careful economy enabled him to purchase a place in Reynolds Township. After living there for six years he sold out and purchased the farm where he now lives. He is the owner of four hundred and sixty acres and has erected a good class of buildings on



his estate, including all the necessary structures for the storage of grain and shelter of stock and farm machinery.

The marriage of Mr. Albrecht, in July, 1861, to Miss Anna M. Karsten, a native of Germany, was solemnized in Dixon, this State, and has brought them eleven children, nine of whom still survive, namely: Anton, Martha, Kate, Marcus, Charles, Mary, Emma, Clara and George. Two sons died in childhood. The political sympathies of Mr. Albrecht have brought him into line with those whose views are expressed in the platform of the Democratic party, and while he is earnestly devoted to the success of that party, he is not in any sense of the word a politician, as he prefers the quiet of home life and the vocation of a farmer to the excitement of the political field. However, he has served in a few local offices with great ability, having been Highway Commissioner for four terms and also School Director. In his religious convictions he is a member of the Lutheran Church and a man whose reputation for integrity and probity is as well known as his name.



**C**ALDWELL BISHOP. One by one the pioneers of Lee County are passing away. After the struggles of pioneer existence, the hardships of frontier life, they have passed to their reward, leaving their descendants to enjoy the fruits of their lives of toil; "after life's fitful fever, they sleep well." They have left to their children no memorial but a world made better by their lives, and the heritage of their spotless names is a priceless legacy in the possession of their posterity. It may safely be said of Mr. Bishop that the world was made better by his simple, unpretentious and honorable life, and the influence of his upright life has not ceased, although death has removed him from the place where he was formerly a familiar figure. "Though he rests from his labors, his works do follow him."

In Dixon, where he was a leading stone and brick mason as well as a property holder and money loaner, Mr. Bishop resided continuously

from his first removal hither in 1842, until his death January 6, 1891. A native of Tioga County, N. Y., he was born in 1819, and grew to manhood in his native place, learning the trade which he followed more or less during his entire life, and acquiring habits of industry which stood him in good stead throughout his career. In his early manhood he was united in marriage with Miss Esther Huff, a native of New York, who died one year after her marriage, leaving a child, now also deceased.

After coming to this State, Mr. Bishop worked as a brick mason as well as a contractor, and invested his earnings in land near Dixon. In 1850 he was married in Elgin, Ill., to Mrs. Margaret DeGray, who was a native of the Empire State. Her first marriage took place in Illinois, and a few years after that event Mr. DeGray was called away from home and never afterward heard of, so that it is not known in what way he met his death. The widow of Mr. Bishop, who now survives him, was known in maidenhood as Miss Hannah M. Spencer, and was born in Center County, Pa., where she grew to womanhood. She accompanied her parents, David and Rachel (Shivly) Spencer, natives of Pennsylvania, to Illinois, where they established a home at Dixon, Ill., in 1855. The ancestors of Mrs. Bishop originally came from Germany, and upon emigrating to America, resided in Virginia.

The paternal grandparents of Mrs. Bishop were John and Susanna (Lightfoot) Spencer, natives of Virginia, who at an early day removed to Center County, Pa.; and there passed the remaining years of their lives. They were the first white people who settled in that county and consequently much pioneer work had to be accomplished by them before the land was subdued and ready for cultivation. David Spencer and his wife remained in Center County until all their children, of whom there were seven, were born and then came to Illinois, and purchasing land near Dixon, devoted their lives to its improvement. In 1864, feeling that he was too old to continue in active farming pursuits, he sold his estate, and coming to Dixon, here passed from earth in 1870 at the age of sixty-nine years. His wife survived until the spring of 1886, her death occurring at the age of eighty-five

years. Mr. Spencer was a Republican in politics, and actively interested in the progress of this county. He and his wife came of good old Quaker stock, and adhered to that faith. Four of their children are yet living.

At the time Mrs. Bishop accompanied her parents to Illinois, she had reached the age of seventeen years, and her home was with her parents until she left them to enter a home prepared for her by her husband, which occurred October 27, 1886. She shows splendid judgment in the control and management of the large property left by her husband, and while possessing rare executive ability and sound common sense she also has those pleasant social qualities which make her place in society one of the highest. She remained a devoted companion to her husband until he died, after an illness of two years. In his religious sentiments he was a Universalist, while his political affiliations brought him into the Republican party.



**J**OHAN STITZEL, an extensive farmer of Nelson Township, has one of the most desirable and attractive locations in the county, his large farm on sections 19 and 20, lying along the east bank of the Rock River, one of the most beautiful streams in the Northwest. Our subject was born in Franklin County, Pa., July 20, 1828, his parents and grandparents being also natives of the Keystone State, and of German blood. His grandfather, George Stitzel, was born in Berks County, and was a thriving farmer in his day, his life being prolonged to the age of ninety years. His wife was also a Pennsylvania, and she too lived to be over ninety years old. They were members of the German Reformed Church.

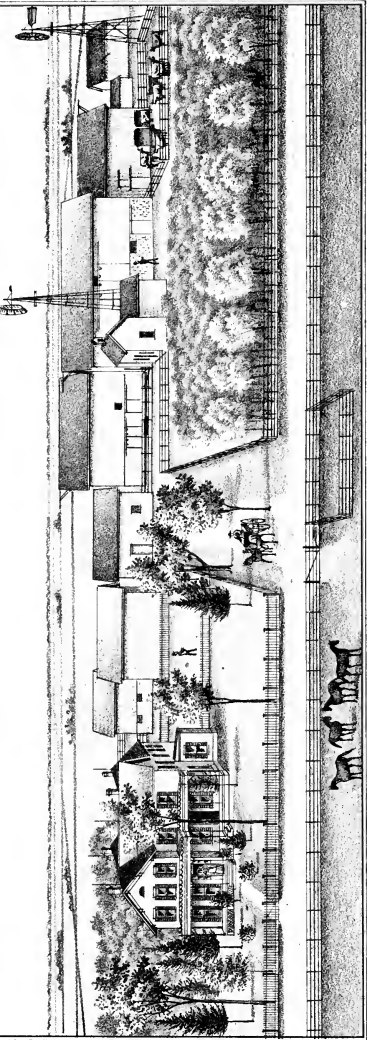
They had three children, two sons and one daughter, George Stitzel, Jr., father of our subject, being their second son and second child. He was born in January, 1800, in Berks County, where his parents always lived, and grew to man's estate on his father's farm. He was wedded to Miss Catherine Wagoner, who was born in that county in

1790, and was also of German antecedents. Soon after marriage Mr. and Mrs. Stitzel removed to Franklin County, and lived and labored on a farm in the township of Peter until his death in 1876. He was very successful in his farming operations, and was a man of prominence in his community. He served through the semi-annual muster of the State militia, was always prompt in discharging his obligations as a citizen, and the Democratic party found in him an earnest supporter. Religiously, he was a member of the German Reformed Church, as was his wife also. She survived him, removing to Michigan after his death, and making her home in Ypsilanti until her demise, at the age of ninety-four, in 1884.

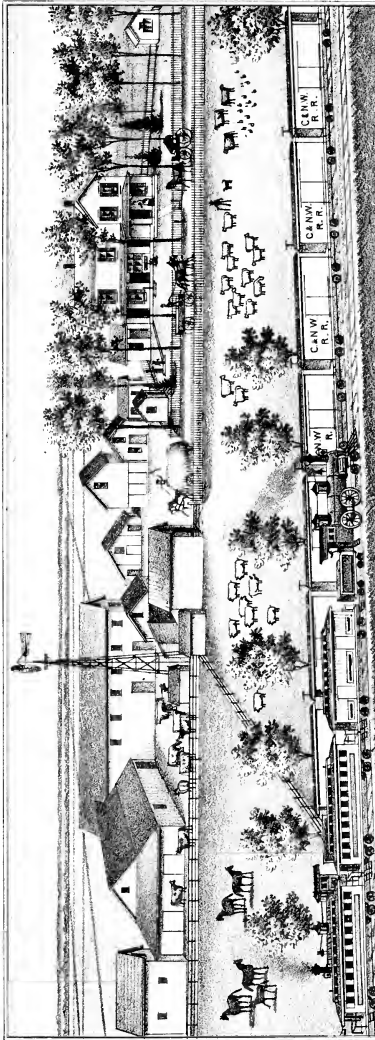
Our subject is the third of the five children born to his parents, four sons and one daughter, all of whom are living. His brother, George, is a doctor in Nevada, Iowa. John Stitzel early became acquainted with all kinds of farm work on the old Pennsylvania homestead, where he spent the first years of his life, and he began his independent career as a farmer in the State of his nativity. In 1865, he settled up his affairs there in order to take up his residence in Illinois. After his arrival, he pitched his tents in Nachusa Township, but in 1867 he came to Nelson Township, where he has since lived. He has made his home on his farm for fourteen years, and has everything about the place in a fine condition. He has a good sized farm of three hundred and twenty acres, which is well supplied with all the modern improvements, its fields are well-tilled and it is stocked to its full capacity with cattle, horses and swine.

During his many years' residence here, Mr. Stitzel has not only displayed large ability as a farmer, but he has made himself very useful as a civic officer, who, as an incumbent of various local offices, has been zealous in promoting internal improvements, his whole course in such cases marking him as a man of genuine public spirit, who served his community with an eye single to its highest welfare. In politics, he is a thorough-paced Democrat. Religiously, he is a member of the German Reformed Church, while Mrs. Stitzel belongs to the Lutheran Church.

Mr. Stitzel was married in Cumberland County,



"SUNNY LAWN" RESIDENCE OF L. G. DURIN, SEC. 8, WILLOW CREEK TP., LEE CO., ILL.



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Pa., to Miss Agnes F. Rhoades, a native of that county, born at Newville, December 3, 1833. Her parents, Hezekiah and Sarah A. (Miller) Rhoades, natives respectively of Berks and Cumberland Counties, were married in Dauphin County, in their native Pennsylvania. They settled in Cumberland County, and there Mr. Rhoades carried on carpentering for many years, and he and his wife died near where they began their wedded life, Mr. Rhoades being seventy-two years old when he died. He was a son of George Rhoades, who lived and died in the Keystone State. He was a gallant officer in the War of 1812, with the rank of major. He was married in Pennsylvania to Hannah Anden, an English lady, who had come to the United States when young, and passed the remainder of her life in Pennsylvania, dying some years before her husband. They were Lutherans in religion, and in that faith reared their son, Hezekiah, and their other children. Mrs. Stitzel's mother survived her husband some years, and died at the age of seventy-five. She too was a member of the Lutheran Church. Mrs. Rhoades' father, Henry Miller, was a German by birth, and was a young man when he came to the United States and settled in Pennsylvania, where he met and married Agnes Ferguson, a life-long resident of that State, dying when full of years. Both were members of the Presbyterian Church, and were very strict in their belief.

Mrs. Stitzel is the eldest of a family of three daughters and one son, all of whom are married and well settled in life. She received a good education in her native town, where she grew to maturity. She is a sensible, well-informed woman, and is the best of wives and mothers. Nine children have been born to her and our subject, of whom two died young, George H. and Malinda. James B., a merchant at Nelson, has been twice married, Ella Ewell, his first wife dying and leaving him and a child. He was subsequently married to Hattie Beggs, *nee* Stillman; Emma L., is the wife of Thomas R. Callan, a dealer in hardware and farming implements at Odell, Neb.; Sarah C., married Chris C. King, a dealer in stock, residing at Clarks-ville, Iowa; Alice is the wife of John Conard, a railway conductor, residing at Clinton, Iowa; Eva

B. married Bert Hostrawse, a telegraph operator at Stanwood, Iowa; Charles M., a brakeman on the Northwestern Railway, makes his home with his parents and Graec C. also lives at home. One grandchild, Harry R. Pearson, is being reared by his grandparents.

Elsewhere in this volume may be noticed a view of Mr. Stitzel's beautiful home.



LEWIS G. DURIN is one of the wealthiest and most successful farmers and stock-raisers of Lee County, and is a fine representative of its pioneers who not only helped to lay firmly the foundation of its enduring prosperity, but are still potent in promoting its material welfare, as well as in advancing its higher interests. He has one of the largest and best equipped farms in this part of Illinois, finely located on sections 5, 6, 7 and 8, Willow Creek Township, where he is conducting an extensive business in raising stock and carrying on general farming. His birthplace is among the hills of Newfane, Windham County, Vt., where he was born March 8, 1820. His father, Ethan Durin, was a native of the same town, while his father, whose name was the same as his own, was born in Massachusetts. The latter was one of the first settlers of Newfane, where he bought a tract of forest-covered land, erected a dwelling and other necessary buildings, and in the course of time cleared a farm, upon which he lived until death terminated his career in 1823. The maiden name of his wife was Millicent Parmenter. She was likewise a native of Massachusetts, and spent her last years on the farm in Newfane.

The father of our subject was reared to the life of a farmer on the Vermont farm that was his birthplace. After marriage he settled on the old homestead and gave his attention to its management. In 1835 he removed to Franklin, in the same State, and bought a farm in the town of Highgate, where he resided until 1853. Then, selling that place, he came to Illinois to spend his last years with his son, our subject, in whose home he died in April, 1865. His wife had preceded him in death only a short

time before, dying at the home of our subject in February of the same year. Her maiden name was Mary Gates, a daughter of Silas Gates, and she was born in the same county as her husband. She was the mother of these seven children—Hepsabeth, Ada, Ira, William, Lewis G., Wilson and Gilbert E.

He of whom this biography is written was fifteen years old when the family removed from the place of his birth to Franklin County, Vt., and he there grew to a strong, self-reliant manhood on his father's farm. He lived with his parents until he was twenty-one, and then began life on his own account as a farm laborer, at \$8 a month. He continued his residence in his native State until 1849, and then he took an important step in life by which he secured fortune's favors, that being the year of his removal to Illinois. The journey hither was made by team to St. John's, from there by rail to Montreal, thence by canal to Ogdensburg, by lake from that city to Detroit, where he took the cars to New Buffalo, embarking there on a steamer and crossing the lake to Waukegan, Ill., then by stage to Rockton, Winnebago County, and from there to St. Charles, where he spent the summer, and in the fall came to Lee County. At that time the prairies here were sparsely settled, and a great deal of the land was still owned by the Government, and was for sale at \$1.25 an acre. There were no railways in the State, and the people hereabouts used to market at Peru, and later at Aurora.

Mr. Durin entered a large tract of land on sections 5, 6, 7, and 8, of what is now Willow Creek Township, and the following year made the first improvements on his land, whereupon he has dwelt ever since. His farm is just one mile square; is under the best of tillage, its broad fields yielding abundant harvests, and its rich pastures supporting many cattle and horses of the most desirable breeds; ample buildings of a good style of architecture adorn the place; evidences of the employment of the best methods of husbandry, of systematic work, and of a thorough and economical administration of affairs are seen on every hand. A view of this homestead is presented on another page.

A cool, clear-headed calculator, firm of purpose, and carrying out his well-laid plans with promptness and dispatch, showing himself to be a man of

exceptional activity and resource, our subject has by these traits made himself a leading place among the men of substance to whom township and county are indebted for their progress during the last forty years, as will be seen by a perusal of this brief record of his life. He has sound and sensible views on all subjects in which he is interested, and his political opinions are in accordance with the principles promulgated by the Republican party.

Mr. Durin was married in 1854 to Miss Margaret Rees, a native of Virginia, and in her companionship, excellent counsel and capable aid he has found much of the comfort of his life and needed help in acquiring his fortune. They have been blessed in their marriage by the birth of four children, whose names are Martha, Ida M., Ada, and Willie G.



JAMES H. JOHNSON, a representative of one of the pioneer families of Northern Illinois, has passed the greater part of his life in this section of the State, and has for many years been connected with the farming interests of Reynolds Township, of which he is a highly respected resident. May 13, 1832, is the date of his birth in the town of Centreville, Allegany County, N. Y. Caleb Johnson, his father, was born in Vermont, and was a son of Hezekiah Johnson, who is supposed to have been a native of the same State, and was of English descent. He removed to New York and settled among the pioneers of Centreville Township, buying a tract of timber from the Holland Purchase Company, which he developed into a farm in the course of his many years' residence at that point. In 1856 he sold his property in that township, and coming to Illinois, the remainder of his life was spent at Knox Grove, in this county. The maiden name of his wife was Hannah Emerson. Her last years were passed on the old farm in Centreville, N. Y.

Caleb Johnson was but a boy when his parents left the place of his birth among the hills of Vermont, and founded a new home in New York. He grew to maturity in Allegany County, and took

unto himself a wife in the person of Maria, daughter of James and Catherine Johnson, and a native of Dutchess County, N. Y. Her parents were likewise born in the Empire State, and were of German descent. They came from New York to Illinois and passed their old age in De Kalb County. Mr. Johnson was a natural mechanic, and could turn his hand to anything, but he never learned any trade. In 1836 he removed to Michigan with his family. An uncle of our subject lived at Coldwater, and there the family first halted after their weary journey through the intervening wilderness. Our subject relates that the first morning after their arrival his father went out before breakfast and shot a deer, thus furnishing venison for that meal. At that time Michigan was a territory, and was scarcely more than a howling wilderness in the interior, where deer, bears and many other kinds of wild animals made their home. Mr. Johnson settled in Kalamazoo, and lived there and in Berrien County six years. In 1842 he again took up the march and came to Illinois, coming to Chicago by Lake Michigan, from that city made his way to De Kalb County with a team. He located in the eastern part of that county, but two or three years later he removed to Knox Grove, and became a pioneer farmer of Lee County. He purchased a farm, which he operated until his untimely death in 1848 deprived his township of his helpful labor in its development. His wife, who survived him some years, died in Reynolds Township.

The subject of this biography was but four years old when his parents removed to the Territory of Michigan, and had attained the age of ten years when they came to Illinois to reside. He was a bright, intelligent boy, and was interested in the pioneer life around him, of which he retains vivid recollections. When the family settled in this part of the State it was still in its natural condition for the most part, with but few improvements in the scattered settlements, and deer and other kinds of game roamed over the country where are now thriving towns and smiling farms. There were no railways whatsoever, and Chicago was the nearest city to which the pioneers could carry their produce and obtain their supplies. When Mr. Johnson

was about twelve years old he began to assist in the operation of a threshing machine, and he was thus engaged for twenty-two seasons, each season then occupying the greater part of the year.

In 1864 our subject's health failed, and he was reduced in weight to one hundred and forty pounds. He wisely sought to recuperate by traveling, and started for California. He went by rail to Grinnell, Iowa, which was then the western terminus of the railway, and from there he crossed the plains and mountains with teams to Boise City, Idaho, where he sold his interest in the teams. He took a stage from there for Umatilla, Ore., where he embarked on a steamer for Portland, whence he went on another steamer to Vancouver's Island, thence to San Francisco. He made a stay of four days in the metropolis of California, and at the end of that time took passage on a steamer, and proceeded to New York by the way of the Isthmus of Panama, and from that city came home by rail after an absence of eight months. He had traveled many thousand miles, had visited many interesting places, seen much magnificent scenery, and besides gleaming much real enjoyment and a deal of useful information, as he had kept his eyes wide open when there was anything worth seeing, and was a sharp observer, he had regained his health and rejoiced in the weight of two hundred and four pounds.

After his return from his wanderings, Mr. Johnson settled quietly down to farming, buying a farm on section 35, Reynolds Township, which he occupied a few years, and then sold it and purchased the farm upon which he now lives, which consists of one hundred and sixty acres of land of exceedingly fertility, pleasantly located on section 34, of the same township.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Emily J. Taylor, was celebrated September 24, 1862, and to them have been born six children, whose names are Hattie, Martha, Edna, Etrulia, and George Wesley, deceased. Their oldest son died when he was fifteen years old.

Mrs. Johnson was born near Port Berwell, Province of Ontario, Canada. Her father, James Thomas Taylor, was a native of Northamptonshire, England, a son of James Taylor, who was also of

English birth. The latter came to America with his family, and settling in Canada, was one of the first to locate in the vicinity of Port Berwell. The maiden name of Mrs. Johnson's paternal grandmother was Betsy Hart, who was likewise a native of England, and spent her last days at Howton, Canada. Mrs. Johnson's father was but twelve years old when he crossed the water with his parents to their Canadian home. He had a natural talent for mechanics, and followed the carpenter's trade a portion of his time. He was very well educated had a good knowledge of medicine. In 1858 he came to Illinois, and settled at Mellugin's Grove, Viola Township, where he resided five years. At the end of that time he removed to Reynolds Township, and spent a like number of years there. He then went to Michigan, but subsequently returned to Illinois, and later went to Nebraska. He homesteaded a farm in Saunders County, that State, where he still resides. His wife bore the maiden name of Martha Hargraves.

Mr. Johnson cast his first vote for General Fremont, and the Republican party has had no stancher advocate from the day of its organization down to the present time than he. He keeps an intelligent run of the country, and is well posted in general matters.



**O**RVILLE B. BLACKMAN, M. D., a successful physician and surgeon of the Homeopathic school, has been engaged in the practice of the medical profession in Dixon since 1873. He was born in Hillsboro, Ill., August 30, 1852, and traces his ancestry back to England. His great-grandfather, a native of that country, was a seafaring man and lost his life at sea some years after James Blackman, his son, had come to the United States. The latter was the grandfather of our subject. He was born in England, and after crossing the Atlantic, located in Canton, Mass. Later he established in Boston one of the first shops for making the old time clocks, such as is spoken of in Longfellow's poem, "The Old Clock on the Stairs." He possessed

remarkable mechanical genius, and in his business dealings was quite successful. At the request of his son John he came to Illinois and opened a cabinet shop in Hillsboro, where he made his home until his death, at about the age of ninety years. His wife had passed away about three years previous. She was a lady of superior intelligence and could hold her own in a debate of argument concerning most any scriptural point, being well versed in theology. Both Mr. and Mrs. Blackman were members of the Church of England in early days but in after life united with the Unitarian Church.

The Doctor's father, George Blackman, was but a youth when he accompanied his parents to American, and while yet a young man he came to Illinois, locating in Hillsboro, where he married Hannah A. Paisley, who was born in Raleigh, N. C., and is of Scotch descent. She came to this State with her father, Joseph Paisley, who located in Hillsboro, there making his home until his death. Mr. Blackman was one of the early settlers of that locality and was one of three men who established the old stage line from Centralia to Peoria. When the stages were driven out by the introduction of railroads he opened a wagon and carriage manufactory in Hillsboro, which he carried on successfully for many years. He also made one of the first corn-planters of the time and the machine attracted no little attention. After a useful and well-spent life he was called to his final rest in 1856. His wife died in the home where her husband had taken her as a bride. She was then sixty years of age. With the Presbyterian Church she held membership, and Mr. Blackman belonged to the Unitarian Church. They were highly respected people and well known throughout the community where they made their home.

Dr. Blackman was reared to manhood under the parental roof. After attending the common schools he was a student in Hillsboro Academy, one of the oldest institutions of learning in the State, and when his literary education was completed he entered Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago, from which he was graduated in the Class of '73. Not long afterward he located in Dixon, where he has since successfully engaged in practice. His



office is now located in Van Epps Block. From the beginning his practice has constantly increased and the liberal custom now attests the skill and ability of our subject. He is still a student of his profession and keeps abreast with every new discovery or theory connected with his chosen life work.

In his native county the Doctor was united in marriage with Miss Lucretia S. Cress, who was born in Hillsboro, and was also educated in the academy of that city. She is a lady of intelligence whose friends are among the best citizens of Dixon, and with the Doctor she is a member of the Lutheran Church. He has held most of the church offices, was also Superintendent of the Sunday-school for several years and is chairman of the committee for the plans, grounds and buildings of the Rock River Lutheran Assembly, located at Dixon.

Socially, our subject is a member of the Odd Fellows fraternity, and since the organization of the Modern Woodmen has been examiner for that society. He is a member of the International Association of Homeopathy, the American Institute of Homeopathy, is Vice President of the Illinois Association of Homeopathy and has been Secretary of the Rock River Institute of Homeopathy. Dr. Blackman has a wide acquaintance among his professional brethren throughout the State and stands in the foremost rank.



**J**AMES QUICK, a mason and a farmer, now residing in the village of Ashton, has acquired a handsome property by the judicious management of his affairs, and is numbered among the moneyed men of Lee County. Mr. Quick was born in Devonshire, England, December 11, 1828. His father, whose name was the same as his own, was also a native of Devonshire. He was married there to Rebecca Hedges, who was likewise born in that English shire, and in 1830 they came to Canada with the children that had been born to them in the old country. In the spring of 1833 they again set forth on another important journey, which brought them to this State,

and on the 10th of May they arrived in Ogle County. They settled here in what is now Rockville Township, being among its first pioneers, and there they dwelt until about 1850, contributing their quota to the growth of the country. In the year last mentioned they removed to Hazel Green, Wis., and in that town their life was brought to a close at a venerable age.

Our subject was the third of nine children born to his worthy parents. He was but a small child when the family crossed the ocean to seek a new home on American soil, and he was scarcely five years old when they came to Illinois. He grew to a strong and active manhood under the pioneer influences that prevailed during his youth in Ogle County, and he continued to live there until November, 1855, when he settled in the village of Ashton, Lee County. During his nineteen years' residence there at that time, he was engaged as a mason, carrying on quite an extensive business in that line as he was very skillful and rapid in his work, and never failed to give full satisfaction on any kind of work that required durable masonry. Returning to Ogle County, he located in the township of Lafayette in the month of May, 1874, and was there profitably engaged in farming several years, having always given considerable attention to agriculture before that. In his younger days he began working out by the month and made quite a business of driving oxen to break prairie. His circumstances have greatly improved since then, and he is now wealthy, his career fully illustrating what a man may accomplish with plenty of push and determination in his composition, backed by industrious habits and an active mind. He has four hundred and twenty-seven acres of choice land, located in Ogle and Lee Counties, besides his fine village property, and an ample income. February 27, 1891, he again took up his residence in the village of Ashton, where he and his family are very pleasantly situated.

Mr. Quick was married in Rockville Township, Ogle County, to Miss Emily F. McMaster. Unto them have been born three children, Thomas Howard, Helen M. and Willie D.

Mrs. Quick is a native of Lockport, N. Y., her birth occurring there August 21, 1832. Her pa-

rents were Alva and Sally (Reasoner) McMaster. The father was probably born in Chemung County, N. Y., and the mother in Dutchess County, the same State. They were married in Lockport, and from there subsequently removed to Delaware County, Ohio, whence they came to Illinois in 1842. They were pioneers of Ogle County, settling first in what is now Rockville Township, and afterwards in Lafayette Township, where Mrs. McMaster died. The father spent his last days in Oregon, Ill. They had five children, of whom Mrs. Quick was the second in order of birth.

Mr. Quick possesses an active, intelligent mind, those traits of character that command genuine respect. He is regarded throughout his community as a thoroughly conscientious, upright man, who is helpful and generous in his relations with all about him. He is loyal in his citizenship, and as School Director and Highway Commissioner has always done good service for his township. His political opinions are in line with the principles of the Republican party. Both he and his wife are liberal in their religious views.



**J**EROME B. HUSSEY, of Franklin Grove, dealer in lumber, coal, lime, cement, paint, oil etc., is a fine representative of the native-born citizens of Lee County who are such important factors in carrying forward its great commercial, agricultural and manufacturing interest. He comes of sterling pioneer stock, and was born on his father's old homestead in Franklin Grove Township May 9, 1847.

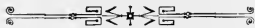
Our subject is a son of the late Amos Hussey, one of the early settlers of the county, and until his death at a ripe age April 14, 1891, a valued citizen of Franklin Grove Township, where he had lived for more than half a century on the fine farm that he had purchased from the Government when it was a tract of wild uncultivated land. Amos Hussey was born in Little York, York County, Pa., August 18, 1806. At the age of twenty years he migrated to the forest wilds of Ohio, and was there married in 1836 to Jane Fre-

donia, daughter of Jesse Holly, who was the first white female child born in the town of Fredonia, N. Y. Mr. Hussey was a corder and fuller by trade, and worked in woolen mills in the early part of his life, but after he came to Lee County in 1838 he turned his attention to farming, and became one of the well-to-do farmers of Franklin Grove Township, where he located on a claim, which he purchased from the Government as soon as the land came into the market, the deed being signed by James K. Polk. When he came here he had but little money, and he and his wife experienced all the hardships and trials of a pioneer life. They mutually sustained and helped each other to bear the privations to which they were subject in a newly settled country, worked cheerfully and to a good purpose, and in due time prosperity smiled upon them. The farmers of those days had to cultivate their land without the aid of modern machinery, and in the absence of railways had to transport their grain to market with their own teams, the settlers of this vicinity for the first few years taking their produce to Peru, and later to Chicago. Mr. Hussey became the owner of some three hundred and fifty acres of land, on which he made substantial improvements. He was a man whose strict adherence to the principles of truth and honesty, inculcated by his religion as a Quaker, made him universally trusted and respected. In his early life he was a Whig, but after the formation of the Republican party he became a staunch supporter of its policy. His good wife was a faithful member of the Presbyterian Church, and was one of the organizers of the society of Franklin Grove. Of the six children of our subject, these three grew to maturity: Mary A., now Mrs. Josiah Little; Jerome B. and Columbus D.

He of whom we write passed his early life on the old homestead that was his birthplace. He was a studious lad and was given fine educational advantages at the Illinois State Normal School, at Normal, and he also attended the seminary at Wheaton. While still a youth he taught school two winters, and then throwing aside the profession, became cashier of the bank of Josiah Little, at Amboy, before he was twenty-one. He held the responsible position for some fifteen years, and

then was obliged to give it up on account of ill health. Wishing for a more active, out-of-door life, he purchased his father's old homestead, and for two years devoted his energies to tilling the soil. At the end of that time he traded the farm with his brother and since then, 1885, has been engaged in the lumber trade, and in dealing in coal, etc., at Franklin Grove. He has built up a remunerative business by excellent management and strictly fair dealings, and is regarded as one of the solid men of this part of the country. Good mental endowments, a well-trained mind, and a high reputation for unswerving integrity have won him the confidence of the people among whom he has spent his entire life, and they have shown their trust in him by placing the management of the local public finances in his hands, and he is doing good service as Township Treasurer. He inherited his father's sound political convictions, and is a true Republican.

Mr. Hussey was married in 1875 to Miss Ella E. Badger, a daughter of Henry E. Badger, and their home at the north end of Main Street, is cozy and comfortable in its appointments, and the centre of true culture. Five children complete their household,—Fred, Warren, Raymond, Alice and Rush. Mrs. Hussey is a lady of refinement and education, and a graduate of the Northwestern University. Religiously, she is of the Methodist Episcopal faith and a member of the church.



**M**EPPE WILLIAM MEPPEN is a good type of the foreign element that is so important a factor in developing and sustaining the great agricultural interests of this county, and the farm of two hundred and forty acres he operates on section 26, Nelson Township, is in many respects one of the best in the locality. Mr. Meppen was born in the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, August 16, 1836, that part of the German Empire having been the home of his ancestry since the fifteenth century, and a certain estate in the town of North Werdan has been in the possession of the family since that time, it still being

owned by a kinsman of our subject. The father of the latter, Peter Meppen, was born thereon as well as himself, and there led the life of a farmer until his death at the age of fifty-four years. He married Martha Becker, who came of good old German stock, was born and reared in the Kingdom of Hanover, and died in the home where her wedded life was passed, at the age of seventy-two. The family on both sides have always been prominent members and active workers in the Lutheran Church, and Peter Meppen, who was a deacon thereof when he died, was considered one of the firmest pillars of the church with which he was connected.

He of whom these lines are the life-record is one of six children, of whom three are living, he being the only one of the family to settle in this country. He lived in the Fatherland until he was twenty-seven years old. At that age, he was stalwart and active, had been trained to industrious habits and was a good worker, so that when he decided to seek a home in the New World he was well fitted for the life that lay before him in the struggle for a competency on the broad prairies of Illinois. He left his native place in October, 1863, and at Bremer Haven took passage on a steamer bound for New York. After landing in that city, he came directly to Lee County, and for a while lived in Palmyra Township prior to coming to Nelson Township, in which he has resided for twenty-eight years. In the old country he had been a miller, but after coming to this he adopted the calling of a farmer, which he has since followed exclusively. He was formerly engaged in agricultural pursuits in another part of the township, but four years ago he rented the farm that he occupies on section 26. This is a fine farm, with fields well cultivated, and with excellent equipments in the way of buildings, machinery and all the facilities for farming according to the best methods.

Mr. Meppen's wife, to whom he was married in Nelson Township, was born and reared here, a daughter of one of the pioneers of the county, Louis Brauer, a native of Oldenburg, Germany. He came to this country when a young man, and was an early settler of this part of Illinois. He obtained a tract of Government land, from which

he made a good farm, which was his home until his untimely death at the age of fifty-two years deprived his community of one of its most skillful farmers, and of one of its best citizens. He was a prominent member of the Lutheran Church, and was always active in the advancement of religion. His widow, who has attained the age of sixty-four years, is now living in Prairieville. Her maiden name was Louisa Toel, and she is of the pioneer stock of this county, where she married Mr. Brauer. She, too, is a true Lutheran in religion, and her uncle was a minister of that faith. Mr. and Mrs. Meppen are the parents of six children, one of whom, Mabel, died in infancy. The others, who are at home with their parents, are Martha, Lucy, Louis, William and Arthur J.

The fellow-citizens of our subject, appreciating the fact that he is a man of great merit, worthy in every way of their consideration, and not that alone, but knowing that he is shrewd and capable, and clear-witted in counsel, have frequently selected him to fill some public position, and he has held the most of the township offices, such as that of Highway Commissioner, etc. His political creed is that of the Republican party. In religion he has not departed from the faith of his fathers, but both he and his wife are among the leading members of the Lutheran Church.

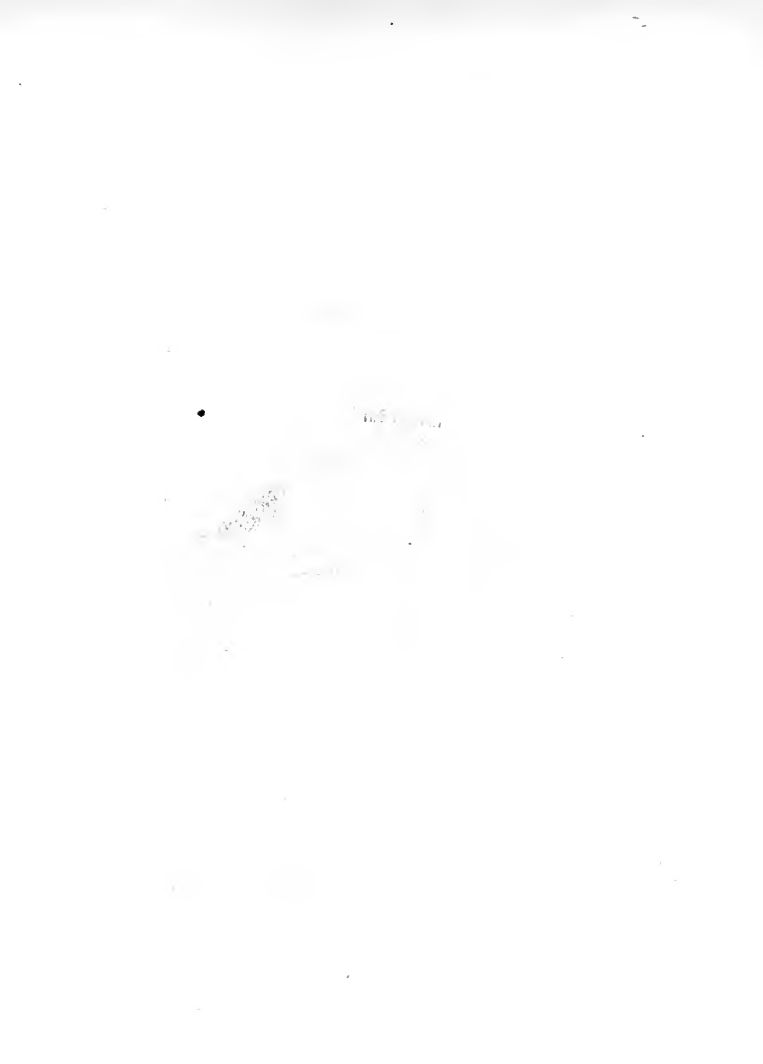


**W**ILLIAM H. FASOLDT, now deceased, was for many years one of the leading merchants of Amboy, Ill., and is numbered among the early settlers of Lee County, where he located in 1840. As a successful jeweler he carried on business for forty years and won an honorable place among the leading citizens of Amboy. A native of Saxony, Germany, he was born near Trasten, April 5, 1825. His father, G. J. Fasoldt, spent his entire life in his native land and died at the advanced age of ninety, having survived his wife a few years. She too had spent all her days in Saxony. Both were members of

the Lutheran Church and were highly respected people.

Our subject spent his boyhood in the land of his nativity, and while yet a young man crossed the briny deep to America, following an older brother to Rome, N. Y. At that place he learned the jeweler's trade under his brother, Charles Fasoldt, who was one of the noted jewelers of the Empire State, having patented a number of fine watch works and constructed a great number of town and church clocks of rare excellence. Under his direction William Fasoldt became thoroughly acquainted with the business in all its details, and throughout life was recognized as a skilled workman in his line. With the intention of trying his fortune in the West, he located in South Bend, Ind., where he was first married, his union being with Balina Bower, a native of Germany, who came to America during her maidenhood. A few years later the young couple removed to Illinois, where Mrs. Fasoldt died at the age of twenty-eight years. She was a member of the Catholic Church, and the mother of four children, two of whom are now deceased—Edward and Franklin. The living are—Mary, wife of Christian Wovel, who is engaged in farming in Iowa; and Anna, wife of J. W. Walters, a commercial traveller residing in Aurora, Ill.

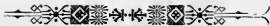
Mr. Fasoldt was a second time married in Amboy. He was joined in wedlock with Miss Rena Teil, who was born in Germany, November 10, 1844, and is a daughter of Charles and Margaret (Schover) Teil, natives of Germany. Her parents came to this country with their family in 1847, crossing the Atlantic in a sailing vessel, which after a voyage of several weeks, at length dropped anchor in the harbor of New York. By the way of the Erie Canal and the Great Lakes, they proceeded to Chicago, from whence they continued their journey with teams overland to Lee Center. Mr. Teil purchased a partially improved farm, and there began life as an agriculturist. He was thus successfully engaged until his death, which occurred at the age of fifty-two years. His wife died some years later in the sixty-sixth year of her age. They were both members of the Lutheran Church and were worthy people.





*Sylvanus C. Hansen*

As before stated, Mr. Fasoldt went to Amboy in 1840, and at once embarked in the jewelry business, which he made his life work. A liberal patronage soon rewarded his efforts, and he built up an excellent trade, thereby acquiring a handsome income. He was thus engaged in business at the time of his death. In all the relations of life he was honorable and upright, and the success which crowned his efforts was richly merited. Mrs. Fasoldt, who still survives her husband, is one of six children. She was born in Germany, but was reared and educated in Lee County. She is a lady of intelligence and much force of character, is enterprising, and has considerable executive ability. She possesses considerable property in her own right, including some valuable real estate in Amboy and its vicinity. In her religious views Mrs. Fasoldt is a Presbyterian. Her social qualities have won her many friends, and she is held in high esteem by all who know her.



**S**YLVANUS C. HAUSEN. Lee County numbers Sylvanus C. Hausen among her most successful farmers. His farm is one of the largest and best in its appointments in China Township, and his residence on section 3, of a substantial and appropriate style of architecture with its excellent arrangements for comfort and convenience, is a model farm house.

Born October 15, 1825, in the town of Bremen, Lincoln County, Me., seventh of the eleven children of Charles and Mary J. (Hilton) Hausen, the boyhood days of our subject were quietly passed in his native State until he was fifteen years old, and then came an eventful change in his life, as in the year 1840 his parents emigrated to the distant prairies of Illinois. They were among the early settlers of China Township, locating a short distance west of Franklin Grove, and here they lived greatly respected by their neighbors until their decease.

Sylvanus Hausen grew to man's estate in the parental home in China Township, and his character was molded by the pioneer life that obtained

in this region in those early years of its settlement to sturdy self-reliance, manliness, and keen foresight, and he was early inured to hard work. He was thus well adapted to the calling to which he had been reared and when it came time for him to select his life-work he chose agricultural pursuits. His after career has demonstrated the wisdom of his choice, as he has risen to the foremost ranks of the farmers and stock-raisers of the county. He located on his farm at the time of marriage, and here he owns about seven hundred acres of excellent farming land and has erected a commodious set of buildings that are first-class in every respect. His pastures are stocked with fine herds of cattle and horses and everything about his well-kept farm is indicative of his ability to conduct agriculture after the best methods.

December 20, 1859, Mr. Hausen was married to Miss Sabina J. Fellows, their marriage being solemnized in Belvidere, Boone County, this State. She has indeed filled in a perfect measure the sacred offices of wife, mother, friend, and to her devotion her husband and family owe much that makes life worth living, and her neighbors are indebted for many a kindly act. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and an active worker in the society. Her union with our subject has brought them five children—Ida C., the wife of Frank Maolton; Charles F., who married Miss Josephine Stevens; Lillian A., the wife of Lorin Townsend; Grace E. and May E. Mrs. Hausen was born November 30, 1839, near Syracuse, in the State of New York, the fifth of the seven children of David and Harriet (Lobdell) Fellows, who were natives of Otsego County, N. Y. They came from near Syracuse, that State, to Illinois in the spring of 1856, and at first settled in Belvidere, whence they afterward removed to Coldwater, Mich. Mr. Fellows died in that city, but his wife still survives at a venerable age.

Through his many years' residence here our subject is widely known, and bears a high reputation among his many acquaintances as a man of unswerving rectitude and unblemished honor, whose life is guided by true principles of equity and justice in his dealings and who never hesitates to befriend one who is in need of sympathy and

material assistance. His portrait, which is presented in this connection, is a valuable addition to the volume. He has been School Director in his township, and in no instance has he failed in true public spirit when his influence has been sought to further some plan for civic improvement. He is well posted on the political situation of the day, and favors the Democratic party.



**R**OBERT JAMES THOMPSON has proved a valuable re-enforcement to the farmers and stock-raisers of Lee County during the twenty-five and more years that he has lived here, as he brings to his work a clear, vigorous mind, has a thorough knowledge of the principles of agriculture, and manages his extensive farming interests in Willow Creek Township after the most approved modern methods.

Nine miles east of the town of Romney, the county seat of Hampshire County, W. Va., is the birthplace of our subject, and he was born amidst its pleasant scenes March 2, 1847. His father, Robert Thompson, was born in the same neighborhood, and was a son of John Thompson, who was a native of the North of Ireland, being descended from an old Scotch family. He came from there to America when he was a young man, and resided for a time in Pennsylvania, whence he went to Virginia to build up a home in the forest wilds of that part of it that is now embraced in Hampshire County, W. Va. He bought a tract of land and engaged in farming, and also improved a water power on it by erecting one of the first mills in the county. He managed both his mill and his farm, and resided on the latter until his death. He was a brave soldier in the Continental Army during the Revolution. His wife whose maiden name was Martha Beard, also died on that Hampshire County farm.

The father of our subject was but five years old when his father died. He continued to live with his mother, and as soon as old enough assisted on the farm and in the mill, making his home on the old homestead until he married and established a

home of his own on a part of his father's farm that he had inherited, and to which he added by further purchase. In 1868 he left his native State, and coming to Lee County settled in Willow Creek Township on the land that he had previously bought some years before. Here his life record was closed by his death in June, 1881. His wife survived him until December, 1886, when she too passed away. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom these ten grew to manhood and womanhood: John T., Lacy A., Martha J., Mary F., Robert J., Samuel T., Amanda S., Virginia C., Edward H., and Wilder B. The maiden name of the mother was Zulemma Taylor; she was born in Hampshire County, W. Va. Her father was Thomas Taylor, and he was, it is thought, a native of Pennsylvania, whence he went to Hampshire County in the days when it formed a part of Virginia, and took up a tract of land ten miles south of Romney. He improved a good farm, and resided on it all the remaining days of his life.

Robert J. Thompson, who forms the subject of this biography, spent his early life on a farm in his native place, and was living at the old home of his birth all through the war. Like other farmers' boys, he was early taught to make himself useful, and he continued to assist his father in the care of his farm until he was eighteen years old. Ambitious to see something of the world and to try life on the beautiful prairies of Illinois, he then came to this State, and for a time was employed by his uncle James Thompson on a farm at Twin Grove, this county. He afterward worked his father's land, and at the time of his marriage settled on his present farm in Willow Creek Township. He now has three hundred and five acres of land, of which two hundred and thirty are in a body, and the remainder lies one mile east of his homestead. His farm is admirably adapted to general farming and stock-raising purposes to which he devotes it, gleaning from its productive fields rich harvests, and in its fertile pastures he has numerous cattle and horses of fine grades. Its buildings are ample and are always kept in good order, and there is every convenience for carrying on farming so as to produce the best results.

Comfort, prosperity and happiness have come to



our subject through his marriage in 1870 with Miss Eveline L. Flagg. They have four children living: Guy A., George P., Nora and Blanche Elma. Mr. Thompson is a Democrat, sound and true, in his politics, and always stands by his colors. Socially, he is a member of Steward Camp, M. W. A., and Knights of the Globe. He is an intelligent reader of good literature, and is conversant with all subjects of general interest. He is one of the solid men of Willow Creek Township, upon whom his fellow-citizens know they can place their reliance at all times and under all circumstances, and he is esteemed accordingly.



**C**HAMPION FULLER, a successful farmer and enterprising citizen of Dixon Township, residing on section 27, owns a fine homestead. It is located on the east side of Roek River, on the Grand Detour road a few miles from Dixon, and so complete is it in its appointments that it may well be termed a model farm. It is well stocked, having upon it some forty head of milch cows, and is well watered with never-failing springs.

Mr. Fuller has long made his home in this locality. On the 10th of September, 1836, his family located in the county and from that time he has been identified with the interests of this community. His father, Stephen Fuller, was a native of Luzerne County, Pa., and came of an old New England family of Connecticut. In the Keystone State he married Anna H. Pratt, who was born in Hartford, Conn., as were her parents before her. With their three children, Champion, Silas P. and Washington I., Mr. Fuller and his wife left Pennsylvania in 1829, emigrating by team across the Alleghany Mountains to Paynesville, Ohio. On the old stage road, he engaged in farming until 1836, when, accompanied by his family, he arrived in Lee County. They first located on the old Dr. Everett homestead, where the famous elm tree stands, under which the Indian chief, Black Hawk, made his treaty. It was not then surveyed, but a

squatter's cabin was received as a title in those days as willingly as a Government patent. In the spring of 1837, Stephen Fuller bought a squatter's claim, for \$150, lying on the east side of Roek River, where is the well-known Fuller Cave that is often visited by people throughout this section of the country. When his financial resources enabled him to do so, Mr. Fuller added to this a one hundred and sixty-acre tract, the entire amount being now the property of our subject.

In a primitive log cabin, the family began life in the West in true pioneer style and their home was the second settlement on Roek River between Dixon and Grand Detour. It was on this farm that Stephen Fuller lived and labored and at last passed away in 1882, at the age of eighty-four years. He had witnessed almost the entire growth of Lee County, from the days when a hamlet, known as Dixon's Ferry, marked the site of the present city of Dixon. One of those warm-hearted and generous-natured people, Mr. Fuller had many friends in whose regard he ranked high and his genial nature made him a favorite companion. He always had a tale to tell of the early days when he traveled overland with ox-teams, when one had to go many miles to mill, and when the county was almost in its primitive condition. His death was sincerely regretted by a large circle of acquaintances, and when called home he left behind him a memory of a well-spent life. Mrs. Fuller was a faithful companion and a true helpmate to her husband until her death in 1852, at the age of fifty years. She was a member of the Baptist Church, and ever took an active interest in its growth and welfare. In politics, Mr. Fuller was an old Jackson Democrat. The members of the family still living are Champion; Abraham, of this county; and Mrs. Caroline M. Poorman, now living in Clinton, Iowa.

Champion Fuller was born in Luzerne County, Pa., January 21, 1826, and in early childhood went to Ohio with his parents. He was a lad of but ten summers when he came to Illinois, where he was reared to manhood and early inured to hard labor on a frontier farm. In April, 1864, he drove a mule team overland to California, and spent twenty years in Humboldt County, that State, dur-

ing which time he met with good success in his business dealings. It was in Humboldt County that Mr. Fuller was united in marriage with Julia A. Reynolds, who was born in Luzerne County, Pa., and is a daughter of Elijah and Mary (Worthington) Reynolds. Her parents were also natives of the Keystone State, and her father died in Luzerne County in the prime of life, after which the mother went with her children to California. She is now living with her daughter, Mrs. Fuller, at the age of seventy-four years.

The wife of our subject was liberally educated in the seminary of Luzerne County, Pa., and is an accomplished lady. By her marriage she has become the mother of three children, but Joseph L. died in California at the age of eighteen months. Two sons, Theodore W. and Edward C., are yet at home. In politics, Mr. Fuller is a Democrat.



**HERMAN S. FISCHER.** The subject of this sketch is a fine example of the intelligent and enterprising class of Germans who have done so much to build up the towns and counties in the New World in which they have made their homes. He owns a fine tract of two hundred and sixty acres on section 29, Palmyra Township, this county, on which he has placed excellent farm buildings and improved in the best manner. He has been remarkably successful in all his undertakings, and occupies a prominent position in the affairs of the community in which he lives. While exercising a general supervision over his place, he has for the past five years let his farm on shares to S. M. Steasman.

Mr. Fischer has been a resident of this county since 1869, emigrating to this country from Germany. He was a native of Hamburg, born July 21, 1845, and in that country received an excellent education in its model schools. He came of excellent stock on both sides of the family. His father, Carl G., and his mother, Bertha (Schroeder) Fischer, were natives of Hamburg, in which place they were reared and married. They came of prominent Hamburg families, many members of

which were well-known physicians and lawyers, and our subject has in his possession a fine gold medal which was presented to his maternal great-grandfather Schroeder for his services while Mayor of Hamburg. His paternal grandfather was a renowned physician of Hamburg and died during the terrible scourge of the "Black Death." The parents of our subject remained in Hamburg after their marriage, where the father is still residing, and is a prominent attorney. He has been twice married.

Our subject was the only child of his mother, who died in giving him birth. He was most carefully reared and educated in his native city, remaining there until 1869, when he decided to come to the United States, and on reaching New York came at once to the West, where he has since made his home. He was here married to Miss Kate F. Thummel, who was born and reared in this township. Mrs. Fischer is a cultured and refined woman, well fitted to be the helpmate of her worthy husband. She is a prominent member of the Lutheran Church. In politics Mr. Fischer is a Republican and is interested in everything which tends to the upbuilding of his township and county.



**JACOB EPLA.** Too much honor cannot be paid to the early pioneers of this county who braved the hardships and privations of frontier life to build up a home on the rich virgin soil of Northern Illinois, and thus helped to develop its great agricultural resources, or in other ways contributed to its development. Jacob Epla is one of that class, and he holds a worthy place in the history of Wyoming Township as one of its earliest settlers and most industrious farmers, who has been living on the farm that he now owns and occupies ever since 1845.

Our subject was born in Rockingham County, Va., January 9, 1819. His father, John Epla, is supposed to have been a Virginian by birth also. He was a son of Jacob Epla, who during some period of the last century was employed at an iron

forge near Luray, Va., where he spent the last part of his life. John Epla was a shoemaker, and carried on his trade in his native State until 1837, when he removed to Ohio and passed his remaining days in Champaign County, that State. The maiden name of his wife was Elizabeth Derr, who was born in England and died in Ohio.

He of whom this life record is written resided with his father until he attained the age of twenty years and six months, when he gave his sire \$30 for his time and commenced life for himself \$30 in debt. The first six months thereafter he was employed on a farm at \$10 a month, and he paid one-half that amount to his father. Although he had no capital with which to begin his struggle with the world, he had what is better, health, strength, industrious habits, and sufficient resolution to accomplish whatever he tried to do, and thus equipped, he went from Ohio to Vigo County, Ind., in 1838, and sought and found employment on a farm. In 1844 he paid his first visit to Lee County, journeying to and from Vigo County with a team. He was favorably impressed with what he saw, and in 1845 he came again to make a permanent settlement in this then sparsely settled, wild region. He entered forty acres of Government land on section 9, of what is now Wyoming Township, and at once erected a substantial log house, which was the first building ever put up between Paw Paw and Malugin's Grove on the Chicago & Dixon Road.

Mr. Epla's land being in a wild state, with never a furrow turned when it came into his possession, he rented an improved tract the first year of his residence here. At that time there were but few inhabitants throughout the length and breadth of the county, and deer, wolves and other kinds of game were abundant, which showed that the pioneers had made but little headway against the rude forces of nature. The land was nearly all owned by the Government. The nearest mills were at Aurora and Ottawa, where the people obtained a poor quality of flour from the wheat that they carried to those points to be ground. Chicago was the principal market, and thither the farmers carried their grain, which often sold at a low rate, wheat bringing forty cents a bushel. They generally

used oxen for transportation purposes, to do their farming, and even in making social visits, as but few were provided with horses, and it would take from five to ten days to make the round trip, which is now performed in a few hours. Primitive machinery was used on the farms and household affairs were carried on after old-fashioned methods.

The good wife of our subject and the other pioneer women of that day who so nobly helped their husbands, fathers and sons in their labors, used to cook appetizing meals before the fire in the rude fireplace of olden times, and their deft hands wove the garments wherewithal their families were clothed. The life that these early settlers led, while it was often one of sacrifice, and much was lacking that they had enjoyed in their old homes, yet had its compensations. The people, though living far apart, were drawn nearer together by their common lot, were very friendly and helpful towards each other, and were true neighbors to all who were in trouble, no matter how great the distance. Their hospitality was proverbial, the "latch string was always out," and friend or stranger rarely sought food and shelter without being kindly welcomed to both, however humble the pioneer home.

Our subject still retains possession of the old homestead on which he settled forty-six years ago. He has added to his landed estate at different times, and at one time had two hundred acres of choice farming land. His farm is well-improved and its fields are under admirable tillage, yielding abundant harvests in repayment for the care and toil expended in their cultivation.

For these many years the capable assistance and companionship of a good wife has made our subject's life more prosperous and pleasant. Mrs. Epla was formerly Miss Catherine Farnham, and her union with Mr. Epla was solemnized in Edgar County, Ill. It has been blessed to them by these three children—Sarah E., wife of E. N. Babbitt; Josiah T.; and Mary A., wife of J. B. Christie.

Mr. Epla has witnessed almost the entire growth of the county, and it may well be his pride that he has had a hand in bringing about the great change that has been wrought since he located within its borders, making it one of the best developed and

most wealthy counties in Northern Illinois. When a young man he was an ardent supporter of the Whig party, but he has been a firm supporter of Republican doctrines since the Republicans came into power. He cast his first Presidential vote for W. H. Harrison, the old hero of Tippecanoe, and grandfather of our present President.



**R**OBERT SMITH, a retired farmer residing on West Third Street in Dixon, where he owns a beautiful home, is numbered among the honored pioneers of the county of 1837. More than half a century has passed away since he here located. Almost the entire growth of the county has he witnessed and with its development and upbuilding has he been prominently connected.

Mr. Smith is a native of the Highlands of Scotland. He was born in Argyshire, in 1822, and comes of pure Scottish ancestry. His grandfather, Robert Smith, lived and died in Argyshire, and in accordance with the teachings of his forefathers was a Presbyterian in religious belief. He married Miss McNair, who like him, had pure Scottish blood in her veins and upon the old homestead of the Smith family she spent the remainder of her days, dying in the belief of the Presbyterian Church. Unto them were born seven children but only two ever came to this country. Both settled in Illinois and John Smith, the father of our subject, spent his last days in Lee County. His sister, Mrs. Elizabeth McNair, died in McDonough County, Ill. John Smith was reared to farm life and when he had attained to mature years was married in his native county to Jane Colville, who was also of pure Scotch descent but her people engaged in mercantile pursuits while the Smith family was given to agriculture. Five children were born to them in their home in the Highlands, after which they bade good-by to their native land and in the spring of 1837 crossed the Atlantic to America. On the sailing vessel the "Tropic," they left Greenough; after a voyage of six weeks they

landed in New York, from whence they came by way of the Erie Canal and the Lakes to Chicago, completing the journey overland by teams to Lee County. From the Government Mr. Smith secured land in what is now Willow Creek Township and the settlement which he there made was the second within its borders. He developed a good farm, upon which he made his home until his death, which occurred in 1863. He had lived to see the county well improved and had himself taken an active part in furthering its best interests. His wife had died in 1840, only three years after locating here. Another child had been born unto them, the family then numbering six. Both parents were members of the Presbyterian Church and lived consistent earnest lives. Three of their children are yet living. The brother of our subject is David Smith, a resident farmer of Willow Creek Township; and his sister Jane, widow of N. A. Nettleton, also resides in that township.

The experiences of pioneer life are familiar to Robert Smith. He can recall the days when the county was but sparsely settled, when the greater part of the land was still unimproved and the work of civilization and progress seemed scarcely begun. He has been an eye-witness of the wondrous changes which have since worked a great transformation. His labors have also aided in this task and he well deserves mention among the founders of the county. He was here married to Miss Harriet Beasley, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1837, and at the age of eighteen years came to Illinois. Her father, John H. Beasley was killed by a train. Her mother is now living in Wayne, Pa., at the age of seventy-five years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been born a family of children, who in order of birth are as follows: Ella G., the eldest, who graduated from Jennings Seminary, is now the wife of Teal Swarouth, a banker of Paw Paw, Ill.; Bertha B. is the wife of William Crumpton, a real-estate dealer of West Superior, Wis., and Clyde is an attorney-at-law of Dixon. He studied for his profession with Mayo & Whitmer, attorneys of Ottawa, Ill., and was afterward graduated from the State University of Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith are held in high esteem by many friends throughout this community. In

politics he is a Republican, having supported that party since its organization, and of its principles is a warm advocate. In the Presbyterian Church he was reared, but neither he nor his wife are members. Mrs. Smith attends the Congregational Church, but her views are not in accordance with many of its orthodox principles. This worthy couple, who have so long resided in Lee County, have now a pleasant and beautiful home in Dixon, which was erected in 1890. There they are now living a retired life in the enjoyment of the fruits of their former toil. Mr. Smith, however, is still the owner of his fine large farm in Willow Creek Township, which yields to him an excellent income.



**N**ICHOLAS D. STEVENS. Our subject has been very successful in life as a farmer and stock-raiser, carrying on his vocation in Lee County, and, though he still retains his agricultural interests, has accumulated sufficient wealth to enable him to retire from active business in season to enjoy his possessions ere the infirmities of old age come upon him, and he is now occupying one of the pleasant homes of the village of Paw Paw, which he purchased when he abandoned farming.

Mr. Stevens is a native of the town of Sterling, Wayne County, Pa., born August 28, 1835. His father, who also bore the given name Nicholas, was a native of the same place, for aught that is known to the contrary. The grandfather of our subject was a farmer, and spent his last years at Sterling. His son Nicholas was reared to agricultural pursuits, and always devoted himself to tilling the soil and raising stock. He bought a farm in Sterling, which he occupied until his death, and was one of the leading farmers of his neighborhood. He married Ann, daughter of Robert and Ann Catterson, who spent her last years on the home farm. She reared a family of eight children to good and honorable lives.

Our subject gained his early education in the local district schools of his native town, and then

pursued his studies further at the Teachers' County Institute in Pennsylvania. In 1857, in the opening years of a promising manhood, he came to Illinois, and made his home with his brother-in-law one summer, and then, ambitious to gain a still higher education, he entered the State Normal School at Bloomington, where he pursued an excellent course of instruction, and was well equipped for teaching. Returning to his native State and county in 1859, he taught there in the winter of 1859-60. In the spring of the latter year he returned to this county, having been favorably impressed with the many advantages that it offers for a desirable location, and having previously invested in eighty acres of land in Willow Creek Township. He at once commenced his pioneer labors of redeeming it from a state of nature, and three or four years later bought another eighty acres joining his first purchase, on which there were a small frame house and a little stable with a straw roof. He subsequently obtained possession of a forty-acre tract of land, and now owns two hundred acres of land of unsurpassed fertility, whose value he has greatly increased by the many fine improvements that he has placed upon it and by his skillful mode of cultivation, as he has a just appreciation of the best modern methods of applying agricultural principles, of which he has made himself master. He has erected a neat and handsome brick residence, a commodious barn, and his place is adorned with many beautiful shade trees and with various varieties of fruit trees.

Mr. Stevens occupied his farm until the summer of 1890, and then, having bought an attractive home in the village of Paw Paw, he retired to it, to spend his remaining years free from business cares. He has a thoughtful well-trained mind, is a reader of good books, and has a large fund of general knowledge to draw upon in conversation, or when appealed to for information on any and every subject of universal interest. He has always been prominent in local educational matters, and has served as School Director for many years. He has also been elected Justice of the Peace, this being his first term of office, and he dispenses justice with an even hand, deciding a case according to its merits, after due deliberation, and gen-

erally to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. In him the Republican party finds a loyal supporter. He was married in April, 1866, to Miss Rebecca A. Barton, and of their happy wedded life one son has been born, whom they named Wade D., who is now attending the Northwestern College at Chicago, where he is studying medicine. Mrs. Stevens' parents were William and Hannah (Remington) Barton, natives of Massachusetts, who emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1836. The father died in 1888 at the advanced age of eighty-two. The mother, who is now eighty-two years of age, still resides in Lackawanna County, Pa. In 1865 Mrs. Stevens came to Lee County and engaged in school teaching.



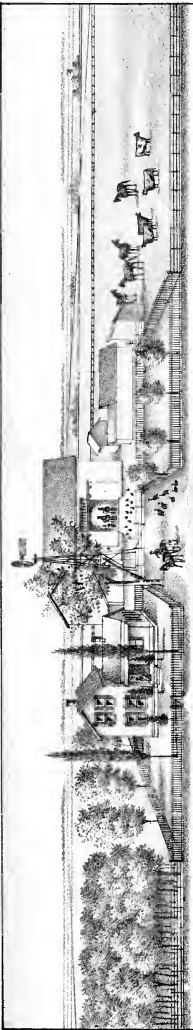
**J** CONRAD MILLER, a native of this county, born October 10, 1865, in Brooklyn Township, still lives on the old homestead, which is under his management. He is one of the most enterprising stockmen of this part of Illinois, and, though one of the youngest of his class, is carrying on an extensive business in buying and shipping stock, and in raising high grade cattle and standard-bred horses. He bids fair to become one the foremost in his line in this section at no distant day.

Our subject is a son of Conrad Miller, by whose untimely death Brooklyn Township lost a citizen who was doing valuable work in its upbuilding by industriously developing a farm from its original wildness. He was a German by birth, born in Hesse-Darmstadt in August, 1832. His father, who bore the same name as himself, and his mother, Mary Miller, were both life-long residents of Hesse-Darmstadt. The father of our subject was reared on a farm, and obtained his education in the schools of his native land. He continued to live in the Old Country until 1858, when, ambitious to try life on American soil, he started for this country, setting sail from Havre in May, and landing in New York City in July, after a voyage of seven weeks. He immediately came to Illinois, and located at Perkins Grove, Lee County.

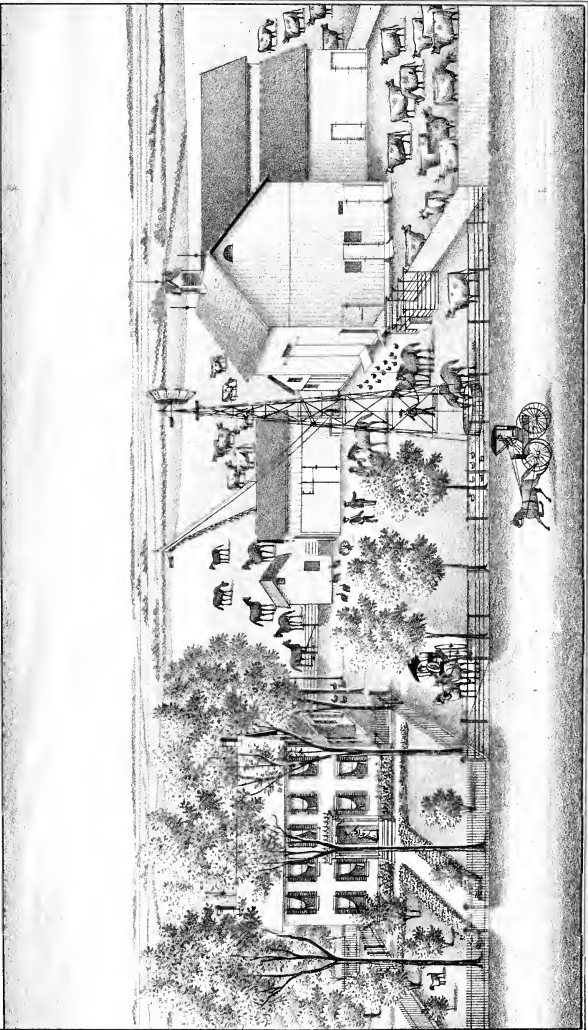
A stranger in a strange land, and without capital with which to begin his new life, Mr. Miller, Sr. had strength and courage, and went to work with a good will as a farmer on rented land. He was thus engaged for eight years, and during that time invested some of the money that he thus made, in an eighty-acre tract of land on section 25, Brooklyn Township, which formed the nucleus of the fine large farm now owned by his family. Forty-five acres of the land were broken, and the remainder was in its original wild condition, the whole costing him \$25 an acre. He moved a house to his homestead, and lived and labored upon it until death stayed his hand June 9, 1867, while he was yet in the prime of life.

Mr. Miller was not married until shortly after he came to this county, and here he was wedded August 15, 1858, to Katherina Sinner, a country-woman of his who had crossed the waters in the same ship that had borne him hither, and he found in her a true helpmate, who cheerfully shared with him the burdens of pioneer life. Mrs. Miller was born March 19, 1841, and is a daughter of Conrad and Anna Maria Sinner, who were also natives of Hesse-Darmstadt.

By the death of her husband the mother of our subject was left a widow with two sons, Philip and Conrad, to care for, and a farm only partly improved to look after. And well did she do her part, training her sons to a self-reliant, honorable manhood, so that they have become valuable citizens of their respective communities. Philip, the elder, who was but five and a half years old when his father died, developed a decided taste for the mercantile business, and is now prosperously engaged in the sale of hardware and agricultural implements at Chadwick, in Carroll County. He is married, and has three children—Lina M., Cora and Lloyd Conrad. The mother of our subject when left to her own resources by the removal of the head of the household, displayed a marked aptitude for managing affairs in a business-like way. Possessing much force of character, intelligence, and thrift, under her vigilant care everything about the place thrived, the fields were placed under admirable tillage, improvements of a good class were constantly being made, and when at last



PROPERTY ON SEC. 19, WYOMING TP.



RESIDENCE OF J. C. MILLER, SEC. 24., BROOKLYN TP., LEE CO., ILL.

WE CAN

DO IT



she was able to yield up the charge of the farm to her son, and lay down the burden so long and so bravely borne, she had the satisfaction of knowing that her work had been well performed, and that the old homestead left her hand in a fine condition.

The subject of this sketch was reared and educated in Brooklyn Township, and for the past ten years has had charge of the farm where he has always lived, entering upon his career as a farmer when scarcely more than a boy, and even at that early age he evinced a decided talent for the business he has since so successfully pursued, and a capability for judicious management not often found in one so young. He has dealt quite extensively in stock, buying and shipping and also raising stock. A view of the old homestead is presented in connection with this sketch. The farm, which now contains upward of four hundred acres, is well adapted to stock-raising purposes, and is well stocked with high grade Short-horn cattle and standard bred horses. His favorites in horses are the Norman and Clydes for draft horses, while for driving horses he prefers the Wilkes strain of the Hambletonian breed. He has several fine step-ners as well as some first-class draft horses, and he is the fortunate owner of the famous stallion "Star W. K.," son of "Alkantara" with a record of 2:23.



**A**NDREW A. RICHARDSON, although of foreign birth, has passed the most of his life in this country, being the son of a pioneer in an adjoining county, and he is now classed among the most intelligent and progressive of the farmers and stock-raisers that form so important a part in the population of Lee County. He has a good sized, finely equipped, well managed farm in Alto Township.

Mr. Richardson was born near Stavenger, Norway, January 6, 1841, and is a son of Andrew Richardson, a retired farmer of La Salle County, who was born in the same locality as himself, passed his early life in the land of his birth, and in due

time was married to Ingen Reiberland, also a native of that region. In 1846, considering that he could do better for himself and give his family better opportunities in the United States of America, he set sail with his wife and eight children from Stavenger, in the month of April, in a ship bound for these shores, and eleven weeks later landed in New York. He came directly from that city to Illinois, journeying by the Hudson River and Erie Canal to Buffalo, and thence by the great lakes to Chicago, where he arrived two weeks later. From that city he made his way to La Salle County, and as he had some means, he wisely invested in eighty acres of wild prairie at once, his land lying near the village of Norway. His first work was to build a log house, and he then began to prepare his land for cultivation. Four years later, he sold that place and, moving to Leland, bought a place near that village. He resided on it some years, was much prospered in his farming operations, and finally rented his farm and retired to the village of Leland, where he is living in the enjoyment of a competency, well earned by industry and excellent management. The faithful wife who accompanied him across the waters and helped him to found a new home in this country has departed this life, dying in 1883. These five of their children grew to maturity: Richard, Isabelle, Ann, Andrew A. and Ole.

He of whom these lines are written was so young when he came to America that he remembers but little of his early home, and is a patriotic citizen of the country of his adoption, under whose institutions he was reared to an intelligent and vigorous manhood. At the time the family settled in Illinois, the whole northern part of the State was still mostly in its primitive condition, with deer, wolves, wild turkeys and other game very plentiful where are now beautiful farms and thriving towns. The scattered settlements were but sparsely inhabited; there were no railways, and for years Ottawa was the chief market, although the people occasionally carried their grain to Chicago.

Our subject attended school whenever opportunity offered, and assisted in the labors of the farm during his youth. He remained an inmate of the parental home until he attained his majority, and

then began life as a farmer on rented land in La Salle County. In 1870 he came to Lee County, and invested some of the money he had thus earned in a quarter of a section of land in Alto Township, which is included in his present farm. He farmed with good profit, bought other tracts of land from time to time, and now has three hundred and forty-seven acres of as fine land as can be found in the township. He has plaeed it all under excellent cultivation, has erected neat buildings, and everything about the place is indicative of good care and of modern methods of farming.

Mr. Richardson was married in 1862 to Miss Elsie Nelson, who was born in La Salle County, of Norwegian parents. She died in March, 1876, leaving five children: Carrie, Ellen, Rebecca, Amos and Frank. The second marriage of our subject, which took place in 1886, was with Miss Laura Iverson, a native of Norway, and to them have been born two children, Lyman and Hiram.

Mr. and Mrs. Richardson are members in high standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are regarded as among our best people, their traits of character being such as to win them friendship and true respect from their associates. In politics Mr. Richardson is a sturdy Republican.



**D**AVID B. AYRES, who is conducting a good business at Dixon as a manufacturer of harness, has been a resident of this county since he was a child, and is a son of one of its pioneer merchants and preachers, the Rev. Oscar P. Ayres, who was well known throughout Northern Illinois not only as a business man, but for his untiring efforts in the cause of religion and morality.

Our subject was born in Albany, N. Y., April 29, 1833, and his father was born in Orange County, the same State in 1809. The latter was a son of Benjamin F. and Christiana (Minthorn) Ayres, who were respectively of Scotch and German descent. He was reared on a farm and later

learned the trade of a merchant tailor, which he followed in Albany for a time. In 1831 he removed to Fabius, Onondaga County, and continued in the same business there until 1839. In the fall of that year he came to Illinois with his family, journeying by Erie Canal to Buffalo, and thence by the Great Lakes to Chicago, which was then but an insignificant village. His father-in-law met them at that point with a team and transported the family and household goods to Lee County. They found this to be a wild, sparsely settled region, where deer, wolves and other wild animals roamed at pleasure over the prairies and through the timber, and even across the very site where Dixon stands to-day a beautiful and flourishing city. For several years after the family located at Dixon there were no railways in this part of the country, and the farmers had to take their grain to Chicago to market. Wheat sold at a low price, and some times when the roads were bad they did not get enough for their grain to pay the expense of the trip. Many of the settlers used oxen both for their farm work and for transporting their products to market.

The first winter after their arrival the family occupied the garret of a log house at Inlet Grove near Lee Centre. In pleasant weather the mother did her cooking outside in an old Dutch oven. The spring of 1840 they removed to Dixon, and the father followed his trade here for a time, and also kept a general stock of almost everything in use in a household in those days. He continued actively engaged in the mercantile business for upwards of thirty years, but finally sold out and turned his attention to the fire insurance business. He resided here until his death at a venerable age in 1886. He had lived to see the country developed from a wilderness to a well settled county, and Dixon from a hamlet to a populous and wealthy city. He was a Christian of lofty principle, and having been converted in early life was licensed to preach in the Methodist Church while a resident of New York. After coming here he was regularly ordained in 1845, and from that time forth did a noble work in the ministry during his active life. He often filled the pulpit acceptably in Dixon and in various places in the surrounding

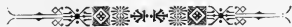
county, always holding himself in readiness to supply any vacancy. By the right of his sacred calling he performed many marriage ceremonies, and officiated at funerals, etc. He was widely known and much respected, and his death was deeply regretted by the entire community.

The Rev. Mr. Ayres was married in March, 1831, to Miss Hannah M. Birdsall, who survives him, and still makes her home in Dixon. She was born in the State of New York seventy-eight years ago, and is a daughter of David H. Birdsall, one of the early pioneers of Lee County. Six of her children are now living, namely: James B., who is a traveling salesman, representing the Rockford Shoe Co., with headquarters at St. Louis; Elizabeth J., Mrs. Bowman, of Mt. Vernon, Iowa; Hattie E., Mrs. Crawford, of Clinton, Iowa; Emma J., a resident of Helena, Mont.; Mary M., Mrs. Snow, of Helena, Mont.

The subject of this sketch was but six years old when he came to Illinois with his parents, and he was reared under pioneer influences in this county. He remembers many instances of the journey hither and of the primitive life led by the people in this then wild and thinly inhabited country. He attended the early schools of Dixon, and in his boyhood assisted in his father's store. At the age of seventeen he began to learn the trade of a harness-maker, serving an apprenticeship of nearly three years' duration. Ambitious to improve his education, he then entered a select school at Lee Centre, taught by Prof. Wright, a most excellent teacher, and he had the advantage of two years' study under his instruction. After leaving school he clerked in his father's store two years, and then accepted a similar position in the establishment of Wood & Boardman, with whom he remained eight years. At the expiration of that time he removed to his father-in-law's farm and tried his hand at farming. Three years later he abandoned agricultural pursuits, and returning to Dixon, then began for the first time to make practical use of his trade by opening a harness shop, and he has ever since been engaged in the manufacture of harness, and enjoys an extensive trade.

Mr. Ayres was fortunate in his selection of a life companion, as by his marriage in August, 1858 to

Miss Sarah J. Perry, he secured a truly estimable wife. Mrs. Ayres is a native of Vermont, and a daughter of Hillard H. and Amelia Perry. Her union with our subject has brought them two children—Minnie M., who married Charles W. Allen, of Omaha; and Oscar P., married Lillian Coffey, he is a traveling salesman, representing a cloth house at Omaha, and makes his home in Hastings, Neb. Mr. and Mrs. Ayres are devoted Christian people, who enjoy the confidence and affection of the entire community where so many years of their lives have been pleasantly passed, and in them the Methodist Episcopal Church has two of its best working members. Mr. Ayres is a member of Friendship Lodge, No. 7, A. F. & A. M., and also of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a Democrat, sound and true in his political views. His assistance has been sought in the management of the city government, and during the two years that he served in the City Council he was always to be found on the side of the right in any question of public importance, and has always cheerfully given his support to all feasible plans for municipal improvement.



**A**VERY MERRIMAN, who was a brave soldier during the Civil War, is a son of an early settler of Paw Paw, and for several years has been an important member of the farming community of this county, and owns and successfully manages a fine farm in Wyoming Township. He was born in Geauga County, Ohio, February 2, 1846, and is the son of Peter and Mary Merriman, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio respectively.

The father of our subject learned the trade of a carpenter, and removing to Ohio carried it on in Geauga County for some years. In the fall of 1846, he came to Illinois, as he shrewdly foresaw that in this newly-settled region skillful mechanics would be in demand. He was accompanied by his wife and four children, as well as by several other families, and traveled by the most expeditions mode of those days, which was with team.


The first location of the family was at Shabbona Grove, where they lived close by the Indians for two years, and two years later they came to Paw Paw, and became among the earliest settlers. A store and blacksmith shop, and one or two habitations in Paw Paw, were the only indications of a village at that early day. Mr. Merriman bought land, erected a house for himself and family, and was prosperously engaged at his trade until 1877. He then removed to Wayne County, Neb., and, buying a farm, devoted his attention to its cultivation until he died, in 1880.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Mary French, and she was born in Geauga County, Ohio, her parents being Avery and Elizabeth French. Her death occurred in Paw Paw in 1863. She was the mother of eight children, as follows: Milton; Orlina; Melissa, who died in infancy; Sidney, who served in Company K, Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry, during the late war and died while bravely fighting in the battle of Stone River; Avery; Marcus, who died at the age of fourteen; Henry and Arthur.

Avery Merriman was a mere infant when brought by his parents to Illinois, and he was reared in Paw Paw. When the Rebellion broke out and threatened destruction to the Union, he watched its course with intense boyish enthusiasm and in 1864 volunteered for service and was accepted, his name being enrolled as a member of Company K, Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry. He joined his regiment at Nashville, Tenn., in time to take part in the battle between Thomas and Hood, and afterward followed the retreating army to Huntsville, Ala., where his regiment was stationed until the spring of 1865. Then returning to Nashville, he was sent to New Orleans and from there to St. Louis, where he was honorably discharged in November, 1865.

When Mr. Merriman returned to Paw Paw, after his experience in army life, he sought employment as a farm hand, and was thus engaged by the month for two seasons. Afterward he conducted farming operations as a renter, and then bought the farm where he now resides, purchasing eighty acres at first and adding to it until he now owns two hundred and eighty acres of well-tilled land.

He was married in December, 1868, to Josephine Potter, a native of Wayne County, Pa., and the daughter of Lester and Miranda Potter, of whom see sketch elsewhere. They are the parents of five children: Albert, Lovancha, Josie, Allie and Charlie A.



**S**AMUEL C. EELLS has made Dixon his home for many years, occupying an honorable place among its leading business men, and for thirty-eight years has been connected with its banking interests, assisting in the organization of the Lee County National Bank, and acting as its Cashier until its charter expired and it was merged into the City National Bank, with the same list of officers, and he still retains his old position.

Our subject first saw the light in the town of Walton, Delaware County, N. Y., March 19, 1822. His father, Nathaniel G. Eells, was born in Cincinnati in 1800, his birthplace being in the town of New Canaan. He in turn was a son of Samuel Eells, who was also a native of that New England State, and was descended from one of the old Colonial families that had crossed the Atlantic to found a new home on these shores. The grandfather of our subject was an independent farmer, and for several years was engaged in his calling in his native town and in the town of Canaan. In 1800 he left the latter place and, making his way to New York, became a pioneer of Delaware County. He leased a tract of heavily timbered land, cleared a farm, and was a resident of Walton until his death. His wife also died at Walton. Her maiden name was Hannah Grey, and she was a native of Connecticut.

Nathaniel Eells was reared to the life of a farmer, and after he attained his majority he adopted that vocation, and also engaged in the lumber business. His career was cut short by his untimely death while yet in the prime of early manhood, and his community lost a citizen who would undoubtedly have been a potent factor in its upbuilding, as he had displayed an enterprising spirit and keen

business capacity in the few years in which he was engaged in business. He had married when quite young, taking as his wife Betty St. John, who was born in Connecticut in 1800, and was a daughter of Cook and Polly (Seymour) St. John, who were natives of Connecticut and pioneers of Delaware County. By her husband's death she was left in straightened circumstances with four children to care for. She returned to her father's home, and lived with him some years. She then went to reside with her daughter in Walton, and died there in 1878. She was the mother of these four children: Hannah, wife of Henry Fancher; Samuel C.; Ann, who married Jetur Gardiner; and Nathaniel G.

Our subject passed his boyhood on a farm, and as soon as large enough had to assist in the work of carrying it on. He received his early education in the district schools of his native county, and afterward attended Delaware Academy, where he made rapid progress in his studies, and was so well advanced by the time he was sixteen years old that he was amply qualified to teach, and entered upon the duties of that profession. He made his home with his grandfather and uncle until he was sixteen years old. At nineteen years of age he accepted a position as clerk in a general store at Walton, and was employed in that capacity the most of the time until 1854. In that year he came to Dixon, which was then a flourishing village of about two hundred inhabitants, but without any railway communication with the outside world. Mr. Eells at once entered the employ of Robertson, Eastman & Co., bankers, as an accountant. In 1855 Mr. Eastman withdrew from the company, and our subject stepped into his place as a member of the firm, which assumed the title of Robertson, Eells & Co. In 1859 another change was made, and the business was henceforth carried on under the firm name of Eells & Coleman until 1865, when they helped to organize the Lee County National Bank, of which Joseph Crawford was elected President, and he himself was appointed Cashier, and John Coleman assistant Cashier. He held that responsible position until the charter of the bank expired in 1885, at which time the City National Bank was organized with the same list of

officers that had made the old bank so successful. At the death of President Crawford, Mr. Eells was made President in 1891. By his course as Cashier of this institution he has been very helpful in making it one of the leading monetary establishments in this section of Illinois, and his connection with it enhances the confidence of the people in its stability, so well do they understand and appreciate the honest and straightforward nature of one who has walked among them uprightly and with spotless reputation for so many years.

Mr. Eells was married in 1854 to Miss Anna More, and they have a cheerful, attractive home, whose pleasant hospitalities are well known to their many friends and acquaintances, and no stranger enters their door who does not receive a kindly, courteous welcome. Mrs. Eells is a native of the same county in New York as her husband, her birthplace being in the town of Delhi. She is a daughter of Henry and Betsy A. (Farrington) More, natives of New England. Her marriage with our subject has brought to them these three children: Caroline W.; Anna, wife of Charles C. Upham, of Salt Lake City, and Bessie.

Mr. Eells and his family are among the leading members of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and he has been a vestryman for many years. He was formerly a Whig in politics, but has been a staunch Republican ever since the formation of the party.



**W**ILLIAM J. McALPINE is one of the leading contractors and builders of Northern Illinois, with his home at Dixon, and he is conducting a large business that extends not only to adjacent counties, but even beyond the limits of the State. He is a native of Ashtabula County, Ohio, and was born August 15, 1852. His father, Dr. Lemuel McAlpine, a retired physician, now residing in Aurora, was born in Litchfield, Ct., and was reared amid the pleasant scenes of his birth. He was well educated, and fitted himself for the profession of medicine. He commenced to practice in the State of New York, but subsequently

returned to Ashtabula, Ohio, where he was actively engaged in his vocation until 1853. He then came to Illinois, and settling in De Kalb County, bought land, and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits for a few years. Since that time he has lived in retirement in the city of Aurora. He was happily married in early life to Miss Sarah Price, a native of the State of New York.

The subject of this brief sketch attended the district schools of De Kalb County in his boyhood, became a student at the High School at Sycamore, and on the removal of the family to Aurora was admitted to the High School of that city, in which institution of learning he completed his education, as far as mere book knowledge was concerned. He had a decided taste for mechanics, and in 1869 he began to cultivate his talents in that direction by learning the trade of a carpenter at Aurora, giving eighteen months of his time to acquiring a thorough knowledge of the calling.

In 1875, after considerable experience in carpentering, Mr. McAlpine entered upon his successful career as a contractor at Sycamore. He soon acquired a good reputation as a builder who fulfilled his contracts to the letter, and for the finish, durability and solidity of his work, which left nothing to be desired in his buildings, which were completed in exact accordance with the plans and terms of agreement. As he became known, his business increased, and he was able to compete with older contractors in the same line, orders coming to him in other counties as well as this, and now he makes contracts for buildings in various parts of Illinois, and even in Southern Wisconsin. In 1888, he removed to Dixon, as a more convenient location, and has since had his office and home here.

Mr. McAlpine was first married in 1877 to Miss Martha Manning, a native of De Kalb County, Ill., who died in 1886. The second marriage of our subject, which took place in 1888, was with Miss Bertha German, of Lacon, Ill. Their home was at the Nachusa House, of Dixon, and when any of their mutual friends, or any of the acquaintances or friends that Mr. McAlpine has made through his business connections or in a social way, visited them, they carried away with them a pleasing remembrance of the hospitalities that they enjoyed

at the hands of the host and hostess. Mrs. Bertha McAlpine passed from this earth in February, 1892. Our subject is popular as a member of the following societies: Sycamore Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; Sycamore Chapter, R. A. M.; Sycamore Council, R. & S. M.; Sycamore Commandery, K. T.; and A. A. O. N. M. S., Medinah Temple, Chicago. In politics, he gives his allegiance to the Republican party.



JAMES P. GOODRICH, deceased, was born at Barry, Vt., among the Green Mountains, October 14, 1849, and was descended from an old New England family of prominence in his native State. The family came originally from Scotland, where they owned a castle and were influential citizens. The father of our subject, Samuel Goodrich, was born in Barry, Vt., May 7, 1816, and died at Massena, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., June 21, 1887. Throughout his life he seemed doomed to meet accident in one form or another and suffered much from injuries sustained. For many years he was in poor health and at length died of heart disease. After leaving the Green Mountain State and coming West, he resided in Pine Creek, Ogle County, Dixon, and in Palmyra Township, Lee County, and thence he moved to New York, where they died. He was a consistent member of the Methodist Church and a Republican in politics. A short time before his death he published a little volume of poems, many of which possessed considerable merit. Throughout the community in which he resided he was held in high esteem as a man of sterling worth and unblemished character.

Mr. Goodrich was twice married. He first wedded Charlotte Perry, of Plainfield, Vt., who while on a visit to her old home in the Green Mountain State, died at the age of fifty-three years. She was a member of the Baptist Church and an active worker for the interests of all that tended to benefit humanity. The second wife of Mr. Goodrich bore the name of Mrs. Phoebe Dutton. She still survives him and is now living in St. Lawrence County, N. Y.

The first seventeen years of his life James Goodrich spent among the mountains of his native State, where he began his education in an academy, completing his school life in Mt. Morris, Ill. Arriving at an age when he must choose a life work, he determined to engage in farming and was a prominent and progressive agriculturist of this community. His labors were not without their reward, and as a result of his industry and perseverance he became owner of a fine farm of one hundred and ninety-five acres, to which his widow has added since his death until now within its boundary is comprised a two hundred and thirteen acre tract which yields a golden tribute. Mr. Goodrich ever took an active interest in those things pertaining to the welfare of the community and was recognized as one of the best citizens of the township. In politics he was a Republican, who stanchly advocated his party principles.

At the home of the bride in Palmyra Township, Mr. Goodrich was joined in wedlock with Miss Clara Williams, one of the fair daughters of Lee County. She was educated in the High School of Dixon and is a lady of superior intelligence and culture. Her parents, George and Mary (Adams) Williams, were natives of Center County, Pa., where they were reared and married, and where their children, with one exception, were all born. The year 1853 witnessed their removal to Illinois and saw them located on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Palmyra Township, where Mr. Williams died April 13, 1891, aged eighty-nine years and five months. His widow is still living at the age of seventy-nine years and makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Clara Goodrich. She has a wide acquaintance throughout the community and her friends are many, their regard having been secured by her excellencies of character.

Mrs. Goodrich is the youngest of the Williams family, six of whom, four sons and two daughters, are yet living. Her marriage has been blessed with three children but she lost one, Grace, who died at the age of eight weeks. Edwin was born February 19, 1873, and Lila was born January 4, 1882. The mother is a member of the Methodist Church and in the county where she has so long

made her home she is well and favorably known. Mr. James P. Goodrich departed this life at his home in Palmyra township, on the 27th of January, 1883, of consumption, after having traveled extensively in different parts of the United States in quest of health.



**W**ILLIAM C. WOOLEY, a trusted employe of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, now filling the position of ticket-agent at Dixon, is of English birth, he and a brother being the only ones of his family who ever crossed the Atlantic to America. He was born in the city of Manchester, and is a son of Thomas and Margaret (Calland) Wooley. His father was born in Rugely, Staffordshire, where he was reared to manhood and became a mason and a mechanic. When a young man he went to Manchester, where he built a number of the machine shops of that city, including the large shops of Wrenn & Bennett. His death there occurred at an advanced age, having survived his wife some years. She was born in Manchester and her people were early settlers of that city. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wooley were excellent musicians and sang in the choir of the Congregational Church for many years. The lady especially was particularly gifted in this line and with her beautiful voice often held her audience entranced. Two of the children of the family are yet living in England—John and Sarah A., both of whom are married and reside in Manchester.

Under the parental roof our subject spent the days of his boyhood and in the schools of his native city acquired his education. After he had attained to mature years he was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Miss Mary Webb, also a native of Manchester, where her parents, David and Nancy Webb, spent the greater part of their lives, although they were both born in Warrington, England. Mr. Webb was a glass-blower in the employ of the firm of Mollinaux, Webb & Co., who were engaged in the manufacture of glass in Manchester. Both he and his wife lived to advanced ages but are now deceased.

It was in 1853 that Mr. Wooley, accompanied by his wife and little daughter, came to America. They took passage on a sailing vessel at Liverpool and after a voyage of seven weeks and one day, landed at New Orleans. On the vessel "George Collier" they went up the Mississippi to St. Louis, from whence they made their way to Fultonville, and on to Dixon, Ill., where they have since resided. For almost forty years they have now been identified with the city and its social, religious and educational interests. Their home has been blessed by the presence of three children—Mary, wife of Stephen Youngman, a farmer residing near Dixon; Gertrude, wife of W. C. Jones, who is also living near this city, and William W., the present baggage master of Dixon, on the Illinois Central Railroad. His wife was formerly Miss Nora Edleman, of this city.

For more than thirty-six years Mr. Wooley has been in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad, and during that time has never lost a day's pay. He was first engaged on the construction of the road from Rock Island four miles north and after its completion, when trains began to travel over it, February 17, 1855; he accepted a position in the freight department, where he remained until 1890, when he resigned to take charge of the passenger department. He has now full control of the same and well merits the confidence reposed in him by the company. To retain a position in the employ of the railroad company one must be faithful and also prompt and exact in the discharge of his duties. That Mr. Wooley has complied with these requirements is attested by the fact of his long continuance with the road. In politics he is a Republican and his wife is member of the Episcopal Church.



**D**AVID A. GLENN. There are many prominent mercantile establishments in Lee County, but it is no discredit to the others to state that for reliability of dealings, superiority of stock and extent of business transactions, the

firm of D. A. Glenn & Co., of Ashton, is without a rival. For years Mr. Glenn has been one of the foremost figures in the mercantile circles, not only of Ashton but also the surrounding community. The period of his residence here has been a fruitful and active one with him, in many ways adding lustre to his useful life.

Before mentioning the minute details of time and place which contribute to the development of individual characteristics, it may be well to briefly note the parentage of Mr. Glenn. His father, George, was born in 1811, in Center County, Pa., and in his early manhood married Eliza Hartsock, also a native of the Keystone State. She died in Centre County in 1850, and afterward George Glenn removed to this county, where he has since resided. By trade he is a tailor, but after coming to Illinois operated as a farmer. He and his estimable wife had a family of five children, four sons and one daughter, our subject being the third in order of birth.

Born January 23, 1839, in Center County, Pa., the subject of this sketch passed his boyhood days in the place of his birth and in Blair County, Pa. Thence he removed in 1857, with his father, to this county and continued to reside at home until his marriage, in the meantime devoting his energies to the cultivation of the home farm. Upon the breaking out of the Civil War he enlisted in August, 1861, in Company C, Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry, and served until the following January, when he was discharged on account of disability. He then returned to this county and as soon as he regained his health engaged in teaching for one year. For some three years thereafter he was employed as a clerk for the firm of Mills & Petrie, and remained with their successor in business for some time. For a period of about ten years he was book-keeper in various mercantile establishments in Rochelle.

In May, 1883, Mr. Glenn embarked in the mercantile business on his own account and formed a partnership with A. W. Rosecrans, which still continues. The firm carries a fine stock of merchandise and enjoys a large trade, not only in the village but throughout the country around. The success which has met the efforts of Mr.



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*A. N. Whitney*

Glenn is deserved, for he has taken the most painstaking care in his business, to which he has devoted his entire time and best energies. He was married in Ashton, December 14, 1869, to Miss Clara C. Buck, who was born in Huntington County, Pa., July 22, 1842. Mr. and Mrs. Glenn are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and active in all good works.

In his political affiliations Mr. Glenn is an ardent Republican and has served his fellow-citizens in various positions of honor. For some time he was Supervisor of Ashton Township, and also filled the positions of Township Clerk, Constable and was a member of the Board of Trustees. There is no measure proposed for the benefit of the community at large which does not receive his support, and he is numbered among the representative citizens of the county. He is a member of Masonic fraternity, belonging to the Blue Lodge at Ashton and Roehelle Chapter, and is prominent in the fraternity.



**A**LEXIS R. WHITNEY. This well-known resident of Lee County is a son of one of its earliest settlers and occupies a prominent place in this community. He is proprietor of the celebrated Franklin Grove Orchard and Nursery Farm, located on section 12, China Township, and is an extensive manufacturer of cider and vinegar. He was born in the town of Albion, Orleans County, N. Y., February 22, 1824. His father, the late Col. Nathan Whitney, was known far and wide as "Father Whitney" for more than fifty-five years, and a review of his life is appended to this biographical sketch of his son.

Our subject was four years old when his parents removed to Elba, Genesee County, N. Y., and the next six years of his life were spent in that town. After that the home of the family was in Unionville, Lake County, Ohio, the ensuing four years. Early in the month of January, 1838, they again took up the march for the frontier, and coming to Lee County, located on a tract of Government land which had been selected by the father when he visited this section in 1835.

Thus from the age of fourteen years Mr. Whitney has been a resident of this township. He grew with its growth, pioneer environments helping to mould his character in strength and manliness, and to-day is numbered among the prosperous citizens of the community where he has dwelt as boy and man for more than half a century. He early showed an independent and self-helpful spirit, and at the age of eighteen made an agreement with his parents to take care of them the remainder of their lives and he in turn to have the homestead in his own right. He faithfully fulfilled his contract with them, surrounding their old age with every comfort that filial love could devise, and making their last days their best.

Mr. Whitney's farm comprises three hundred and sixty acres which was an original entry, and he still retains the patents from the Government. He has erected a fine set of buildings, and has all the conveniences, including first-class modern machinery, for carrying on the various operations in which he is engaged. He is one of the longest established nurserymen in the State, beginning that business in 1843, and his nursery is one of the finest and best managed for miles around. In 1849 he commenced to make cider and in 1853 added the manufacture of vinegar. He does an immense business, finding sale for his products in Michigan, Colorado, Texas, and in fact, almost all the Western and Southern States.

Our subject and Miss Mary J. Oakley were married at Franklin Grove August 14, 1851. Mrs. Whitney is a native of Hudson, N. Y., and was born October 10, 1830. Her marriage with our subject has been blessed to them by the birth of six children, of whom two are deceased—Sarah J., who died when eighteen months old, and Carrie Louise, who died at the age of two years. The following is recorded of the four children living: Jesse R., a resident of Carroll, Carroll County, Iowa, is engaged in the wholesale fruit and grocery trade and in real-estate business; Carrie L. is the wife of Albert W. Crawford; Nathan A. is cashier and book-keeper for his father; Mary J. is the wife of C. L. Booth, of Denver, Col.

Mr. Whitney was the first Township Clerk of China Township, and held that office six years,

and that of School Treasurer eight years. He was in early life a Democrat, but when the Republican party was organized he transferred his allegiance to it and has remained true to its principles through the victories and defeats of the many years that have since gone by. He is prominently identified with the Masonic fraternity as a member of the Franklin Grove Lodge, Nathan Whitney Chapter, Dixon Commandery, and is a Thirty-second Degree Mason. He has been a liberal supporter of the churches and has contributed freely to charitable and other worthy objects, as well as to all enterprises that would in any way benefit the community. His many friends will be pleased to notice his portrait on another page of this volume.



**C**OL. NATHAN WHITNEY. At the great age of one hundred years, four months and twenty days, this venerable gentleman passed away June 11, 1891, at the home of his son A. R. Whitney. Amid scenes which held the associations of years of toil and hardships, his declining days were passed in the comforts of a happy home and tenderly cared for by those who held him dear.

Father Whitney, as he was familiarly known, was born in Conway, Mass., January 22, 1791, and was the third in a family of five brothers, all of whom attained to advanced years. In his early manhood he was married to Miss Sarah Gray, and twice opened farms in Western New York before he removed to the new State of Illinois. The year 1835 marked his arrival here and two years afterward he made a final settlement. He and his wife became the parents of seven children, six daughters and one son, five of whom survived him, namely: Mrs. Polly Smith; Mrs. Abram Brown; Mrs. Hannah McKenney, of Dixon; Mrs. D. B. McKenney, of Chicago, and A. R. Whitney, of Franklin Grove.

June 23, 1817, Father Whitney was initiated into the mysteries of Free Masonry, with which order he ever afterward maintained his connection, being at the time of his death undoubtedly the oldest Mason in the world. He was a charter

member of Friendship Lodge, No. 7, of Dixon, established in 1840, and was among the first to receive the red cross order of a Sir Knight in Dixon Commandery. The Nathan Whitney Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, of which he was a member at the time of his death, was named in his honor.

As his grandfather bore arms in defense of his country during the Revolutionary War, so our subject was a valiant soldier in the War of 1812 and received mention for bravery at the battle of Ft. Erie. There are still in possession of his descendants his commission as Lieutenant, Captain and Colonel, bearing the signature of De Witt Clinton, Governor of New York. Soon after Mr. Whitney moved to this vicinity he was elected one of the commissioners who organized the county of Lee and who for years took an active part in its improvement.

The funeral of Father Whitney took place on June 14, 1891. After brief services at the home conducted by Rev. A. H. Scoonmaker, the remains were conveyed to Dixon, where they were placed in state under a guard of eight Sir Knights at the court house and were viewed by many hundreds of people. Later a procession was formed, in which one hundred Sir Knights and one hundred and three Blue Lodge Masons were in line, the largest Masonic funeral ever held in the county. Besides the Dixon and Franklin lodges, large detachments of Knights and Masons were in attendance from Sterling, Sycamore, DeKalb and other places, and the impressive burial service was concluded at the grave.



**L**OUIS FLOTO, who is now living a retired life at the Kingdom, on section 18, Nachusa Township is one of the self-made men of the county, who, empty handed, began life and by his own exertions worked his way upward to a position of wealth and affluence. He is of German birth, having been born in the Kingdom of Hanover, February 6, 1822. His father, Frederick Floto, was also born in that kingdom, where he

made his home until his death at the age of sixty-four years. By trade he was a blacksmith and that vocation he used as the means to secure a livelihood. His wife, was also born and reared in Hanover. She died when our subject was only about a year old.

Louis Floto was then reared by his father and stepmother and when a youth he learned to be a blacksmith. After attaining to mature years he married Miss Caroline Rosenthal who was born at Brunswick in the Kingdom of Hanover, in 1827, her parents spending their entire lives in that locality. One child was born unto Mr. Floto and his wife in the Fatherland, after which, with his family, he emigrated to America. Sailing from Bremen in June, 1848, he landed in New York City after a long voyage of seven weeks. His first location was in Luzerne County, Pa., where for two years he worked in the coal mines. Hoping to better his financial condition in the West he next came to Illinois and settled in Grand Detour, where for seventeen years he worked in a plow factory. The money which he saved during that period he then invested in land and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, which he followed for many years with excellent success. He bought an improved farm of about two hundred acres and in return for his care and cultivation it yielded to him a golden tribute. He is now living a retired life, having by industry, perseverance and good management in former years acquired a handsome competence which now enables him to lay aside business cares.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Floto have been born ten children who with but one exception are yet living. Emma was married and died in 1888. The other members of the family are Ernestina, wife of William Girton, a farmer of Marshall County, Iowa; Louis who wedded Katie Girton and is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Ogle County; Elizabeth, wife of P. S. Girton, also a farmer of Marshall County, Iowa; Caroline, wife of Wilson Brink who follows farming at Fremont, Neb.; Henry, an agriculturist of Marshall County, Iowa, who wedded Emma Levan; Charles who married Maggie Morrison and is a farmer of Ogle County; Mary, wife of R. Robertson, who engages in the same pursuit

in Marshall County, Iowa. Ella, wife of Henry Hintz of Nachusa Township; and William who wedded Lotta Cooper and also follows farming in Ogle County.

Mr. Floto is a man of genial nature who easily wins friends and throughout the community is widely and favorably known. In politics he is a Republican and himself and wife are members of the Evangelical Church.



CAPT. JOHN STEVENS, one of the honored soldiers of the late war, who laid down his life on the altar of his country, was born in Shirley Township, Huntingdon County, Pa., February 22, 1831. His father, William Stevens, was also a native of the Keystone State. William became a prominent citizen of Huntingdon County, and was officially connected with its history for some time. His wife bore the maiden name of Ruhama Ayres. She was born in New York, but was reared in Pennsylvania, where they began their domestic life. About 1840, when our subject was a young lad, they emigrated to Dixon and after some years removed to Mt. Morris, Ill., for the purpose of educating their children in the Northern Illinois Methodist College. When all had pursued courses in that institution they returned to Dixon, where William Stevens died in the month of June, 1890, at the age of seventy-eight years. He had taken quite a prominent part in political affairs and was frequently called upon to serve in public positions of honor and trust. In early years he supported the Democratic party but became a Republican on the organization of that party. He was a man of few words. It was his actions that counted and his life was an upright and honorable one. He had served as United States Marshal of this district for two terms, was Justice of the Peace for many years and was a life-long member of the Methodist Church. Devoted to its interests, he labored untiringly in the Master's vineyard. He was also a Master Mason. His wife had passed away long years before, having died July 28, 1859,

at the age of fifty-six years, in the faith of the Methodist Church, of which she was also a consistent member.

Capt. Stevens, as before stated, was only about ten years of age when he came to Dixon. His education was acquired in Mt. Morris Seminary, from which he was graduated at the age of eighteen. He then entered the law office of Judge Heaton, now deceased, and after three years of thorough study was admitted to the bar and began practice. A bright future seemed opening before him and he possessed the ability and determination to become a successful lawyer.

In De Kalb County, Ill., in Ross Grove, Mr. Stevens was united in the bonds of matrimony with Miss Mary S. La Port, who was born in Watertown, N. Y., in 1834, and is a daughter of Norris and Minerva (Gardner) La Port, the former a native of Kingston, Canada, and the latter of the Empire State. Mr. La Port was of French descent, his parents emigrating from Paris to America. He was reared in New York and some years after his marriage brought his family to Illinois, locating in Kane County, in 1840. Subsequently they removed to De Kalb County, where he devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits. His death there occurred in 1884, at the age of four-score years. His widow is now living with a daughter in De Kalb County, in her eighty-fifth year. She is a member of the Presbyterian Church and a lady beloved by all who know her.

In the autumn of 1861, Mr. Stevens organized Company II, of the Forty-sixth Illinois Infantry, commanded by Col. Jones. He became its Captain and the company was mustered in the service in February, 1862. With the regiment it at once marched to the front and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. With his command, Capt. Stevens participated in the engagement at Ft. Donelson, where a few of his men were killed and several wounded. Soon after they marched to Shiloh. In the early morning of the day on which that engagement occurred, he and his men were lying near the scene of the severest part of the conflict, when the rebels surprised them. The Captain, hearing the alarm, rushed from his tent, ordered his men to form, and with wonderful bravery

and presence of mind placed himself at the head of his troops. With unsheathed sword, waving his hat in the air, he called his men to rally around him and pressed forward to victory, but a few minutes later the rebels, who had the advantage, were upon them. A large piece of shell tore the Captain's leg below the knee and shattered the femur bone. At the same time, a minie-ball passed through his sword sheath, cutting it nearly in two. This was on Sunday morning, April 3, 1862. One of his comrades made an attempt to carry him from the field on a horse, but the beast was shot and both the Captain and his friend fell. One of his privates, a Mr. Tracy, then picked him up and amid flying shot and shell ran with him to a place of safety under a tree, where he lay in his agony, watching the two contending forces as they swayed back and forth in the tide of battle. The Captain was there left without care until Tuesday, when the Union forces succeeded in gaining the field and he was carried to a hospital where every attention was bestowed upon him, but the loss of blood and exposure had been too much for him. On the following Sunday, he was put on a boat to be sent home, but as the vessel was leaving its moorings he passed away. It was his hope to once more reach his home and family but when told by the surgeon that he could not live he said "Tell my wife and little children that I made my peace with God and to meet me in Heaven." He then sank back, dead. His remains were sent to Dixon, where he was buried with all the honors of a soldier.

Capt. Stevens had been High Priest of the Royal Arch Templars of Dixon, resigning that office when he enlisted. In politics he was a staunch Republican and had made speeches throughout the country for Lincoln, whom he met soon after the election in Springfield. When asked by the President-elect what office he would like, the Captain replied that he would accept no office. Mr. Lincoln then lay back in his chair and with a hearty laugh requested Mr. Stevens' photograph. The Captain was an active member of the Episcopal Church. His death proved a loss to the community where he resided and in the household made a vacancy which can never be filled. The widow, who still remains true to his memory, resides in Dixon. She is

a noble Christian lady who belongs to the Episcopal Church as do also her two sons: Frank E. and Leon L. The elder, who married Miss Sadie Lattin, of Sycamore, Ill., is now a real-estate dealer of Chicago. The younger, who married Nellie Tibbets, of Preston, Minn., also resides in Chicago, where he is engaged in business as a collector.



**J**AMES H. BRAFFET, M. D., of Paw Paw, is well known as one of the leading physicians of Lee County, whose skill, success in practice, and learning place him well at the head of his profession. He was born in the town of Florida, Orange County, N. Y., October 16, 1834. His father, James Braffet, for many years an honored citizen of this county, was born in the town of Monroe, Orange County, July 22, 1802, a son of John Braffet, who is supposed to have been a native of that county also, and there he spent his last years. He is thought to have been of Scotch ancestry. When the father of our subject was five years old, his father took him to Orleans County in his native State, and bound him out to a farmer, with whom he was to live until he was twenty-one. In the meantime he was to have his board and clothes, and when he became of age was to have a new suit of clothes, ten dollars in cash, and a horse, saddle and bridle. When he was eighteen years old, he bought his time in order to serve an apprenticeship to learn the trade of a blacksmith, but when he was twenty-one, the old farmer generously gave him the horse that he had promised him. At the close of his apprenticeship, he did journey-work in different places, and finally at Newburg, Orange County, and carried on business in that county until 1855, when he came to Illinois to identify himself with the pioneers of this county, as he wisely thought that skilled mechanics would be in demand in a young and growing country. He came by rail as far as Earlville, then the nearest railway station, and after his arrival he established himself at his calling at East Paw Paw. He carried on business there until 1863, when he removed to Melugin's Grove,

and opening a shop there, was actively engaged as a blacksmith for several years. When the railway was completed through Brooklyn Township, he took up his residence at the village of Compton, being one of its first settlers, and there he lived retired until his death, in April, 1888. The maiden name of his wife was Melissa A. Furman. She survives him and still makes her home at Compton. She is also a native of Orange County, N. Y., and a daughter of Josiah Furman, who was born in the Empire State, and was of German ancestry. Mrs. Braffet and her husband were for many years members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but she now belongs to the Presbyterian Church, and is held in great esteem by all who know her.

Our subject is the only survivor of the three children born to his parents. He was given liberal educational advantages, obtaining his knowledge of the common branches in the public schools of his native county, and he subsequently became a student at Chester Academy, which he attended four years. While there he paid particular attention to mathematics and civil engineering, with a view of preparing himself for West Point. He successfully passed the examination required of those desiring admission to that institution, and receiving the endorsement of Mr. Wheeler, the representative to Congress from the district in which he lived, his ambition seemed about to be realized, when his parents so strenuously objected to his entering a military school, that he gave up his cherished dream of becoming a cadet, and turned his attention to the study of medicine, under the instruction of Dr. C. P. Smith, of Chester, N. Y. He defrayed a part of the expenses of his education by teaching, and alternately taught and attended school, and engaged in surveying. He came to Illinois with his parents in 1855, and taught the first term of the East Paw Paw Seminary. He devoted his leisure to his medical studies, and in the winter of 1861-62 attended a course of lectures at Rush Medical College, at Chicago. He still further prepared himself later on by attendance at Bellevue Hospital College, New York City, in the winter of 1868-69, and was graduated from there in the Class of '69. He had already practiced medicine successfully, and went back to his work

with renewed vigor. He had first established himself at East Paw Paw, and had gone from there to Melugin's Grove in 1862. In 1875 he opened an office at Paw Paw, and has remained here ever since, acquiring an extensive and lucrative practice. By identifying himself with various medical societies and by careful reading, he keeps well abreast of the times in his profession, to which he is devoted, and his patients feel that safety and confidence under his care that a true physician ever inspires. He is a member in good standing of the North Central Illinois Medical Association, of the Illinois State Medical Society, of the American Association, and in 1887 he became a member of the International Medical Association. He is also connected with the Masonic fraternity, of which he has been a member since 1858, but at the present time non-officiating; and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which he joined in 1881, and is a camp member.

Dr. Braffet was happily married in 1860 to Miss Ellen S. Billings, who was born near Detroit, Mich., and is a daughter of James and Mrs. (Serville) Billings. They have seven children, namely: Nellie, John, Charles, Mark P., Harvey, William and Essie. Nellie married Sidney Stevens, of Beardstown, Cass County. John is superintendent of a vineyard in Tulare, Cal. Charles is a compositor on the Boston *Daily Post*. Mark is in the chief dispatcher's office, Rio Grande & Western Railroad, at Schofield, Utah Territory. The three younger are students.



**J**OSIAH FRY has since the spring of 1891 been living a retired life in West Dixon. Long years did he follow farming and by close application to his business in that line and in other directions he acquired a handsome competence which now enables him to retire from active life. He was born on the 10th of December, 1843, on his father's farm in Nachusa Township, and is the only son of John and Mary (Kline-top) Fry. His father was a native of Columbia County, Pa., born April 4, 1813, and was of Ger-

man descent. In the county of his nativity the days of his boyhood and youth were passed and he learned the trade of a carpenter which he followed for some years. He was a young man, still unmarried, when he came to the West, and located Government land in Nachusa Township, Lee County, Ill. The farm which he there developed continued to be his home until within a few months of his death, when he went to Bremer County. On the 5th of December, 1886, he passed away, leaving a large circle of friends to mourn his loss. In politics he was a Republican and had lived an upright, honorable life, worthy of emulation in many ways. Mrs. Fry, the mother of our subject, was born and reared in Columbia County, Pa., and when a young lady became a resident of Lee County. She died at her home in Nachusa Township, May 20, 1870, in the faith of the Lutheran Church, in which she had been a member for some years. Her parents were of German descent and resided in the Keystone State throughout their lives.

No event of special importance occurred during the childhood of our subject. In the usual routine of farm life the days of his boyhood and youth were passed and for some years after attaining his majority he followed the occupation to which he was reared. At length he determined to engage in other pursuits, and in 1872 came to Dixon where he entered into the coal business, which he carried on for thirteen years, or until 1885. In the meantime he also dealt in ice, continuing his operations in that line of trade for six years. In 1885 he returned to his home in Nachusa Township, and there resided until the spring of 1891, when, as before stated, he came to Dixon, locating permanently in this city. He still owns his farm, a highly improved tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres, situated on section 24, Nachusa Township, which adds materially to his income.

The lady who is now Mrs. Fry bore the maiden name of Mary C. Stetler. On the 12th of October, 1846, she was born in Columbia County, Pa., unto Samuel and Mary E. Stetler, both of whom were natives of the Keystone State, where their childhood was passed and their marriage celebrated. Mrs. Stetler died in her native State, while Mr.



Stetler came to Illinois and subsequently removed to Cass County, Iowa, where he is yet living. After her mother's death, Mrs. Fry was reared chiefly by strangers. To her husband she has proved a faithful helpmate and their union has been blessed with eight children, seven of whom are yet living. John E., the eldest, wedded Rebecca Boyer and is now operating the old homestead farm; Mary E., is the wife of Ralph Hendricks, a resident farmer of Bremer County, Iowa; Bert, Anna E., Olive M., Ernest O. and Elsie E. are still under the parental roof.

Mr. and Mrs. Fry are people of intelligence and culture who manifest a commendable interest in every thing pertaining to the welfare of the county and the promotion of the best interests of the community, and in Dixon and throughout Lee County have many warm friends who esteem them highly for their sterling worth. Mr. Fry exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party, with which he has been affiliated for several years.



**J**OSEPH C. BERNARDIN has done well financially since he came to this county in his boyhood, as his diligence, constant application to his work, and sagacity in conducting his affairs have met with due reward, and he is to-day the owner of one of the most desirable farms to be found throughout the length and breadth of Viola Township.

The birth of our subject took place September 6, 1839, in the village of Luxonel, in the Department of Vesoul, France. His parents, Peter and Mary (Bobby) Bernardin, were also natives of the sunny land of France. They emigrated to America in 1855, the father coming first to prepare a home for the remainder of the family. He settled in Sciota County, Ohio, and, with his capital of \$300, purchased two hundred acres of timber land, twelve miles from the town of Portsmouth, paying \$1.25 an acre for the land. His first work was to build a shanty for a temporary shelter, which he afterward replaced by a substantial log house. He

worked hard to clear his land, and in time placed it under cultivation, and made of it a good farm, upon which he resided until 1870. In that year he came to Lee County, and was a resident of this section until he closed his eyes in death in August, 1889, at a ripe age. His wife survives him and these seven of their children are living: Sophia, Rossie, Virginia, Joseph C., Sadonie, Alfred and Julius.

The subject of this biographical sketch attended school quite steadily until he was twelve years of age, and then he began to assist his father on the farm. The latter came to this country in the spring of 1855, and in the fall of the same year he sent for his wife and children to join him. They journeyed by rail to Havre de Grace, and October 16 embarked on a sailing vessel at that port. Off the coast of England, the ship collided with a war vessel, and had to lay by at Plymouth, England, twenty-four days, for repairs. Starting once again on its voyage, it crossed the ocean in safety, and arrived at New Orleans January 12, 1856. The family then went to their destination by way of the Mississippi River to Cairo, thence to a port on the Ohio River, whence they proceeded by rail to Portsmouth. His father being in limited circumstances, our subject had to assist him in supporting the family, and was of great help to him in clearing his land and tilling the soil. He remained a resident of Sciota County until 1870, and then abandoned Ohio and transferred his citizenship to Illinois, settling in this county, and two years later he bought the farm he now owns and occupies. Under his skillful care it is now a well-improved and valuable piece of property, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres of very fertile land, including the northeast quarter of section 21, Viola Township.

Mr. Bernardin was first married April 14, 1866, to Miss Palmyrie Ranje, a native of France. She died in 1874, leaving three children: Mary, Henry and Charles. The second marriage of our subject, which was solemnized January 21, 1877, was with Miss Catherina Barlow, also a native of France. Three children have been born of their union: Julius, Peter and Louisa.

In our subject this county has a faithful, law-

abiding citizen, who is contributing to its prosperity by his skill as a practical, wide-awake tiller of the soil. He and his family are members in high standing of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Brooklyn, and are greatly esteemed in their community for their personal worth.



**A**UGUST CHAON owns and is occupying the homestead on section 31, Viola Township, that formerly belonged to his father, the late Xavier Chaon, a practical, successful farmer and a valuable citizen of this county until death terminated his useful career.

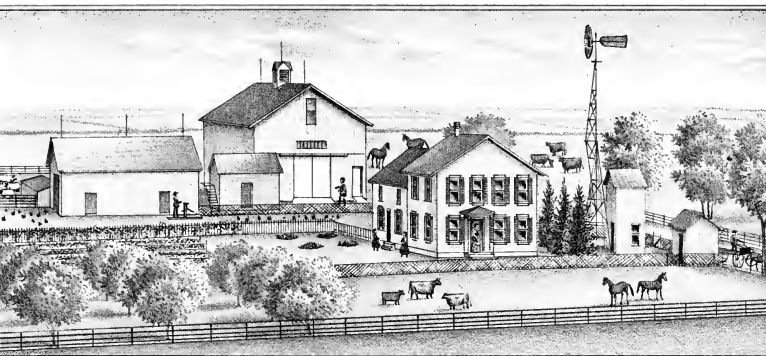
Our subject was born in France, September 8, 1841, and that was also the native land of his father, who was born January 6, 1814. He spent the early part of his life in that country, but ambitious to try his fortunes on American soil, in 1848 he started with his wife and three children on the long and momentous journey hither. A stage conveyed the little family to Havre in three weeks' time, and from that port they set sail in February in a ship bound for New Orleans, where they landed after a voyage of sixty-eight days. From the Crescent City they went on the waters of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers to Portsmouth, Ohio, and upon their arrival Mr. Chaon was entirely out of money. He first rented a house near that town, and after borrowing money of his brother-in-law for his family to subsist on while he was away, went forth in search of employment. He walked to an iron furnace twenty-four miles distant, and there secured work at fifty cents a day. He returned to his family in six weeks with the money thus earned, but only to make them a short visit, as he continued to work at the furnace for two or three years. He was extremely industrious and economical, and finally had enough money accumulated to buy a tract of twenty acres of land eight miles from Portsmouth, ten acres of which were cleared and the remainder was heavily timbered. He built a log house on the place for a dwelling for his family, and his wife and children tilled the soil and cleared the

land while for sometime he continued to work out. He bought other land at different times until he had one hundred acres in his possession.

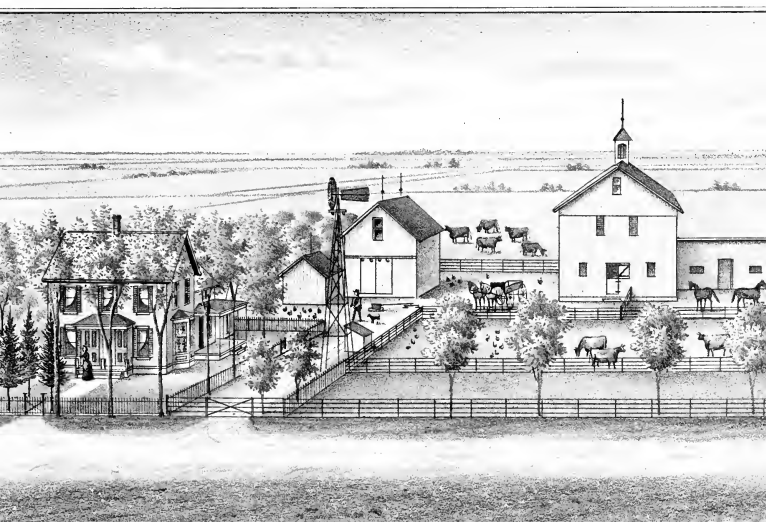
In 1865 the father of our subject sold his property in Ohio, and coming to Lee County, bought the quarter section in Viola Township, which now belongs to his son of whom we write, and upon which he makes his home. He had but ten dollars in ready money to make a cash payment, as he had used the rest of his money to buy a team, farming machinery, etc. But he went to work with characteristic energy and good courage, and so successful was he in his agricultural operations that in four years' time he had his farm entirely paid for, and afterward accumulated an extensive and valuable property, including four hundred and thirty acres of land, the greater part of which was tillable. Both he and his wife died on the home farm. Her maiden name was Josephine Debeau, and she was likewise a native of France. They reared five children—August, Mattie, Olamp, Joseph and Charles.

A bright lad of seven years when he left the fair land of his birth, our subject still retains pleasant recollections of his old home, and can recall incidents of that ever memorable ocean voyage that brought the family to a strange country. His parents being in such limited circumstances, he had not the advantages afforded the children of the present day for obtaining a good education, for his services were early needed on the farm that he helped to hew from the forests of Ohio. Coming of a people noted for their industrious and frugal habits, he inherited those traits so essential oftentimes to prosperity, and these have given him success in his chosen calling. He has always devoted himself to agricultural pursuits, and on the old homestead, which is now his, he obtains a good yearly income from his fine harvests and from the sale of his sleek, well-kept stock. Everything about his place shows that he is an excellent farmer, and here he and his wife have a cozy home, wherein they enjoy true comfort. A view of their residence appears on another page.

Mrs. Chaon's name in her maiden days was Mary Venson. She was born in Alsace, before the war, which then belonged to France, and there



RESIDENCE OF AUGUST CHAON , SEC. 31. , VIOLA TP. , LEE CO. , ILL.



RESIDENCE OF J. J. BURGER , SEC. 18. , PALMYRA TP. , LEE CO. ILL.

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her parents still reside. Her marriage with our subject was solemnized August 27, 1882, and has been blessed to them by these six children—Xavier, Josephine, Emma, August, Mary and Ella. The family are all members of the Catholic Church, and our subject and his wife are greatly esteemed in their community for their personal worth.



**JESSE JEREMIAH BURGER**, a practical and enterprising farmer and stock-raiser living on section 18, Palmyra Township, is numbered among the settlers of 1855, and in the years that have since come and gone he has been prominently identified with the history of the community, especially in the line of its growth and development. We are pleased to present this record of his life to our readers, for he is both widely and favorably known in Lee County.

A native of Pennsylvania, Mr. Burger was born in Franklin Township, Columbia County, December 5, 1839. Tradition says that the family is of German origin. Abraham Burger, the grandfather of our subject, lived and died in the Keystone State, his death occurring at the age of eighty-seven years. By trade he was a carpenter but after having followed that occupation for many years he gave his attention to agricultural pursuits. His son, Isaac Burger, the father of our subject, was also a native of the Keystone State, and in Columbia County learned the carpenter's trade, which he made the means of obtaining a livelihood until failing health caused him to abandon that pursuit and embark in farming.

While residing in the East, Isaac Burger was for seven years a bugler in the Pennsylvania State Militia, of Philadelphia, his superior musical talent well fitting him to thus serve. He married Miss Sarah Mensch, also a native of Columbia County, and in the spring of 1855, we find them established in their new home in Palmyra Township, Lee County, Ill. A year later Mr. Burger purchased a farm in Jordan Township, Whiteside County, where they continued to reside until called to

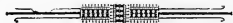
the home beyond. The death of the father occurred April 10, 1888, at the age of seventy-eight years and Mrs. Burger died August 29, 1888, aged seventy-four years. In religious belief they were Lutherans. The family of this worthy couple numbered ten children, the eldest of whom is our subject. Three sons and four daughters are yet living and all are farming people.

Jesse Jeremiah Burger was a youth of sixteen years when he came to this county. His father received the benefit of his labors until 1863, when he started out in life on his own account. Two years later he purchased the farm upon which he yet resides. The pride of Illinois is in her fine farms and among the best of these is classed the home of our subject. He now owns eighty acres of rich land and in return for his care and cultivation it yields to him a golden tribute. The improvements, both useful and ornamental, are many and the work of his own hands. In 1884, he built one of the largest barns in this locality and in 1887, erected his fine residence which is tastefully furnished and supplied with all the requirements of life, and a view of which appears elsewhere in this volume.

As a companion and helpmate on life's journey Mr. Burger chose Miss Anna Schick, who was born in the City of Brotherly Love, and when three months old was brought to this county by her parents, Mathias and Elizabeth (Obrist) Schick. Her father was a native of Germany, who, at the age of eighteen years, bade good-by to the Fatherland and crossed the Atlantic to America, locating in Philadelphia, Pa. There he followed the trade of blacksmithing, which he had learned prior to emigration. Three children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Schick in the East, after which, in 1842, they sought a home in Illinois, and in Prairieville the husband established a smithy. Later he engaged in farming in Lee and Whiteside Counties, but his death occurred in Palmyra Township in 1888, when seventy-five years of age. His wife had died thirteen years previous in the faith of the Lutheran Church, with which Mr. Schick also held membership.

Mr. Burger exercises his right of franchise in support of Democratic principles, but has never sought

or desired public office. Unto himself and wife was born one child, Mary, but she was called home at the age of two years and seven months. The home of this worthy couple is the abode of hospitality and their friends throughout the community are many.



**E**MERY L. THORP is one of the principal farmers and stock-raisers in Alto Township, where he has extensive farming and stock interests, and he is also a leader in the public life of the county as a member of the Board of Supervisors. He is a native of Illinois, coming of one of the pioneer families of the Northern part of the State, and he was born in Little Rock Township, Kendall County, January 30, 1859. His father, Henry Thorp, a retired farmer of De Kalb County, was born in the State of New York, and his father, Leonard Thorpe, a native of the same State, of which he was a resident until 1840, when he came to Illinois. He made the journey on the lakes to Chicago, which was then but a small, swampy settlement, and he found Northern Illinois but sparsely inhabited. There were no railways or other means of transportation, save by team. Mr. Thorp started out from the future "World's Fair City" on foot to explore the country to seek a location that suited him. He finally selected a tract of land in Big Grove, Kane County, and for a few years was identified with the early settlers of that section. He removed from there to Kendall County, and was actively engaged in agriculture there for a number of years. He finally retired from active business to the town of Plano, where he passed away at a ripe age. The maiden name of his wife was Miller.

The father of our subject was very young when he accompanied his parents to their pioneer home in this State. He was reared to the life of a farmer, and carried on that occupation in Kendall County until 1861. In that year he bought land in Somanauk Township, De Kalb County, and for thirty years was a prominent farmer in that locality. He accumulated a comfortable property by his opera-

tions, and in 1891 retired from active work to enjoy it at his leisure. In early manhood he was married to Belinda Loomis, a native of New York, who has been an important factor in his prosperity. They have reared three sons, of whom our subject is the eldest, Leonard and Lyman the names of the others.

He of whom these lines are written received a substantial education in the local district school of Somanauk Township and in the village schools of Somanauk and Plano. He made his home with his parents until his marriage, and on his father's farm was well trained in all the branches of agriculture. He rented a farm the first year of his marriage, and then located on the farm where he has since resided, including the southwest quarter of section 11, Alto Township. In 1888 he bought the southeast quarter of section 10, of the same township, and has a farm that is comparable with the best in this section in regard to cultivation and appointments. It is admirably adapted to general farming purposes, and is well stocked with cattle, horses and swine of the finest grades. He is extensively engaged in breeding thorough-bred Hereford cattle, Clyde and Norman horses and Poland-China hogs, and is meeting with marked success in his stock business.

Mr. Thorp has proved a very useful acquisition to the citizenship of the county since he took up his abode here, his intelligence and competence as a farmer making him a valuable assistant in maintaining and extending the most important of the industries of this region, and his clear head and excellent business qualifications fitting him for the public service in which he has been engaged for some time, as he is now filling his second term as a member of the County Board of Supervisors, representing Alto Township. His political views find expression in the principles of the Republican party, of which he is a staunch supporter.

December 25, 1879, was the date of a most important event in the life of our subject, as he was then married to Miss Emma Clark. They have three children: Roy, John and Lester. Mrs. Thorp is also a native of this State, and a daughter of one of the pioneer families of Northern Illinois. Somanauk, De Kalb County, is the place of her birth,

and she was born September 30, 1860. She is a daughter of Israel Clark, a retired farmer of that county. He was born in Haddam, Conn., and his father, George Clark, was a native of the same State. He came to Northern Illinois in pioneer times, and was one of the early settlers of De Kalb County, taking up a tract of Government land near Somanauk, and spending the remainder of his life on the farm that he improved from the wilderness.

Israel Clark came from his native State, where his life had been passed up to that time, to Illinois in 1842, traveling by canal and lakes to Chicago, and thence making his way to Somanauk. At that time but few settlements had been made in Northern Illinois and the most of the land was owned by the Government. He has lived to see the country well populated, and beautiful farms and busy towns where he found but few indications of civilization. He was at that time unmarried, and he worked out for awhile. But he soon bought land five miles from Somanauk, and in the course of time developed it into a good farm, upon which he resided many years. He finally sold it, and buying a home one mile from the village, now lives retired, in the serene enjoyment of his property. At his country's call he served three and a half years in the late war. The maiden name of his wife was Cornelia Potter. She was born in the State of New York, a daughter of Charles and Dinah (Miller) Potter. They are the parents of four children: Georgine, Naomi, Emma and Nellie.



**C**ONRAD DURKES, Vice-President, Manager and principal stockholder of the Franklin Grove Bank, is one of the best known and ablest business men and most astute financiers of this part of the county. He was a pioneer merchant of Franklin Grove, where he has made his home since the early days of its settlement, and during the thirty-six years that he has lived within its precincts has been the chief promoter of all enterprises that have tended to hasten its growth and strengthen its material prosperity.

A native of the Grand Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, our subject was born June 19, 1829, in the village of Blodesheim, within a short distance of the famous city of Worms. He is a son of Philip and Appolonie (Stelzer) Durkes. The family came to the United States in 1842, landing at New Orleans and from there proceeding to St. Louis, where the father found work at his trade as a carpenter. In 1845 he removed with his wife and children to Chicago, and there he died in 1858, at the age of sixty-four years. His wife passed away at the age of seventy, in 1866. They reared four children, all of whom were born in Germany. Their son John died in St. Louis in 1843, leaving no family; their daughter Magdalena married George Blum and died at Dayton, Ohio, in 1860, leaving a family; Anna M. married George Peterman and resides in Chicago.

Our subject is the youngest of the family. He entered upon his business career early in life as a clerk in a store in Chicago, and served in that capacity until 1852, and in the meantime gained a good insight into the details of trade. He was then advanced to the responsibility of taking charge of a store at Oregon, Ill., and the following year purchased the same. He continued to conduct business at that point until 1855, when he took advantage of the fine opening afforded by the building of the railway to the newly-founded town of Franklin Grove to establish the first store here on the present business site of the village. He did a general mercantile business until 1870, and then sold out, but again engaged in business in 1873, carrying it on until he disposed of his establishment and stock in trade in 1886. He had for several years been engaged in other financial transactions, although he made his start as a merchant, selling more goods when in that line than any other firm in Franklin Grove, and when he gave that up he turned his attention to a private banking business which finally led to the organization of the Franklin Grove Bank in 1889, with a capital stock of \$25,000. This is one of the solid monetary institutions of the county, and richly deserves its reputation for stability and safety, as its management is prudent and conservative, and at the same time is by no means lacking in a proper spirit of enter-

prise that has made the bank a useful factor in developing the interests of this section of the State.

Mr. Durkes' career is illustrative of the fact that he is an excellent financier, as when he began life as a clerk all the money that he could call his own was his monthly salary of \$10, and he is now comparatively wealthy. He is possessed of a large amount of real estate in Iowa, and has, besides his commodious residence with its pleasant and well-ordered surroundings, and other valuable property in Franklin Grove, a good farm of two hundred acres near the town. He is a judicious investor, a cool and close calculator, but his liberal use of his money where it will do the most good is sufficient proof that he does not hoard it for the furtherance of private and selfish ends. He has been administrator for various estates, having the care of one large estate for fifteen years, and so well did he handle the money, loaning it in sums ranging from \$50 to \$5,000, and nearly all on personal security, that he never lost a cent belonging to this estate.

Mr. Durkes was married in 1854 to Miss Eliza J. Fleming, a native of Pennsylvania. She died in 1855, leaving one child, who died in infancy. Our subject was married a second time in 1858, taking as his wife Miss Mary E. Jones, a native of Canada and a daughter of Augustus and Mary Jones. They have had five children: Ida E., wife of Dr. H. M. Hewitt; Augustus P., a merchant of Erie, Whiteside County; Warren C., cashier of the Franklin Grove Bank; Stelzer A., and Kittie, who died in childhood.

One can say but little about the village of Franklin Grove without connecting the name of our subject therewith as its leading citizen, who has done as much or more than any other man to advance its interests in every direction and make it an attractive and desirable place of residence. He has taken an active part in local government as President of the Village Board and in other official capacities. He drafted the first chart and laws of the village, and its effective drainage system is due to his energetic influence while a member of the Council. He is pleasant and kindly in his manners, and his personal habits are above reproach. He has always been a staunch temperance

man, and is an earnest advocate of whatever will elevate the social life of the community. He is a man of religious convictions, and still leans toward the faith of the German Reformed Church in which he was reared. His family, however, are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he contributes generously for its support. He is identified with the Masonic fraternity as a charter member of the Franklin Grove Lodge. In politics he began as a Republican, but in 1872 he saw cause for changing his views, and since then has been a loyal Democrat, his fidelity to his party being rewarded during Cleveland's administration by the Postmastership at Franklin Grove.



PROF. GEORGE H. NOBLE, who is successfully conducting a livery business in the village of Compton, is one of the native-born citizens of Lee County, who now form so important an element in the maintenance of its prosperity. His birthplace is Amboy Township, and March 27, 1859, the date of his birth. His father, Charles Noble, formerly a well-known farmer of this section was born in Whitehall, Washington County, N. Y., while his father, whose name was the same as his own, was a native of Massachusetts. During some period of his life he removed from the old Bay State to the Empire State, and became the proprietor of a farm in Whitehall, where he passed the remainder of his life. The maiden name of his wife was Anna Waters, and she, too, died on the home farm in Whitehall.

The father of our subject was reared and educated in his native State, of which he remained a resident until 1855, and in the meantime he learned the art of daguerreotyping. In the year mentioned, he came to Illinois, and became a pioneer farmer of what is now Amboy Township. He remained on his farm but one year, however, as the climate did not agree with his family, and he removed with them to Minnesota, going by teams to the Mississippi, and then by boat to Winona. He entered a tract of Government land near that city, lived



there about two years, and then returned to his homestead in Amboy Township. He made that his home until death closed his honorable career, March 26, 1880, devoting himself to its improvement. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Eliza H. Holcomb. She was born in Dresden, Washington County, N. Y., a daughter of James and Olive Holcomb. She married a second time, becoming the wife of Edward Mackin, and still occupies the home farm.

Our subject was one of nine children, and the names of his brothers and sisters are as follows: Mariette, Ann Eliza, Julia, Charles, James, Josephine (twin sister of our subject), Bowman and Hiram. George H. Noble received his early education in the district schools, and advanced by attendance at Phillips' private academy at Amboy, and Dixon Business College. In September, 1876, he went to Kansas, and was employed on a farm in the summer and attended school in the winter during his stay in that State. He resided in Dickinson, Saline and McPherson Counties two and a half years, and then, returning home, attended Phillips' Academy, where he pursued a thorough course of study. In the fall of 1881 he entered the profession of teacher, for which he was amply qualified, and in the years that he devoted to that vocation he won a high reputation for his manifest talent for imparting knowledge, and for the excellence of his methods of teaching. He taught two years, and then entered Dixon Business College, where he obtained high rank for general proficiency in his studies, and while a student taught a class in German during the absence of Professor Sickles.

At the close of his term at the business college, Prof. Noble resumed teaching in the public schools, and continued his professional career until June, 1891, being principal of the Compton School the last three years of that time. In the fall of 1890 he established himself in the livery business, in which he still continues. He has a well-equipped stable and is well patronized by the traveling public. The Professor is a highly intelligent, well-informed young man, whose active mind has been well trained, and he stands high in the citizenship of his native county. He is a member of Brook-

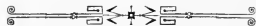
lyn Lodge, No. 282, A. F. & A. M.; Anchor Lodge I. O. O. F., No. 510, at Paw Paw, and is popular in social circles.

Prof. Noble was married June 20, 1889, to Miss Josephine Atkinson, a native of Brooklyn Township, and a daughter of the late William Atkinson, who was a prominent pioneer and well-known citizen of Lee County. Her father was born in County Armagh, Ireland, in December, 1806. He was in his sixteenth year when he embarked on board the good ship "Betsy Jane," bound for St. John, N. B., where he was met by two older brothers who had preceded him to America. He attended school in that city two years, and then news of his mother's death was received, and his brothers returning to their old home across the sea, he never saw any of the family again. He engaged in lumbering in the New Brunswick forests a few years, and subsequently tried the mercantile business a short time. He finally came to the States, and from New Hampshire made his way to Cairo, Ill. For a time he made trips up and down the Ohio from that point, but attacks of fever and ague obliged him to seek other quarters. We next hear of him at Ross's Grove, whence he removed to Inlet, and found employment in Dewey's saw-mill.

In 1843 Mr. Atkinson took unto himself a wife, in the person of Mrs. Mary Ross Melugin, a native of Virginia, and a daughter of Joseph and Jane (Eaton) Ross, and widow of Zachariah Melugin. Her father died January 31, 1888, and her mother April 13, 1880, both living to be very old. Four of the eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson are living, namely: William, Martha E., Anna and Josephine.

Shortly after his marriage, Mr. Atkinson bought the homestead in Brooklyn Township of the Government, and there he and his wife passed the most of their wedded life, though at two different times they were residents of Mendota, once for a year, and again for three years, and Mr. Atkinson was at one time prominent in the civic life of that city as a member of the City Council. He was very successful in his business operations, as he invested his money judiciously, and became one of the rich men of the county. He was a man of broad views, of untiring energy, and was fond of

traveling. He watched with keen interest the progress of the war, and after the battle of Murrensboro was fought he visited the scene of the conflict. He attended the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia and the Cotton Exposition at New Orleans. He was a man of genial, frank, straightforward nature, was generous and hospitable, and had many close friends who mourned his death, which was a loss to the community. He had done much for the upbuilding of the county, and his name will always be associated with its history. He was a member of Bethany Chapter, K. T., and was active in forwarding the interests of that organization, as well as of all things which would in any way benefit the community.

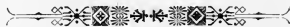


**S**IDNEY BEACH, who resides on section 34, Lee County, was born in Delaware County, Ohio, December 6, 1827. His parents, Israel and Rhoda (Lockwood) Beach, were natives of New Jersey, but removed to Delaware County, Ohio, where they reared their family of eleven children, and where they died.

Our subject is the ninth in order of birth in the parental family, and lived in his native county until he was fifteen years old, when he came to Ogle County, this State, and engaged in farming on his own account for three years; he then returned to Ohio, where he remained for three years, being employed most of the time in assisting his father upon the farm. After remaining there for some three years, during which time he was engaged in breaking prairie and in dealing in cattle, he again returned to Delaware County, this time remaining about a year and a half, and was there united in marriage January 8, 1856, to Miss Sarah Vandemark, daughter of Daniel and Anna (Kidney) Vandemark. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, whence they removed to Delaware County, where they died. Mrs. Beach was the second in order of birth of their three children, her birth taking place in Delaware County, December 31, 1838.

After his marriage Mr. Beach returned with his wife to Lee County, where they settled in Ashton

Township, and have since resided. Mr. Beach has always been engaged in farming and stock-raising, and has dealt quite extensively in land, of which he owns between five and six hundred acres. Mr. and Mrs. Beach are the parents of three children: Clement, who married Miss Flora Thompson; Jessie C., who is the wife of J. C. Edwards; and Sidney E. Mr. Beach is a Republican in politics, and with his wife is a member of the Free Methodist Church. He is well known as a public-spirited, enterprising man, prominent in all the interests of his township and county, and his wife is highly esteemed as a refined and intellectual woman.



**M**ARTIN DETRICK is an able, enterprising farmer, who has acquired a handsome property by his good management of his affairs and intelligent method of farming, and Nelson Township, where his agricultural interests are centered on section 32, classes him among her best citizens. He was born December 7, 1833, in Monroe County, Pa., whence his parents removed when he was a year old to what is now Meshoppen Township, in Wyoming County, the same State, where his father, Jacob Detrick, began life anew on a tract of one hundred acres of heavily timbered land, beautifully located on the banks of the lovely Susquehanna River. He hewed out a good farm from the primeval forests and lived there for fifty years, his death occurring on the old homestead December 11, 1890, when he was eighty-one years and five days old. He was born in Northumberland County, coming of Holland ancestry, and a son of Elias Detrick, who also claimed Pennsylvania as his native State, and died there in Monroe County on a farm when he was seventy years of age. His wife, who was likewise a Pennsylvanian by birth, died there when past ninety-two years old. She was the mother of seventeen children, who were nearly all boys and lived to grow up and marry, all but one, and the most of them died full of years. The family, as a rule, were members of the Lutheran Church.

The father of our subject was married in Monroe County to Miss Margaret Rowe, who had been there born and bred, and was of old Pennsylvania-Dutch stock. She died in Wyoming County in 1852, when she was but thirty-seven years of age, and was greatly mourned by her family and neighbors, as she was a woman of rare character. Both she and her husband were devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was known as a man of remarkable physique, of an iron will and great tenacity of purpose, and he was a great worker.

Our subject is the eldest of ten children, four sons and six daughters, three of the sons dying when quite young and one of the daughters when forty years of age, and he and his five sisters are the surviving members of the family. He was not quite of age when he came to this county in 1854, but he had inherited in a good degree the manliness, decision of character and persistent ambition that distinguished his father, and he was well able to struggle with the hardships that lay before him in the new and untried life upon which he was about to enter with not a dollar to his name. He began here as a laborer, and later rented land for six years in Palmyra Township before he purchased his first eighty acres of land in 1864. He improved a part of that, and has bought other land since, so that he has a valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres, which is under a high state of cultivation, is provided with neat and well-arranged buildings, and is fully stocked with cattle, horses and swine of fine breeds.

To the amiable wife who has shared his fortunes and ably presides over their home, Mr. Detrick was united in marriage in Wyoming County, his native State, January 11, 1860. Mrs. Detrick, who in her maiden days was Rachel Atkinson, was born in that part of Pennsylvania in August, 1833. Her parents were George and Lucinda (Russell) Atkinson, who died on their old homestead in Wyoming County, where they had passed their wedded life and had improved a good farm, death coming to them when they were very old. Mr. Atkinson was a native of England, and coming to the United States when a young man

married his wife in Pennsylvania, which was her native State, she having been born in Wyoming County of Connecticut stock. They were prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which he served for some years as a local preacher in Wyoming County. He was known as a man of strong character, who was very decided when he knew he was in the right.

Mr. and Mrs. Detrick are the parents of four children, of whom one is deceased, Lydia, who died in August, 1877, at the age of six years. Those living are George A., who married Miss Lizzie Taylor and makes his home on a farm in this township, his business being to operate machines and deal in grain and hay; Myron H., a very fine draughtsman and skilled machinist, a thorough student in his line, who represents the Babcock & Wilcox Boiler Company, of New York City, with headquarters at Chicago, Ill., married Miss Ida Davis, of Sterling, Ill.; and Mary L., wife of William G. Hartshorn, the operator at Dixon for the Illinois Central Railway Company.

Mr. Detrick is a man of large, round-about common-sense and excellent business tact, whose sterling qualities of head and heart command the respect of all with whom he has financial dealings, and has won many sincere friends during the many years that he has made Nelson Township his home. In politics, he is a Republican of the first water. He has held the local offices of Highway Commissioner, etc., and is the present Justice of the Peace of this township, with whose interests his own are so closely linked, and public spirit has always characterized the administration of his official duties.



**W**ILLIAM H. ANDERSON. The native-born citizens of Lee County have in William H. Anderson one of the finest representatives of their class. He is a young man of marked enterprise and business capacity, and is one of the most extensive farmers and stock-raisers in East Grove Township, where he makes his

home on the old homestead in the house in which his birth occurred March 8, 1857.

Our subject is the son of Fenwick Anderson, who was born in 1818 and was one of the foremost and most successful of the pioneers of this part of the county, who did much to encourage its growth, and is now living in retirement in the village of Ohio, in the adjoining county of Bureau, enjoying the wealth that he accumulated in former years, and looking after his property. He is a native of Scotland, but his parents, who were also natives of that country, emigrated to Canada when he was young, and settled on a farm near Ayr. Of his brothers it is recorded that Robert came to Illinois and died in Lee County; Fergus still lives on the family homestead in Canada; and William is in Australia.

Fenwick Anderson grew to a vigorous manhood under the pioneer influences of the Canadian settlement in which his parents located when they came to America. After he had attained his majority, he crossed the border line between the Queens dominion and the United States into New York, whence he subsequently came to Illinois in the early years of the settlement of this northern part of the State, and stayed awhile in Ogle County. He there met and married Janette Peake, a native of Vermont, and to them have been born thirteen children, of whom these ten grew to manhood and womanhood: Alice, wife of William Balcom; Fenwick; William H.; Frank; Albert; Emma; Fergus; Hettie, wife of John Neiss; George and Charter.

When Mr. Anderson first made his appearance in this State the country in these parts was but thinly inhabited by whites and the Indians still lingered around their old hunting grounds. He used to encounter them frequently, and once met and talked to the noted chief, Black Hawk. Mr. Anderson decided to locate permanently in Lee County, and selected a suitable site for his future home on section 34, East Grove Township. He erected a log cabin and commenced to till the soil, and later manufactured brick on his own farm, and built a substantial residence of that material. He prospered exceedingly, and in time became one of the wealthy men of the county, as he was successful in everything he undertook. He at one

time owned about a thousand acres of land, and still retains seven hundred acres. He was an extensive stock-raiser for many years, and he managed his large farming interests until 1887, when he removed to Ohio, in Bureau County, two miles from his farm, and is living retired. An idle life would by no means suit a man of his active temperament, and as his health is good and he still retains much of his physical vigor, he daily rides on horseback, chops wood, splits posts, or does any work that he desires to accomplish. He is a man of sterling worth and generous nature, and holds a warm place in the hearts of many whom he has befriended. In the early days of the settlement of the country many a man who came here burdened by a heritage of poverty owes to him a start in life, as he used to furnish such settlers with team, wagon and seed-grain, allowing them to pay for the same when convenient. He was prominent in public life as Supervisor and Justice of the Peace for many years, and in him the Republican party has had one of the most staunch supporters, who has advocated its principles since the early days of its organization.

William H. Anderson was reared on the farm that is still his home, and received a common-school education. He early evinced a taste for agriculture, and is now successfully engaged in large farming operations, having five hundred acres of land under his management. He has every convenience for conducting his work after the most approved methods, and his pastures are well stocked with cattle and horses of the best breeds. He is bright, prompt and alert, keeping pace with the times in all things, and, besides being a thorough-going farmer, has a record as a public official, as he has been a School Director, and has represented his township on the County Board of Supervisors. In politics, he, too, like his father, is a Republican to the heart's core.

We should leave this review of the life of our subject incomplete did we not refer to his marriage and to his household. In January, 1883, he was married to Miss Kate O'Neil, a daughter of Thomas and Mary O'Neil. She is a native of Philadelphia, Pa., and her parents are now well-known residents of the village of Ohio in Bureau County.

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J. C. Hart

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have a home that is attractive in its appointments and surroundings, and three children complete their pleasant family circle, whom they have named William F., Seth and Nettie.



REV. JOHN E. HART, who is well known as an evangelist and an active minister in the United Brethren Church, and is an influence for much good in this community, is also connected with the agricultural life of this county as a practical farmer, having a good farm on section 11, South Dixon Township, which he has improved and made a pleasant home. His native place is in Erie County, Pa., and November 19, 1833, is the date of his birth, his parents being Chauncey and Magdalena (Somes) Hart.

The father of our subject was born in Connecticut of New England parents, and came of the original Yankee stock. In early life he was a farmer and a brewer, and when a young man he worked in a brewery in Rochester, N. Y., where he lived until past the meridian of life. He then removed to Pennsylvania, and followed farming in that State a number of years. When an old man he came to Illinois in 1866, and settled on a small farm in Nachusa Township. He did not live long in his new home, as death claimed him eighteen months later, in the early part of 1868, he being then seventy-five years of age. He was an honest, hard-working man of unblemished character, and left behind him an honorable life record. In early years he was a Whig, but transferred his allegiance to the Republican party after its formation. A man of true piety, he was an almost life-long member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, dying firm in the faith. His widow survived him a few years, and then passed away in Chenango County, at the age of seventy-seven. She was a noble woman and a sincere Methodist in religion.

Our subject was one of eleven children, of whom seven are yet living. He was five years old when his parents removed from his birthplace

to Venango County, in the same State, and he lived there until he came to Illinois in 1865. He began to farm in Dixon Township, and in 1873 purchased his present home in South Dixon Township. He has devoted all his spare time to its improvement, has its ninety-five and one-half acres under excellent tillage, has erected a good set of buildings, and has a neat and orderly place that adds much to the attractiveness of this portion of the township.

It is not merely as a tiller of the soil, however, that our reverend subject has won for himself an enduring place among our most honored citizens, but also by his earnest work as a preacher of the Gospel. He has been a local minister in the United Brethren Church for many years, and for the past six years has been regularly licensed. He has become quite widely known in his church as an evangelist of much power, who is very successful in bringing in recruits to the church, and his services are often sought. He is a man of true Christian spirit, has an ardent love for his sacred calling, and puts his whole soul into the work. He is not only a great worker in the church, but also in the Sunday-school, and has been very active in building up these nurseries of the church, as he believes that in them a child often lays the foundation of a high moral and Christian character. He is Superintendent of the Sunday-school connected with his church in this town, and under his fostering care it is growing in strength and numbers. All good causes find in him a champion, and especially is he interested in the great temperance movement, believing firmly in legislation to eradicate the evil, and adhering to prohibition in politics.

The Rev. Mr. Hart was first married in Venango County, Pa., to Miss Catherine Best, who was born in Pennsylvania but was reared in the State of New York, returning to her native State to marry. She accompanied her husband to the new home in Lee County, but was not destined to share it with him long, as she died one month after their arrival in 1865, aged thirty years. She left five children, namely: Alice, who died at the age of nineteen, Alsa, who married Charles Bossmeyer, and died at the age of thirty-four, her hus-

band being also now deceased; Chauncey, a farmer in South Dixon, who married Ida Uhl; Mary, who died at the age of twenty years; and Horatio, who died in childhood. Our subject was a second time married in this county, Mrs. Sarah M. Beaty, *née* Brink, becoming his wife. She was a native of the State of New York, and came to Illinois in her girlhood. She married Frank Beaty, who enlisted in a Venango County, Pa., regiment during the late war and sacrificed his life while yet it was in his prime for his country, dying of some disease contracted while in the army. Mrs. Hart is a member of the United Brethren Church, heartily sympathizes with her husband in his work, and aids him by her co-operation.

In connection with this sketch may be found a lithographic portrait of Mr. Hart.



**D**ANIEL M. HARRIS and his good wife are well known and honored throughout Lee County as among the oldest settlers now living within its borders. They were pioneers of Wyoming Township, coming here many years ago in their early married life to improve a farm from the virgin soil and make a home in the wilderness. They are now comfortably and happily passing their declining years amid the scenes of their early toils, and are well fortified against want by the fruits of their united labors.

Mr. Harris was born in the town of Summer Hill, Cayuga County, N. Y., July 9, 1825. His father, also named Daniel, was a native of New Hampshire, born in the town of Richmond, April 12, 1794. He was a son of Joseph Harris, who is supposed to have been a native of New England. He was a farmer and spent the last years of his life in Vermont. The maiden name of his wife was Martha Mason. She was born April 2, 1767.

The father of our subject was reared in Vermont, and after marriage moved from there to Summer Hill, Cayuga County, N. Y., where he bought a tract of timber land, and hewed a farm from the forest wilds. About an acre of his land was cleared and the rest was covered with a dense growth of tim-

ber, through which deer and other kinds of game roamed at will. A log house stood on the place at the time of purchase, which he afterward replaced by a good set of frame buildings. The original dwelling, which was the birthplace of our subject, was a rude structure, without glass in the windows, the light being admitted through greased paper. They found their way to their new home by blazed trees. There were no railways in that part of the country for years, no markets, and there was but little money in circulation. Standing timber was of but little value, and large logs were piled together and burned to get them out of the way, the ashes being carefully gathered together and traded at the stores for supplies. The mother of our subject used to card, spin and weave all the cloth in use by the family for years, making linen cloth with which to clothe the family in summer, and cloth of wool for winter wear. The father of our subject had the assistance of his children in the pioneer task of clearing his farm, and he resided on it until they were grown. He then sold it and bought a smaller place in the same county, where he made his home during the remainder of his mortal existence, his death occurring June 26, 1861.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Miriam Page, and she was born in Coopers-town, N. Y., March 27, 1798. She spent many of her last years with our subject, but her death finally took place at the home of her son, Parker M., at Paw Paw, October 29, 1886, at a venerable age. She was the mother of ten children; of these seven grew to maturity: Luther R., Alfred, Daniel M., Mary A., James, Martha E., and Parker M. Parker M., Daniel and Martha are the only survivors of the family. The latter is the wife of Charles Jones, of whom a sketch appears on another page of this volume.

Our subject attended the early schools of his native county, and assisted his father on the farm during his boyhood. He lived with his parents until 1846, and then paid a visit to Lee County, at which time he entered a tract of Government land on sections 8 and 5, of what is now Wyoming Township. Returning in a short time to Cayuga County, he resumed work on his father's farm.



In the fall of 1848, he took an important step whereby he secured one of life's choicest blessings, a true wife, in the person of Christie Ann Adaline Carmer, to whom he was wedded on the 29th day of November. She was born in Dryden, Tompkins County, N. Y., January 22, 1830. Her father, John Carmer, is thought to have been a native of the same State, and was a son of Abram Carmer. The father of the latter was Isaac Carmer, in early life a resident of New Jersey, but his last years were spent in Dryden, N. Y., in working at his occupation as a farmer, as long as he engaged in active business. His life was prolonged to the remarkable age of one hundred and three years. He was a soldier of the Revolution. Mrs. Harris' grandfather was a farmer, and the last part of his life was passed in Tompkins County. The father of Mrs. Harris was reared on a farm, and adopted farming as his life work, owning and occupying a farm at Dryden, where he died at a ripe age. The maiden name of his wife was Huldah Hart, and she was a native of New Jersey.

In the spring of 1849, our subject came again to Lee County, this time with a view to permanently settling here, and bringing with him his young wife. They started on their momentous journey from their old home to the new with many hopes and fears for the untried future. They journeyed by rail to Buffalo, where they embarked on the Great Lakes for Chicago, whence they went by canal to Ottawa, and from that city to their destination in Lee County with a team. After their arrival they occupied one room of William Strader's house until Mr. Harris could build one on his own land. At that time the surrounding country had advanced but little from its original wildness, settlements were few and far between, and the abundance of deer and other game showed that civilization had made but little headway in this region. The pioneers had to go to Chicago as the nearest market where they could obtain supplies, and in the absence of railways all transportation was done with teams. It was by that means that our subject procured the lumber to build his first house. He has been a resident of Wyoming Township continuously since his arrival here with his wife in that beautiful spring now

lying back in the past forty-two years, with the exception of the year and a half that he spent in his native State within that time, and three months at Dundee, Ill. He has been blessed in his work, and with the cheerful co-operation of his wife has accumulated a comfortable property.

But few have such a record for long and faithful church-membership as Mr. and Mrs. Harris. They both united with the Baptist Church in their native State when very young, he being ten years old and she twelve at the time of their admission, and for more than sixty years they have been true to the religious vows made in their childhood. Their marriage has been blessed with children, of whom they have three: William Arthur, who married Mary Wheat for his first wife, who died leaving one child, and his second marriage was with Maude Manwaring, and they have four children living; Evert M., the second son, who married Mattie Monteith, and they have four children; and Dale Eugene, who married Katie Sayres, and they have four children.



**E**LIAS BOVEY, an extensive lumber dealer of Dixon, claims Maryland as the State of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Washington County on the 19th of June, 1838. His father, Jacob Bovey, a native of Pennsylvania, was of French and German descent, his ancestors having settled in the Keystone State long years prior to the Revolutionary War. As a farmer and mechanic he grew to manhood and afterwards engaged in merchandising. When a young man he accompanied his parents to Maryland, and in that State wedded Delila Kressinger, a native of Virginia, descended from an old Virginian family of German origin. She, too, had gone to Maryland when young. In 1843 Mr. Bovey, accompanied by his wife and four children, started overland with teams to Illinois, having determined to try his fortune on the broad prairies of the new and growing West. South of Mt. Morris he settled and entered two hundred and forty acres of land, and


also purchased a partially improved claim. After many years devoted to agricultural pursuits, he was called to his final rest in 1879, at the age of seventy-two years. His wife is now living in Mt. Morris, and although now well advanced in life, the infirmities of old age do not press heavily upon her. She holds membership with the United Brethren Church, as did her husband. In politics he was a Republican, but never sought political preferment.

Our subject was the second in order of birth in their family of children, six of whom are yet living. When a lad of five summers he came to Illinois and his early education, acquired in the district schools of Ogle County, was supplemented by a course of study in Mt. Morris Seminary. Thus was he well fitted for the practical duties of life, and the way in which he has met all obstacles and disadvantages in his path shows that he has the native determination and energy to succeed, whatever comes. Since 1867 he has resided in Lee County, and in 1872 he embarked in his present business. His location is now on Water Street, and the large stock of lumber which he carries shows that he has an excellent trade. Mr. Bovey is a man of excellent business ability, sagacious and far-sighted and by the exercise of correct principles has won prosperity.

Mr. Bovey was united in marriage with Jennie Buekaloo, a native of this county. Her death occurred in Dixon, at the age of thirty-three years, and a daughter was left to mourn her loss—Emma, who was educated in Dixon and Evanston College, and is now assisting her father in office work. Mr. Bovey was again married in this city, his second union being with Miss Addie Clute, one of Dixon's fair daughters. Her parents, John W. and Henrietta (Peterson) Clute, early settlers of the county, are now residing in Dixon, where their daughter spent the days of her maidenhood and acquired her education. One child graces the second marriage—a son, Richard.

Mr. Bovey, his wife and children, are all members of the Methodist Church, in which he serves as trustee, class leader and steward. One of its consistent members, he is an active worker in the Master's vineyard and takes a deep interest in the

growth and upbuilding of the church. To its support he contributes liberally and his efforts in its behalf have proven of much benefit to the society. In politics he is an inflexible adherent of Republican principles, having long supported that party.



JAMES L. MCGINNIS, who owns and operates a well-improved farm of seventy-three acres on section 1, Palmyra Township, that has been in the possession of the family since 1838, was born in New York on North River, August 22, 1831. For some years during his boyhood, he was reared in the heart of what is now Central Park, the most famous resort of that kind in New York City. His father, Stewart McGinnis, was born in the North of Ireland, February 22, 1802, and was of Scotch-Irish descent. His father died when he was quite young and with his mother he afterward came to the United States. Some years previous, his elder brother James, had crossed the Atlantic, and in the War of 1812 fought for his adopted country. This little family settled in New York City, where the mother died at an advanced age, and her son James some years later. Stewart McGinnis, father of our subject, became an architect, learning his trade in New York City, and built the first saw and planing mill in the Empire State. In fact, it was one of the first in the East. This so enraged the laboring people that they tried to organize a mob to kill him, as they thought such an enterprise would ruin the working classes. Later, Mr. McGinnis built many sugar mills between New York City and New Orleans, and while thus engaged lost his life on a burning vessel in 1838. He was a prominent man in his day in the East and in the Southern States. Although of Irish birth, he was a Protestant in religious belief.

In New York City Mr. McGinnis married Miss Mary Law, sister of Dr. G. H. Law, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. She was born in County Antrim, Ireland, February 24, 1813, and was a maiden of only five summers when her parents came to the United States in 1818. She is yet living at the age of seventy-nine years and

makes her home with her son William. Her mental and physical faculties she retains to a remarkable degree and she yet does much work in her flower garden, which is a most beautiful spot. Throughout life she has been a member of the Presbyterian Church, and by those who know her she is greatly beloved. Her family is noted for longevity, her mother having reached the advanced age of one hundred and two years. Four of the children are yet living: Margaret makes her home with her mother; our subject is the next younger; Keziah is the widow of Marcus Bryant, who was a nephew of William Cullen Bryant, the poet, and her home is in Princeton, Ill.; William, the other member of the family, was born and reared in the Empire State but has spent the greater part of his life in Lee County, where he now owns a seventy-three-acre farm in Palmyra Township. He enlisted for the late war in 1861, as a member of Company A, Thirtieth Illinois Infantry, under Capt. Noble and Col. Wyman, the regiment joining the Western Army. He participated in the battles of White River, Vicksburg, Chickasaw Bayou, the Siege of Vicksburg, the battles of Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Ringgold Valley and many others of less importance. He was always found at his post of duty, ready to respond to every call, and throughout the service escaped uninjured, save that he lost one finger, which was shot off at the Siege of Vicksburg. With the exception of three years spent at Princeton, Ill., since coming West he has resided continuously in Lee County, and is one of its honored and respected farmers, esteemed by all for his sterling worth.

James McGinnis has been a resident of the county since 1839. He was a lad of but eight years at the time of his arrival and in his boyhood was inured to the hardships of farm labor and the experiences of pioneer life. He has made agriculture his life work, and carried it on uninterruptedly, with the exception of a short period spent in California. In 1852 he crossed the plains with a team of oxen and yoke of cows and spent five years in the mines, meeting with fair success. He returned by way of the Isthmus of Panama in 1857, and after one year spent in St. Paul, Minn., again came to Illinois.

The lady who is now Mrs. McGinnis bore the name of Mary Becker. She was born in Reading, Pa., August 28, 1834, and was quite young when with her parents she came West. Her family is mentioned fully in the sketch of Charles A. Becker. Her education was acquired in Chicago and she is a lady of intelligence and culture. Unto Mr. and Mrs. McGinnis have been born nine children, and the family circle yet remains unbroken. In order of birth they are as follows: W. Charles, Ella, Mabel, James F., Keziah, Mark E., Harry, Oliver and Paul, all at home except W. Charles, who married Miss Sarah E. Hodge, and resides in Dixon, Ill. The McGinnis household is noted for its hospitality, and the members of the family rank high in the social world. Father and sons are all Republicans in political belief. Our subject is one of the well-known citizens of this community, and as a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family well deserves representation in this volume.



**J**OSEPH UTLEY. Foremost in the various enterprises that have contributed to the lasting prosperity of Dixon was Joseph Utley, deceased. He was born in Weston, N. Y., and was descended from New England ancestors, his grandfather having been a tanner in Connecticut and later a resident of Lewis County, N. Y. The father of our subject, Henry, was also a tanner and followed his trade in Weston, engaging in the manufacture of harness, saddles, trunks, boots and shoes for upwards of sixty years. Grandmother Sarah (Morse) Utley, was a native of New England and died in Weston, at the venerable age of ninety-six.

After engaging in the manufacture of leather at Westernville for a number of years, Mr. Utley visited Dixon in 1855 and was so greatly pleased with the village that he returned the following year and opened a leather and saddle store in partnership with Austin Morse. In 1859 he sold his interest in his native place, and removing his family to Dixon, settled in this city permanently, and

from that time until the day of his death, March 19, 1889, he was one of its most useful and progressive citizens.

In the spring of 1860 Mr. Utley sold his business to the firm of Morse & Benjamin, after which he retired from active business. A man of great enterprise, push and energy, he always took the lead in any undertaking for the good of the community. He was appointed Canal Commissioner by Gov. Palmer and served eight years in that capacity, being President of the Board during six years of that time. It was mainly through his exertions and influence that the first appropriation for the improvement of the canal was obtained from the Government, the money being expended for the building of the locks at Henry.

Mr. Utley was one of the most ardent champions of the Hennepin Canal. At a meeting held in Richmond for the purpose of securing aid from the Government for the improvement of Southern waterways, he introduced a resolution asking the United States Government to make an appropriation for the construction of the Hennepin Canal, which was unanimously adopted by the convention in 1885. He went before the New York Legislature and secured the unanimous endorsement of that body and the passage of the resolution instructing the Representatives and Senators of that State in the National Legislature to vote for an appropriation for the building of the canal. Mr. Utley was profoundly versed in all that relates to canals and knew the cost of transportation through every canal in the world and the tonnage of its shipping.

March 25, 1839, Mr. Utley was married to Miss Frances Church, daughter of Seth and Clarissa (Turner) Church. She was born in Westernville, N. Y., March 31, 1816, where she was also reared. Her grandfather, Josiah Church, was probably a native of Rhode Island, whence he removed to Oneida County, N. Y., and bought a tract of land in Westernville. For many years after his settlement there were no railways, and Albany, one hundred miles away, was the nearest market. The maiden name of his wife was Maria Clark.

Seth Church, father of Mrs. Utley, was born in Rhode Island. During the war of 1812 he served

as musician in a New York regiment, and engaged in the trade of a cabinet maker at Westernville until his death. His wife, Clarissa (Turner) Church, was a native of Vermont, and a daughter of Nathaniel and Mary (Bartholomew) Turner.

The married life of our subject and his wife was one of uninterrupted happiness until death separated them, within six days of the anniversary that would have marked their golden wedding. They reared three children: Edward B., who resides in Dixon; Clara, wife of A. C. Bardwell, and Henry J., a graduate of Bellevue College, New York City, and now a physician of Springfield. Mr. Utley was an ardent Republican in his political views and was a strong supporter of his party. In his death the community lost one of its best citizens, who had always made its interests his own and who in dying left behind him a record of devotion to public work well worthy of emulation.



**D**R. GEORGE W. L. BROWN stands in the front rank of the medical profession in Lee County.

He has been engaged in practice in Dixon since 1878, and the liberal patronage accorded him attests his skill and ability. He was born in Greensboro, Pa., October 26, 1846. The family is of English descent and was founded in this country by his great grandfather, Richard Brown, who emigrated from England and made a settlement in Philadelphia, Pa., where he married. Some years later he went to Western Pennsylvania and Virginia, and purchased large tracts of land in both States, but his last days were spent in the City of Brotherly Love. In religion he was an Episcopalian. George M. Brown, the grandfather of our subject, after the death of his father, took possession of the large landed estates left him in Western Pennsylvania and Virginia, and there spent his last years. He died of pneumonia when nearly four-score years of age. He was a wealthy and prominent citizen of that community, widely and favorably known. He married Letitia McFarland a native of Virginia, of Scotch descent, whose death occurred in 1846 of yellow fever, while on a

visit in Southern Virginia. She was a noble Christian woman and held membership with the Baptist Church. The descendants of this worthy couple are prominent people of Pennsylvania and Virginia.

John C. Brown, the father of our subject, was born on his father's homestead in Pennsylvania in 1815. In his boyhood he was surrounded by the comforts of life, and he became a successful business man. In the Keystone State he married Elizabeth Hopton, who was also born in Pennsylvania, her parents being Jesse and Sarah (Finch) Hopton. Her father and mother were both born in Philadelphia, and reared in the faith of the Society of Friends. In their native city they were married, after which they located in Greene County, Pa., near the old Brown homestead, where they lived and died. Mr. Hopton was about eighty-four years of age at the time of his death and was one of the prominent citizens of the community in which he made his home. His wife died at the age of sixty-five years.

After his marriage, John C. Brown and his wife located in Greensboro, Pa., where he had an interest in and operated a glass manufactory for some time. In 1849, he removed to Monongalia County, W. Va., where he engaged in farming. Some years later he returned to the old Brown homestead in Greene County, Pa., where he and his wife are still living. He is now seventy-seven years of age but is still hale and hearty although he has been a cripple since the war. He served in the Union Army throughout the Rebellion and at Mt. Jackson, Va., was severely wounded. He was also captured at that time and held a prisoner for three months, when with others he was recaptured by Gen. Sheridan when he made his famous ride. His wound had been neglected and it seemed that he could not recover from his injuries but after some time spent in the hospital he gradually regained his health and was finally discharged. The cause of abolition found in him a staunch supporter and he is to-day a stalwart Republican in politics. Himself and wife are active workers in the Methodist Episcopal Church, although the lady was reared a Quaker. They have never, in their married life, had death enter their household. Their children and grand-

children are all yet living. They have three sons: Dr. William A., a physician of the regular school, practicing in Dunkard, Pa., married Leah Whetstone and they have five children; our subject is the second; Jesse E. lives on the old homestead with his parents.

We now take up the personal history of Dr. Brown, whose name heads this sketch. When he was three years old his parents removed to Monongalia County, W. Va., where he attended the common schools. Subsequently he was a student in Greene Academy, of Carmichael's, Pa., where his literary education was completed. Wishing to make the practice of medicine his life work, in 1865 he entered the office of Dr. G. W. John, of Stewartstown, W. Va., and after two years entered the Philadelphia University of Medicine and Surgery, at the same time having access to the Pennsylvania Hospital of that city. Having graduated in 1869, he took charge of his preceptor's practice in Stewartstown, and a year later went to Meyersdale, Pa., where he engaged in practice for eight years when he sold his "good will" and practice to Dr. J. Ernest Meiere, of Washington, D. C. He removed to Illinois and matriculated at the Hahnemann Medical College, of Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1878. In Dixon, where he located immediately after his graduation, he has built a large and lucrative practice among the best class of citizens. He believes that a doctor should be a student in his profession, and ever keeps himself abreast with the times and the discoveries in the science.

In Meyersdale, Pa., Dr. Brown was joined in wedlock with Miss Maggie, daughter of Josiah and Matilda (Beachy) Miller, who were natives of Pennsylvania but are now deceased. Her mother died when Mrs. Brown was only three years old and Mr. Miller passed away in 1887, aged seventy-two years, dying in the faith of the Lutheran Church. Mrs. Brown was the third in order of age in a family of four children, her birth occurring in Meyersdale, Pa., November 22, 1846. Unto the Doctor and his wife have been born three children: Charles LeRoy, Edna Florence and George Harold.

The parents are both prominent members of the

Methodist Episcopal Church, in which the Doctor has served as steward for fourteen years. He also takes quite a prominent part in political affairs. He is an active Republican and has twice served as delegate to the Congressional conventions of this party. Socially he is a Mason, belonging to Friendship Lodge, Nachusa Chapter and Dixon Commandery, Knights Templar, in which he has filled all the chairs and is the present Eminent Commander of Dixon Commandery, No. 21, K. T. He is also Past Grand of Dale Lodge, I. O. O. F., of Meyersdale, Pa. The Doctor has a very wide acquaintance throughout this community and in social as well as professional circles both he and his estimable wife are held in high regard.



JAMES H. GILMAN, who is recognized as one of the leading and influential citizens of Nachusa Township, is now engaged in general farming on section 18. He is a native of the old Granite State, his birth having occurred in Rockingham County, October 4, 1826. His father, Theophilus Gilman, was born in Brentwood, N. H., and was an own cousin of Gen. Cass, and belongs to the same family from which ex-Governor Gilman sprang. By occupation he was a farmer and followed that business throughout his entire life. In his native State he married Miss Anna F. Roby, who also came of an early New England family of prominence, ex-Governor Roby being one of her kinsmen. She was a member of the Congregational Church and died in her native State. When about sixty-five years of age, Mr. Gilman was accidentally scalded with hot water and his death resulted from the injuries sustained. In their family were three children who grew to mature years, but our subject has only one sister now living and one half-brother, Daniel a, resident of Tacoma, Wash.

Mr. Gilman has been twice married, his first union being with Miss Mary Fogg, who died leaving one son, Jerome, now a house and carriage painter of Wellington, Kan., who married Gertrude Cox.

Returning to Providence, R. I., he was joined in wedlock with Marcy Healey, who on the maternal side is a direct descendant of Roger Williams, the founder of the Rhode Island Colony. Her father was James Healey and her grandfather was John Healey. They both spent their entire lives in Rhode Island where the former followed the trade of a tanner and the latter engaged in farming. Prominent men of their day, they were well known throughout the community. The mother of Mrs. Gilman was Martha Angel, daughter of Capt. Jesse Angel, who was a sea captain for many years and died at the age of eighty. Mrs. Healey passed away at the age of seventy-two years. Both the Healey and Angel families were members of the Society of Friends.

When the late war broke out, James H. Gilman responded to the President's call for troops, enlisting in August, 1862, as a member of Company K, Fourteenth New Hampshire Infantry, under Capt. Oliver Martson and Col. Robert Wilson. The regiment went into camp at Washington, D. C., and after spending some time in the vicinity of that city went to Harper's Ferry, later to New York City and subsequently to New Orleans, in March, 1863. In June, following, we find the troops at Morganza Bend, where the regiment joined the Nineteenth Army Corps under Gen. Banks. They marched north, participating in the campaign in the Shenandoah Valley, met the enemy at the battle of Winchester and in the Cedar Creek engagement. After three years of faithful service, during which time he won credit and honor as a loyal soldier, Mr. Gilman was honorably discharged and returned to his home in New Hampshire.

It was not long after this that Mr. Gilman again went South for the purpose of raising cotton, but this venture proved a failure and he came to Illinois, where he has made a good home and become a successful and progressive farmer. In 1869 he purchased land on section 18, Nachusa Township, to which he removed the following year, and in the period which has since elapsed has made of it one of the best homes in the community. The neat and thrifty appearance of the place indicates the enterprise of the owner, who is a careful and painstaking manager. In connection with general

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W. P. Hampton



farming Mr. Gilman also engaged in teaching for many years with marked success, and the same profession was followed by his estimable wife from the age of fifteen to fifty years. For some time after her marriage she continued to pursue that vocation, in fact, did not abandon it until 1879. She is a lady of culture and refinement who presides with grace over their comfortable home, where hospitality and good will reign supreme. Both Mr. and Mrs. Gilman are people of superior intelligence and their friends throughout the community are many. In politics, he is a staunch Republican, and in religious belief his wife is a Free-will Baptist.



**W**ILLIAM P. HAMPTON, whose home is pleasantly situated on section 12, Wyoming Township, has been a resident of Lee County for thirty-six years, has assisted in its agricultural development, and may well be classed among its pioneers. He was born May 6, 1823, his birthplace being about fifty miles from the city of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, Canada. His father, James Hampton, was a native of Pennsylvania, and so was the grandfather for aught that is known to the contrary, he being a descendant of one of three brothers that came to America in Colonial times, one of them settling in New Jersey one in Nova Scotia, and the remaining one in South Carolina. The grandfather of our subject went from Pennsylvania to Canada, and was a pioneer of the Province of Ontario, where he secured a tract of timber and hewed a farm from the primeval forests, on which he resided until death called him hence.

The father of our subject was quite young when his parents went to Canada, where he grew to man's estate, and married. In 1838 he emigrated from there to Missouri, making the removal with teams. After spending nearly a year in the sparsely settled wilds of the western part of that State, he retraced his way Eastward as far as Illinois, and settling near Quincy, gave his attention to farming. He enlisted in the army during the Mexican War, and

accompanying his regiment to Santa Fe, died there while in the service.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Clarissa McCarty, and she was a native of Bavaria, N. Y. Her father, William McCarty, was a Captain of the State Militia, and did honorable service in the War of 1812. He settled in Canada in an early day, and followed farming there until his demise, and many of his descendants are living there yet. After the father's death the mother of our subject married a second time, becoming the wife of Bailey Breese. She spent her last days with her daughter Mrs. Brownlow of Paw Paw, dying at the age of eighty-nine years.

William Hampton was a stalwart lad of fifteen years when he came to the States with his parents. He had to assist in the support of the family and when his father died became the sole support of his mother and the younger children. In 1848 he came to Illinois, and at first rented land in De Kalb County, but soon bought an eighty-acre tract of wild prairie land at \$1.25 per acre. In 1852 he caught the gold fever and started for California. He went first to Quincy on horseback and visited friends in that city a few days, and then joined the wagon-train with which he was going to cross the plains at Burlington. Pushing on as rapidly as possible the party crossed the Missouri River at St. Joseph the 20th of May.

At that time there were no white settlers between that river and California, except the Mormons at Salt Lake and soldiers and missionaries. Our subject arrived in California in September, and engaged in mining for a time, after which he opened a temperance hotel at Cold Springs, Eldorado County. A year later he abandoned that to resume mining at Diamond Spring, and remained there until 1855, when he decided to gather his gains together and come back to Illinois. He returned by the way of the Isthmus, and settled on his land in Paw Paw Township. He was actively engaged in farming there until 1866, when he sold his farm in that locality, and removed to his present residence on section 12, Wyoming Township.

While a resident of California, Mr. Hampton, was married to Miss Amanda J. Weddell, their marriage being solemnized May 16, 1853. Mrs.

Hampton was born in Westmoreland County, Pa., June 24, 1823, and was a daughter of Jesse Weddell, who was born in the same place. His father was a native of Wales, and coming to America in Colonial times, he settled among the pioneers of what is now Westmoreland County, Pa. His son Jesse was reared and married in his native State, and in 1831 removed from there with his family to Indiana, and was a pioneer of Goshen, where he died. The maiden name of his wife was Nancy Davis. She was born in Pennsylvania in 1800, and is now living with her son, W. B. Weddell at Rollo, De Kalb County.

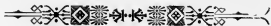
In 1853 Mrs. Hampton, her brother P. M. Weddell, and their friend Henry Zinn, started for California. They sailed from New York on the steamer "Northern Light," and on the west side of the Isthmus of Panama embarked on the steamer "Independence." All went well until off the island of St. Marguette the steamer was wrecked, and then burned, and four hundred passengers were lost, including Mrs. Hampton's brother and their friend Zinn. She was one of the last to leave the burning steamer, and being washed ashore on a desert island, was picked up insensible from the shock that she received. After three days a whaling vessel came along and taking the survivors on board, carried them to their destination.

In California better fortunes awaited Mrs. Hampton, as there she met and married our subject, as before mentioned. She made him a true wife, and they lived happily together until her death August 31, 1889. They reared these three children: Clara A. Fanny R. and Effie. Clara married Oscar Lambert and died March 5, 1889, leaving two children, Willie and Vernon. Fanny, who makes her home with her father, married Julian Hoge, who died March 28, 1890, leaving these six children: Darlene, Emerson, Edward, Glenn, Perry and Clara. Effie married Frank Sloeum, and they have five children: Beatrice, Iva, Ethel, Glenn and Paul.

Mr. Hampton is a man worthy in every respect of the high esteem in which he is held by his neighbors and friends in general. His conduct in all the relations of life that he sustains towards others shows him to be a sincere Christian. He and his wife joined the Congregational Church many years ago

but as there is no church of that denomination here he is now of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Socially he is a member of Corinthian Lodge, No. 205, A. F. & A. M.; and of Spartan Lodge, No 272, I. O. O. F.

In connection with his biographical notice may be found a lithographic portrait of Mr. Hampton.



**F**RANKLIN W. WOODFORD, an intelligent and respected farmer residing on section 28, Dixon Township, is the only son of Truman O. and Harriet (Alexander) Woodford. His father was a native of Connecticut and with his parents, Truman Woodford, when a small lad, removed to Onondaga County, N. Y., the family locating in the wilds of Pompey Township, far from any other settlement. There they spent the remainder of their lives, the father dying at the age of ninety years, while the mother was called to her final rest at the age of eighty. They were both members of the Presbyterian Church. Truman O. Woodford was the fourth in order of birth in their family of six sons and three daughters, of whom two sons and two daughters are yet living in the Empire State. One of the family, Harvey M., now deceased, was a soldier of the War of 1812.

The father of our subject was the only one who came West. In Onondaga County, N. Y., he married Miss Alexander, who was born in that county and was a daughter of Solomon and Elizabeth (Maxwell) Alexander, who came of New England families of Scotch origin. They lived upon a farm in Onondaga County, where the death of Mr. Alexander occurred at the age of ninety years, his wife dying in her fifty-first year. It was in 1855 that Truman O. Woodford brought his family to Lee County, Ill., and located on the farm now occupied by our subject. It was then a wild and barren tract of land but he transformed it into rich and fertile fields. Some years later he removed to Dixon, where he lived a retired life until called to the home beyond in 1883, at the age of seventy-six years. His wife is still living in Dixon, and although now seventy-eight years of age, retains both

her mental and physical faculties to a remarkable degree. She is a lady well known throughout the community and is greatly beloved by her many friends. Mr. Woodford voted with the Republican party and in religious belief was a Presbyterian. Besides our subject, there was only one other child in the family, a daughter, Louisa, who is now the wife of Isaac W. McCasky, a merchant of Chicago.

Franklin Woodford, one of the well known and highly respected citizens of Dixon Township, was born in the town of Pompey, Onondaga County, in 1833. When his parents emigrated to Illinois, he accompanied them and located upon the old home farm which his father had purchased in 1852. It is now his property and comprises three hundred acres of arable land, under a high state of cultivation. This desirable and valuable farm is pleasantly situated on the outskirts of Dixon, in fact adjoins the city limits near Rock River Park. Its close proximity thus enables the family to enjoy the comforts and luxuries of city life as well as the pleasures of country life. On the east the farm is bordered by the Rock River, which is another attractive feature of the place. The improvements there seen are many and are in keeping with the enterprising and progressive spirit of the owner. The place is well stocked and in all its appointments the farm is most complete.

Mr. Woodford was a single man when he came to Illinois, however, he soon afterwards returned to the Empire State and the cause of the journey was explained when he brought back with him a bride. The maiden name of the lady was Rosetta Potter, and she is a native of Erie County, N. Y. Her parents, Levi and Lydia (Gould) Potter, were also born in Erie County, where they grew to mature years and were married. Mr. Potter for some time followed farming and also engaged in merchandising. After the birth and marriage of their only child, Mrs. Woodford, they came West, locating in Chicago, where Mr. Potter died in 1878, at the age of sixty years. Four years previous his wife had been called to her final home, at the age of fifty-two. He had been reared under the auspices of the Society of Friends but was excommunicated on account of marrying outside of the church, his wife being a Universalist. He had taken quite a

prominent part in public affairs, was a staunch Republican in politics, filled a number of minor offices and while residing in New York represented his district in the State Legislature.

Mrs. Woodford received excellent educational advantages and attended school in East Hamburg. By her marriage she has become the mother of five children: Burt P., II. Louise, Mary L., Julia Marion and Agnes II. The family circle yet remains unbroken. The children were all provided with good educational advantages, having attended the city schools of Dixon and are thereby well fitted for the practical duties of life. The family is one well and favorably known throughout the community and in social circles its members rank high. In politics, Mr. Woodford is a Republican but has never sought the honor of emoluments of political office. About thirty-seven years have passed since he came to the county and with the history of its development and progress he has since been connected. All social, educational and moral interests find in him a friend and among the valued and representative citizens of the community is numbered the gentleman whose name heads this sketch.



**J**OSEPH T. LITTLE, Deputy County Treasurer of Lee County, well deserves representation in this volume for he has been a resident of Dixon since 1839, and in the years that have since elapsed has been prominently connected with its history, its growth and its up-building. A native of the Pine Tree State, he was born in Castine, Me., April 24, 1817. His father, Major Otis Little, was born in Massachusetts, but spent the greater part of his life in Hancock County, Me., where he engaged in merchandising, doing business as a West Indian merchant. He was counsel for a number of the Governors of that State and for years served as Major of the State Militia. Prominent and influential in public affairs, he was a valued citizen of the community in which he made his home and had a wide acquaintance throughout the State. In politics, he

was a Whig and afterward a Republican. He died in Hancock County, Me., at the age of seventy-seven years. His wife, whose name was Dorothy Perkins, was born in the Pine Tree State, where she died at the age of seventy-seven years and was a true helpmate and faithful companion to her husband. Both the Major and his wife were members of the Congregational Church.

In the schools of his native county, Joseph Little acquired his education and when twenty-two years of age left home with the determination to seek his fortune in the West. He chose Dixon, Ill., as the scene of his future labors. This was in 1839, and the city was then a small hamlet. He has since aided in its growth and development and the important part which he has taken in its progress links his name inseparably with its history. The year after his arrival he returned to his native State and the object of his journey was explained when, on again coming to Illinois, he brought with him his bride. Her maiden name was Eleanor W. Cobb, and in Castine, Me., she was born on the 12th of April, 1818. Her grandfather, David Cobb, served as Aide-de-Camp to Gen. Washington during the Revolutionary War, and spent his last days in Mt. Vernon. The father of Mrs. Little, Thomas Cobb, was born in Taunton, Mass., and spent his entire life in Hancock and Washington Counties. He was an attorney-at-law and became quite an influential citizen of the community, where he served both as Recorder and Register of Deeds.

By the union of Mr. and Mrs. Little have been born seven children, but two are now deceased: George O., who died in childhood, and William A., who while skating was accidentally drowned in Rock River, at the age of twelve years. Thomas and Charles are extensively engaged in farming in Oregon; Joseph T. is engaged in banking and the loan business in Sioux Falls, S. Dak.; Frank W. is President of the Lincoln Electric Street Railway Company, of Lincoln, Neb. He wedded Miss Mary Trimble, of Clinton, Iowa, daughter of Rev. Mr. Trimble, an Episcopal clergyman, now located in Dakota. Mary F., the youngest of the family, is the wife of John F. Carpenter, of the firm of Brubaker & Carpenter, dry-goods merchants of Dixon.

Mr. Little has engaged in various business industries in this city. For some years he carried on merchandising and for sixteen years engaged in the nursery business, being proprietor of the Nachusa Nursery on Block 7 in Dixon. He was one of the first Trustees of the city under the old town organization, has served as Treasurer of his township, was City Alderman for some years, was one of the first School Commissioners of the county and in 1864 was elected County Treasurer. So ably did he fill that office that it led to his re-election and he served in that position until 1872. He is now Deputy Treasurer, which position he has filled two years. Every public trust reposed in him has been faithfully fulfilled and the promptness and fidelity with which he has discharged his duties won him the commendation of all concerned. He supports the Republican party and does all in his power to promote its growth and insure its success. His public and private life are alike above reproach and his word is as good as his bond. Of unquestioned integrity, he is indeed a noble and high-minded man and a worthy citizen. Himself and wife are prominent members of the Baptist Church in which Mr. Little served as Deacon for some years and was clerk for thirty-five years. They have a host of warm friends throughout this community, where for more than half a century they have now resided.

Mrs. Little is a lady of rare intelligence and refinement and of great moral worth. Possessed of fine conversational powers and pleasing address, she has always had a large circle of friends who gladly availed themselves of her society. Coming from one of the best families in New England, she brought with her the true New England hospitality and politeness, and in the early days of Lee County her house was always open to the missionary. The minister of the Gospel, of whatever name or denomination, was always welcome at her table and to the best the country afforded, and from her door the hungry and the destitute never went empty away. With a heart full of benevolence and human kindness and with a genial love for the prairies, the flowers, the streams, the clouds (when angry as well as in repose), for all that is beautiful and grand in nature, and what-

ever is pure and elevated in humanity, she has always been ready to plead the cause of the unfortunate and to help them over the rough places of life. After an experience of over fifty years of married life, her husband is a firm believer in Solomon's saying that "whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing," and also that "a prudent wife is from the Lord."



**D**EACON ISAAC E. HUNT. Of the pioneer farmers who have played so important a part in the making of Lee County and are still contributing to its material prosperity, not one is more worthy of representation in this work than Deacon Isaac Hunt, who is pleasantly passing the declining years of a life well spent in all that goes to make a good man and a true citizen on the well-ordered farm in Wyoming Township upon which he located nearly forty years ago when it was a tract of wild, unimproved land.

A pioneer himself, our subject comes of a family that from generation to generation has sent out pioneers into the wilderness to help subdue the forces of nature and settle the frontiers of the country. He was born in a pioneer home, on a farm, five miles from Liberty, Union County, Ind., November 11, 1819. His father, William H. Hunt, was a native of North Carolina, and a son of Charles Hunt, who, so far as known, was born in the same State, and was there reared and married. In the early years of the settlement of Indiana, when it was under Territorial government, he migrated thither, and became a pioneer settler of Wayne County. The remainder of his life was spent there on a farm that he cleared from the primeval forests.

The father of our subject accompanied his parents to their new home in the wilds of Indiana, and was married in that State to Elizabeth Esteb, a native of North Carolina, and a daughter of Isaac and Ruth (Moore) Esteb. She survived her husband some years, and in the latter part of her life came to Illinois, and died in the home of her

youngest son in Lee County. She reared ten children to honorable and useful lives. Both she and her husband were steadfast Christians and members of the Baptist Church. When the father of our subject began life for himself, he located on a tract of forest-covered land that he bought in Union County, and became actively identified with its pioneers. For many years after his settlement there, there were no railways, and the settlers had to go with teams to Cincinnati, sixty miles away, to market their grain and obtain their family supplies.

Mr. Hunt cleared quite a large tract of land in Union County, and made it his home until 1836, when he sold it, and removed to La Porte County, where he bought land that was part prairie and the remainder timber. At that time that section of the country was sparsely settled, and deer and other kinds of game abounded. For a time Michigan City was the nearest market. The father of our subject dwelt in La Porte County the rest of his days, making himself useful as a pioneer and a citizen, and winning the regard of his neighbors by his conduct as an upright man.

Our subject grew up under the invigorating influences of frontier life in his native State, receiving a careful training in right principles at the hands of pious parents. His education was conducted in the primitive schools of the time, which were held in log houses, that were provided with home-made furniture, the seats being made of oak slabs, with wooden pins for legs. As soon as large enough, he had to help on the farm, and he assisted his father in its management until he was twenty-three years old. At that age, he settled on land of his own in La Porte County, and was busily engaged in farming it for several years. In 1852 he sold his property in Indiana, as he had decided to try farming on the fertile soil of Lee County. He made the journey hither overland, accompanied by his wife and three children. He bought a tract of wild land in Wyoming Township, which is included in his present farm, and buying lumber at Aurora, then the nearest railway station, he erected a frame house and barn, and then devoted himself to the pioneer task of developing the rich agricultural resources of his land. He now has a farm of

one hundred and ninety-four acres of finely tilled land, amply provided with improvements of a good class, everything about the place giving evidence of his practical skill as a farmer.

Deacon Hunt has been twice married. His first marriage was with Miss Eliza A. Patterson, and they were wedded February 20, 1844. She was born in Kentucky, and died in Lee County, Ill., in 1858, leaving three sons: George W., William H. and James L., the two latter of whom live on the home farm. In February, 1859, our subject's marriage with Miss Ann E. McBride was solemnized. Of the children born to them three are now living, namely: Martha E., wife of Dr. Alfred Owens, of Dover; Frederick, a successful physician practicing his profession at Earlville; and Milton, a farmer in Cerro Gordo County, Iowa.

Throughout the many years of his life in this county, the Deacon has always borne the same high reputation as a man of sound integrity, exemplary in his habits, and strictly just and fair, kind and neighborly in his relations with his fellow-men.

For many years a consistent and valued member of the Baptist Church, he has worked earnestly in its upbuilding, and has contributed to its usefulness as a religious organization at Paw Paw. In politics, Mr. Hunt is a Republican; Mrs. Hunt is a Prohibitionist.



**R**INEAR MILLER, a representative of one of the pioneer families of this county, is well known as one of the leading apiarists of this portion of the State, and is also a successful farmer, owning a good farm in Viola Township, upon which he makes his home. He is a native of County Brant, Province of Ontario, Canada, and July 16, 1835, is the date of his birth. His father, whose name was Jacob Miller, was born in the town of Ancaster, in the same Canadian province as himself. He was the son of another Jacob Miller, who was a native of Germany. During the time of a revolution in their native country he and two of his brothers abandoned

their property there and sought a new home in America. One of the brothers settled in New York, another in Philadelphia, while the grandfather of our subject sought a dwelling in the primeval wilds of Canada, and was one of the early settlers in the town of Ancaster. He cleared a farm from the forests, and ended his days thereon. He was the father of thirteen children, twelve of whom grew to maturity, and nine of them became useful citizens of the United States.

The father of our subject was reared amid the pioneer scenes of his birthplace, and after marriage removed from Ancaster to the town of Burford, where he bought a tract of timber land. On this he built a log house, the same in which our subject was born, and in time, by hard pioneer labor, he hewed a farm from the wilderness. He had heard much of the attractions of Illinois and he determined to come hither to judge for himself as to whether it afforded superior facilities for farming, and renting his farm for five years, in 1846 he started on the long journey with teams, taking with him his wife and eight children, and while on their way they stopped at noon and night to rest and cook their food. After his arrival in this land of promise he purchased a squatter's claim in the northeastern part of Brooklyn Township, Lee County, and moved his family into the house that stood on the place. He was one of the early settlers of the township, and had but few neighbors, the plentifulness of deer, wild turkeys and other game indicating that civilization had not made much progress here at that time. For years Peru and Ottawa were the nearest markets, and were not then accessible by railway. Once each year the father of our subject went with a load of grain or pork all the way to Chicago, which was quite an undertaking in those days.

In the fall of 1850, Mr. Miller and his family returned to Canada and did not come back again until 1853, when he sold his Canadian farm, and once more took up his residence on his farm in Brooklyn Township, and there he remained the rest of his days, doing good service as a pioneer, and winning respect and esteem from all with whom he came in contact. His life was brought to an end in October, 1865. His wife is still living at a

venerable age in Brooklyn Township. She bore the maiden name of Esther Van Sickle, and was born at Dundas, Canada, a daughter of Rinear and Esther Van Sickle, who both spent their last years on their farm close to Dundas.

Our subject is one of the nine children that his parents reared to lives of usefulness. He was eleven years old when they came first to Illinois. He had attended school in Canada previously, and after coming to this county completed his education in the pioneer schools of Brooklyn Township. He also gained a thorough training in all kinds of farm work, so that when he came to carry on agricultural pursuits on his own account, he was perfectly capable of managing a farm to the best advantage. He remained under the parental roof until he married and established a home of his own. For a time after his marriage he rented land and devoted himself exclusively to tilling the soil. In the meantime he had been making a study of bee culture, and in 1865 began to make a regular business of it, and has been engaged in it the most of the time since then, and has found it very profitable. He now has one hundred and nineteen swarms of bees in his apiary, and the delicious honey that they make commands a high price and a ready market. Mr. Miller has by no means confined himself to the care of his bees since he established his apiary, but has also actively engaged in farming. He settled on his present farm in 1871, and has placed upon it many substantial improvements that have greatly added to its value since it came into his possession.

Mr. Miller married in 1857 Miss Ann Scott, a native of Guelph, Canada, and a daughter of George and Rebecca Scott. Wedded life has brought to them many joys and sorrows, and in the former may be counted the eleven sons born to them, of whom three died in infancy, and eight are spared to bless their declining years, namely: Lafayette, Canvess D., Lincoln C., Francis T., Grenville, Harrison, Nelson and Andrew.

Nearly half a century has rolled by since our subject came to Lee County as a boy, and he has not only been a witness of its gradual growth from a sparsely inhabited wilderness to a populous and well developed agricultural region, but it may be

his pride that he has helped to bring about the grand transformation. He remembers well the days before railways were common in this country, and when the mail facilities were not such as to encourage correspondence, as postage stamps were unknown, and each letter cost twenty-five cents. Our subject knew also something of the hardships and privations of pioneer life, which experiences tended but to strengthen his character, and perhaps contributed to make him more self-reliant, helpful toward others, and neighborly in the true sense of the word, so that none fear to ask of him a favor or to appeal to him for sympathy and assistance in times of trouble.



**J**OHN MATHIAS LEVAN is an intelligent, wide-awake and prosperous young farmer of South Dixon Township, where he has passed the most of his life. He was born in Prussia, Germany, October 15, 1851, and is a son of Jacob Levan, a well-known farmer of this county, whose biography is inscribed on the pages of this volume. Our subject was very young when his parents brought him to their new home in this township. He obtained a good education in the public schools, was well trained by his father and mother in all that goes to make an honorable man, and he was thoroughly drilled in farm work while yet he was young, so that he came to his vocation well fitted to perform its duties.

Our subject purchased his farm on section 21, South Dixon Township, in 1886, and has done much to improve it since it came into his possession. Its eighty acres are under fine tillage, and as the soil is exceedingly rich, the land yields large harvests of the various products common to this region, besides supporting a goodly number of cattle, horses and swine. Mr. Levan has thus far in his career shown himself to possess progressive ideas in regard to farming. He keeps himself well informed in all matters pertaining to his business, has a good understanding of how to feed and care for his stock so as to obtain the best results, and he

is not slow in adopting new modes of agriculture when it seems practicable. He is a hard worker, keeps his place in good order, and looks carefully after his interests. He is manly, resolute and straightforward in his bearing, and his reputation is above reproach. His political sympathies are with the Democrats.

Nearly all the good things of life have come to our subject in this township of his adoption, and among them his wife, formerly Miss Isabella Miller. Mrs. Levan is a native of this county, born in Marion Township, August 6, 1863. She was there reared and educated, and remained an inmate of the home of her parents until her marriage. She is a daughter of August and Hannah (Warneck) Miller, who are natives of Saxony, Germany. They are of pure German blood. They were young people when they came to this country and to Illinois, and they were married in this State. They then located in Marion Township, being among its early settlers, and still reside there in one of the most comfortable homes of that precinct. Mr. Miller has been very successful as a farmer, and has a fine farm of two hundred acres. He and his wife are well regarded by the entire community where they have lived so many years, and they have many friends. They were brought up in the Lutheran Church and still faithfully adhere to it. Mr. and Mrs. Levan, of this notice, are the parents of two children, Arthur and Rubert.

**F**RANCIS E. ROGERS is the son of a pioneer of this section of Illinois, and now owns and is successfully managing the fine farm on section 10, Wyoming Township, that his father redeemed from the hands of nature many years ago. Our subject is not only known as one of the successful farmers and stock-raisers of Lee County, but as one of its valued public officials, representing his township on the County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Rogers was born in Wyoming Township, Luzerne County, Pa., August 2, 1840. His father, Elihue Rogers, was born in the same county, in the

town of Exeter, coming of an old family, of whom but little is known, though there are traditions concerning its history, and some of his ancestors were among the early Colonial settlers of New England. Hope Rogers is the first one of whom mention is made; his son Jethro was the next in line of descent; after him came John Rogers; then Josiah Rogers, who was the great-great-grandfather of our subject; following him came Jonah Rogers, the great-grandfather of our subject, and his son Elihue was the grandfather of our subject. The latter was an early settler of the beautiful Wyoming Valley, and spent his last years in Luzerne County, where he carried on business as a tailor. The maiden name of his wife was Rhoda Drake. She survived her husband some years, and from Pennsylvania went to Ohio, and finally coming to Lee County made her home in her last days with her son Jacob D. She now lies quietly sleeping the sleep of death in the cemetery at South Paw Paw.

Elihue Rogers, Jr., grew to manhood in Luzerne County, and in due time took unto himself a wife in the person of Miss Bersheba Stiles. In 1847 he left his old home to go forth into the unknown wilds of the "Great West," as this part of the country was then called. He was accompanied on his momentous journey by his wife and eight children, and they traveled slowly with teams over the mountains and prairies and through the forests that intervened, and cooked and camped by the wayside at night, and at last after forty days arrived in McHenry County. The family spent the remainder of that fall and the following winter in that county, and then came to Paw Paw in the spring of 1848. The father bought a tract of land on section 10, of what is now Wyoming Township. A few acres broken constituted all the improvement that had been attempted, and as there was no dwelling upon the place Mr. Rogers bought a house near by, and moving it to his land, soon after built on an addition, and made it his home until his death June 1, 1873. In the years of toil and care that followed his settlement here he had cheerfully endured the privations inseparable from life in a newly settled country, had worked early and late, and in time acquired a comfortable prop-



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Wm. S. Hart

erty. He held a worthy place among his pioneer associates, was a loyal citizen, was all that a husband and father should be in his domestic relations, and he was in all ways deserving of the sincere respect accorded to him by the people among whom so many years of his life were passed.

The parents of our subject had nine children, of whom the following is recorded: Olive married Harley Green, of Chicago; Arabella married E. G. Rogers, of St. Paul, Minn.; Amorintla is the wife of James Simons, of Kansas City, Mo.; Elihue W. lives at Chicago, Ill.; Lewis S. is a resident of Bakersfield, Cal.; Marion B. resides at Chicago; Francis E. is our subject; Elizabeth A. died at the age of five years; Lydia married Philo Smith, of Lincoln, Neb.

He of whom this sketch is written was but a child of seven years when his parents brought him to Illinois, which was still in the hands of the pioneers, though parts of the State had been settled for many years. At that time there was not a railway in the State, and Chicago was the nearest market for the people of this region. Our subject was reared under wholesome pioneer influences to a vigorous manhood. He began early in life to gain a knowledge of agriculture on his father's farm, which since his father's death has come into his possession. It is a valuable piece of property, in a desirable location, is amply supplied with buildings for every needed purpose, its fertile acres are well tilled, and Mr. Rogers is constantly making improvements on the place.

Mr. Rogers lived with his parents until their death, and was their stay in their declining years. In 1866 he was married to Miss Nancy Barratt, a native of Ohio, and in her capacity for making home pleasant and cozy, he has found much of the solid comfort and true happiness of life. They have three children, whom they have named Belle C., Francis D., and Mary E.

Our subject was a soldier in the Union Army during the latter part of the Civil War. He enlisted March 4, 1865, in Company G, Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, was immediately sent to the front to join his regiment in North Carolina, and marched with the victorious army through that State onward to Washington by the way of Richmond, and

at the National Capital took part in the Grand Review. He did not, however, leave the army at the close of hostilities, but was detained in the service until September 16, 1865, when he was honorably discharged with his regiment. Returning home he resumed his calling as a farmer, and has made his citizenship valuable to his community, where he has spent the most of his life, and where he is so well known. He is a member of Anchor Lodge, No. 510, I. O. O. F.; and of the William H. Thompson Post, No. 308, G. A. R. In politics, he stands staunchly by the Republican party. He was elected a member of the County Board of Supervisors in 1890, and so faithfully and conscientiously did he serve the interests of his township, as well as those of the county at large, he was honored by re-election to the same important office in 1891.



**W**ILLIAM DYSART, residing on section 13, China Township, where he has valuable farming interests, has been intimately connected with the rise and progress of Lee County for many years, and is deservedly held in honor as a pioneer who has not only been instrumental in its upbuilding but has been prominent in its public and political life, and influential in its educational and social elevation.

For a history of the parents of our subject see the sketch of his brother the Hon. Samuel Dysart. Of a family of ten children he was the fifth in order of birth, and was born in Huntingdon County, Pa., April 11, 1828. He there grew to manhood on a farm, and made it his home until the latter part of April, 1850. Then, in the flush and vigor of life, he set his face Westward, well equipped to cope with the experiences that lay before him in a region still in the hands of the pioneers. He arrived in Dixon on the 8th of May, and for two months worked hard at breaking prairie on the farm that is now his own, receiving \$20 a month for his services.

At the end of that time Mr. Dysart returned to his native county in Pennsylvania, and after

spending the summer there returned to Lee County, November 14, the journey taking him about four weeks to accomplish. For nearly two years he made his home with his brother, Col. A. P. Dysart, of Naehusa Township, and during that time engaged chiefly in teaming, although for two months in the winter season he was employed in threshing. After that he superintended the building of the original house on the farm now owned and occupied by his brother, Samuel Dysart, and subsequently for a year and a half or two years lived with Joseph Mattern on that same farm belonging to his father.

In the meantime Mr. Dysart had been making improvements on his own-land on section 13, making it habitable by building a house and other necessary buildings, and soon after leaving Mr. Mattern's he took up his residence on his own premises and has dwelt there ever since. His life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits, although he has mostly lived retired since 1877, and enjoys an ample income as the result of his skillful and business like way of conducting his affairs. His farm is a fine place with a substantial and conveniently arranged set of buildings, highly cultivated fields and rich pasturage, and forms one of the most pleasing country homes in the vicinity. It comprises two hundred and forty acres of land and he has besides a quarter-section of pasture land in Ogle County.

February 18, 1858, our subject was married to Miss Mary Grazier, the ceremony being performed in Huntingdon County, Pa., near the scenes of his early home. Unto them have been born two children, Mary F. and Bessie A. Mrs. Dysart was born in Huntingdon County, March 22, 1830, and is the sixth of a family of thirteen children, four sons and nine daughters. Her parents were Henry and Nancy (Beek) Grazier, both of whom were born in Huntingdon County, and died in their old Pennsylvania home when well along in years. Mrs. Dysart is a woman of great worth, a true Christian, and stands high in the membership of the Presbyterian Church, with which she has long been connected.

The most useful and eventful part of the life of our subject has been spent in this township, four

decades having passed away since he first set foot within its bounds, and during these many years while busily engaged in attending to his private affairs, and at the same time seeking to promote the material well being of the community, he has made for himself a warm place in the hearts of the people with whom he has been so long associated in business, in a social way, or in carrying on the local government, as they have always found him true to his word, honorable in thought and act, and faithful in his friendships.

Knowing well Mr. Dysart's ability and rectitude of character, his fellow-citizens have again and again elected him to some responsible position and he has been an incumbent of nearly all the township offices. He has been School Trustee for several years and has taken a deep interest in educational matters, exerting his influence to obtain the best possible facilities for the school children of this locality. For some nine years he filled the office of Supervisor, representing China Township on the County Board of Supervisors. In politics he is a Republican of no uncertain tone, and has been a strong advocate of the principles of the party ever since its organization.

The lithographic portrait of Mr. Dysart accompanies this biographical sketch.



JOSEPH H. AYRES, who resides on section 32, Lee Center Township, is well known as an enterprising and successful farmer and a public-spirited man who takes a deep interest in everything tending to the upbuilding of his township and county. His parents, Henry S. and Ann E. (Green) Ayres, were natives of Vermont, who after their marriage emigrated to Illinois, where the father died in Sublette Township, December 15, 1879. They were the parents of two children: Joseph H. and Ella M., the latter the wife of William P. Long, of Sublette Township.

The subject of our sketch was born in Crete, Will County, this State, April 17, 1853. When he was one and a half years old, his parents removed to Lee County, settling in Amboy Township,

where they remained until their son was eight years of age, when they removed to Sublette. Here our subject lived until February, 1885, when he came to Lee Center Township and settled on section 32, his present home. Here he has a good farm of two hundred and seventy acres, on which he has erected a fine set of buildings, and where he is carrying on agricultural pursuits under the most favorable circumstances. He acquired his education in the common schools and is an intelligent and well-read man.

Mr. Ayres was married in Sublette, August 24, 1879, to Miss Jennie E. Berkley, who was a native of that township, her birth occurring April 5, 1857. They are the parents of three children: Vilette B., Anna E. and Ruth E. Mrs. Ayres is the daughter of Benjamin F. and Vilette (Eastman) Berkley, the former being a native of Virginia and the latter of Ohio; the mother died in Sublette Township in September, 1866.

Mr. Ayres is a Republican, and while not taking a very active part in political affairs, is warmly interested in all pertaining to the welfare of his community. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and has been Master of the Blue Lodge in Sublette for seven consecutive years. The family have a comfortable home and a large circle of friends.



**S**AMUEL S. DODGE, who for almost a quarter of a century has been engaged in the jewelry business in Dixon, is now located on the corner of Hennepin Avenue and First Street, where he has carried on operations since 1888. Previous to that time he was for eighteen years established at the corner of First Street and Galena Avenue where the City National Bank now stands. During the years in which he has been a leading jeweler of Dixon, he has had two partners, both gentlemen being of the name of King, but is now alone. He has a fine store, well fitted out and stocked with everything in his line. He has built up a good business, and by industry,

perseverance, close attention to details and the exercise of correct business principles, has acquired a competence.

Mr. Dodge was born in Somerset County, Ohio, in 1841. His father, Almeron Dodge, and his grandfather, Seymour Dodge, were both natives of the Empire State and were of English descent. The latter was reared in the Mohawk Valley but later became a resident of Batavia and Northern New York. He was a member of the same Masonic lodge to which belonged the Mr. Morgan whose mysterious death caused such general disturbance and excited such feelings against the fraternity. His business was that of merchandising and he owned several lake vessels. He afterwards came to Illinois and died at the home of his son in Winnebago County at the age of eighty-seven years. He had been twice married and both wives died in New York. The first lady whom he wedded was Miss Whitcomb, who was descended from the Scotch nobility, her father tracing his ancestry back in direct line to Lord Whitcomb.

Almeron Dodge, the father of our subject, learned the trade of a blacksmith in his native State and afterward emigrated to Ohio, where he became acquainted with and married Miss Sallie Baldwin, who was born in one of the suburban towns of Cleveland, where her marriage was celebrated. In 1846, accompanied by their family, they emigrated to Illinois and became early settlers of Roscoe Township, Winnebago County, where Mr. Dodge opened a shop and engaged in blacksmithing for many years. During their residence there the wife and mother died at the age of sixty-nine years. Mr. Dodge is yet living at the age of eighty-five years, and finds a pleasant home with his son, A. F., in Winnebago County. He belongs to the Methodist Church, of which his wife was a consistent member, and in politics is a supporter of Republican principles. The three surviving children of the family are Samuel, of this sketch; A. F., a farmer of Winnebago County, and Mrs. Mary Rachford, who is living on the old homestead in Roscoe Township.

Our subject was only three years old when brought by his parents to Illinois, hence his entire life has been practically spent in this State. No

event of special importance occurred during his boyhood. He attended the common schools and under the parental roof was reared to manhood. He learned his trade in Rockford, and from there, came to Dixon in 1868. It was after coming to this city that he formed the acquaintance of Miss Hattie Davis, and in 1873 their union was celebrated. The lady was born in Amboy, and is a daughter of Hon. C. A. Davis, a second cousin of Mrs. Longfellow, wife of the poet. He is also related to the Appletons, one of the well-known and prominent families of Boston, of which Samuel Appleton was the head. Cyrus Davis, father of C. A. Davis, came to Illinois from Concord, Mass., and entered the land from the Government on which the present town of Amboy is located. There he spent the remainder of his life. The father of Mrs. Dodge was reared to manhood amid the pioneer scenes of Lee County and afterward returned to New Hampshire, where he wedded Sarah Holt. With his bride he returned to the West and became one of the prominent and influential citizens of this community. He returned to Ashby, Mass., in 1853, where he represented his district in the State Legislature and took quite an active part in public affairs. He came back to Lee County in 1858 and settled in Dixon where he remained until his death in 1885.

Mrs. Dodge has spent her entire life in Lee County, and is one of the leading ladies of Dixon. Intelligent and cultured, she ranks high in social circles and is an active worker in the Methodist Church, of which she is a member.

During the late war Mr. Dodge responded to the country's call for troops to aid in crushing out the rebellion and enlisted in 1861 with the boys in blue of Company L, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, under Col. Farnsworth. The regiment joined the Army of the Potomac and our subject was in active service until the battle of Mechanicsville in 1862, when he was wounded in the left arm by a cannon ball. His injuries were such that it unfitted him for further duty and he was honorably discharged. He holds membership with Dixon Post No. 299, G. A. R., and is also a prominent Mason, being now Past Commander of Dixon Commandery, No. 21, K. T., and a Thirty-second Degree

Mason. In politics, he is a staunch advocate of the Republican party but has never been an office seeker. Among his lodge comrades and his business acquaintances he is highly esteemed as a man of sterling worth, and knowing that he well deserves representation in this volume, it is with pleasure that we present this sketch to our readers.



**M**ATHIAS A. GIRTON, a prominent member of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, with which he has been connected for some years, representing the interests of South Dixon Township, is also one of the progressive farmers and stock-raisers of this section, owning and successfully managing a well-appointed farm on section 26, of the afore-mentioned township, upon which he has a pleasant home.

Mr. Girton is a native of Columbia County, Pa., born February 11, 1846. His father, Marshal C. Girton, was also a native of that county, and was a son of William Girton, who was likewise of Pennsylvania birth. The parents of the latter were born in this country prior to the Revolution, and some members of the Girton family helped fight the battles in that great struggle for freedom. William Girton became a farmer as he grew up in Pennsylvania, and in early manhood he married a Pennsylvania lady. Several years afterward, when their children had grown to maturity and some of them had married, William Girton and wife came to Nachusa Township, Lee County, Ill., and settled on a new farm, in 1847. They were thus early pioneers of that place, and there they lived to be very old, the grandfather being about ninety when he died. He was popular among his fellow-pioneers, and known as a hospitable, true-hearted man, and a public-spirited citizen. Both he and his wife were good Methodists in religion, and he was a Democrat in politics.

The early life of Marshal Girton was passed in his native county, and there he was married to Effie Flick, who was born in the same neighborhood as himself, and was a daughter of Stephen Flick. Her father, a native of Germany, was married in the Fatherland, and subsequently

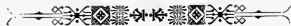
brought his wife to America. They died in Columbia County, Pa., when old people. They were Lutherans.

Marshal Girton, wife and five children, came to Illinois in 1850, and at once entered upon the pioneer task of improving a prairie farm in Nachusa Township. A comfortable home was the result of the united labors of husband and wife, and they lived therein peacefully and happily until death severed the tie that bound them, removing the former from the scenes of his toil in April, 1872, he being then but fifty-four years of age. He left behind him the record of a life unblemished, in which he had sought the good of others, and had faithfully fulfilled his obligations as a loyal citizen, as a true husband, tender father and kind neighbor, and he had many warm friends in this county. He was a conscientious Methodist in his church relations, and a good Democrat in regard to politics. His wife makes her home with her children in Nachusa Township. Seventy-two years is her age and she is still bright and active in mind and body. A sincere Christian, the Methodist Episcopal Church has for many years found in her a useful member.

Mathias Girton is the third of a family of eleven children, of whom nine are living. He was four years of age when his parents settled among the pioneers of Lee County, and he grew to man's estate in Nachusa Township. He was a good scholar in his youth and laid the foundation of a sound education in the local public schools, which he completed by a liberal course of study at Dixon College. He was thus well prepared for whatever position he might assume in after life. Reared on a farm and always taking a keen interest in all that pertains to agriculture, he naturally selected that for his vocation. Fourteen years ago he bought the farm upon which he lives in South Dixon Township, and under his supervision it has become a fine piece of property and an attractive home. It comprises nearly a quarter of a section of land that is well drained, fenced into convenient fields, supplied with ample buildings, and the natural fertility of the soil is retained by a good system of cultivation, well calculated to increase its productiveness.

Mr. Girton was married at Nachusa to Miss Mary Hill, who, as a true wife should, has strengthened and encouraged him in his work, and ably presides over their home. Mrs. Girton was born in Luzerne County, Pa., in April, 1848, and is a daughter of Nathan Hill, whose biography appears on another page in this volume. She was reared in this township, and was educated in the public schools. To her and our subject have been born five children, whom they have named Judith Mabel, Ellis C., Mary Effie, Grace E. and Daisy E.

Our subject possesses a clear, vigorous intellect, is progressive in his ideas, and has a full share of the business acumen so necessary to success in any walk in life. These attributes early attracted the attention of his fellow-citizens, who, recognizing the fact that they qualified him for public positions of trust, have for several years kept him in office. He has held most of the township offices, and is now filling his fifth term as its representative on the County Board of Supervisors, to the manifest satisfaction of all concerned without regard to party. He is a prominent local politician, and is a leader among the Democrats. He and his wife are popular in social circles, have many warm friends, and their hospitality is proverbial.



**J**OHAN D. LAHMAN, capitalist and President of the Franklin Grove Bank, has been prominently and variously identified with the interests of Lee County for many years, and his name will always be associated with its history as one who has contributed greatly to the extension of its wealth and material prosperity, and has been influential in promoting its higher welfare. June 22, 1834, is the date of his birth in Washington County, Md., he being a son of Christian and Elizabeth (Emmert) Lahman, who were natives respectively of Adams County, Pa., and Washington County, Md. The Lahmans originated in Germany, and he is one of the fourth generation of that branch of the family that settled in this country in Colonial times. His paternal

grandfather was a prosperous miller and the owner of a gristmill in Adams County, Pa.

Christian Lahman, the father of our subject, was a farmer and he also owned mills. Soon after his marriage he settled in Maryland, where he lived for several years. In 1845 he migrated from there to Illinois with his family and was one of the pioneers of Lee County and one of the early settlers of China Township, where he purchased land. He was closely identified with the rise and progress of this part of the county from that time until the day of his death in 1864, at the age of fifty-six years. He was a man of more than ordinary financial ability and became one of the wealthy men of this section. He had some fifteen hundred acres of land, a part of which was in the village of Franklin Grove, and he left a valuable estate. He was a thoroughly good man and an active Christian. He was a member of the Dunkard Church, and was one of the leading organizers of the society of that denomination at Franklin Grove. His wife survived him until 1872, at which time she departed this life at the age of sixty-one years. Those worthy people were the parents of nine children, of whom eight grew to maturity, and these are their names: Joseph C., John D., David F., Joshua E., Ephraim P., a resident of Falls City, Neb.; William H., of Chicago; Maggie, wife of William A. Miller, of Story County, Iowa; Jacob E. and Alora J., both of whom died in Franklin Grove, unmarried; and Catherine, who died in childhood.

He of whom these lines are the life record passed his early years on the Maryland farm where he was born, and received the foundation of his education in the local district schools. He came with his parents to their pioneer home in the wilds of this region when he was a lad of eleven years, and his growth to manhood was commensurate with that of the county of which he is to-day a leading citizen, his enterprising spirit making him a prime mover in various important business enterprises that have tended to enhance the prosperity of this section and also to promote the growth of other regions. He learned the milling trade and worked at that some four years in early manhood. He then resumed farming, the calling to which he

had been reared. Though he remained on the farm and superintended it a number of years, he had not been there long until he became interested in other enterprises, as is indicated below. In 1889 he took up his residence in the village of Franklin Grove, where he now devotes his time principally to looking after his real-estate business and making loans, the result of his excellent business methods and wise investments. He has owned a large amount of real estate at different times, principally in Iowa and Nebraska.

The following are some of the enterprises in which our subject has been engaged. He, with others, built a flour and feed mill which was driven by wind power. In 1873 he formed a co-partnership under the firm name of J. D. Lahman & Co., to engage in the manufacture of the Emmert Seeder, which was invented by his uncle, Ezra Emmert. In 1879 the firm discontinued the manufacture of the Emmert Seeder and commenced the manufacture of the seeder widely known as the Great Western Seeder. In 1888 the firm was dissolved by the death of J. L. Stroek, one of the firm. Our subject continued its manufacture till succeeded by H. N. Bratton & Co., in 1891. He has had large live stock interests, being a member of the firm of D. F. Lahman & Co., which had a large ranch in Iowa, and raised many horses and cattle. Mr. Lahman was one of the organizers of the Franklin Grove Bank in 1889, and lent the influence of his name as its President, which position he still retains, although he leaves the management of its funds to other hands, as his private affairs demand his attention.

Our subject and Miss Mary C. Haughttelling were united in marriage in 1860. Mrs. Lahman was born in Adams County, Pa., and is a daughter, of John and Eliza Haughttelling, who were also natives of Pennsylvania. Her father died in that State, and her mother removed with her family, in 1856, from there to Guthrie County, Iowa, where her daughter, of whom we write, lived until she was married. Mr. and Mrs. Lahman have a home replete with all the comforts and conveniences that add so much to the charm of any dwelling, and the pleasant hospitality which they dispense to all who cross its threshold furnishes a further



attraction to the numerous friends that they have gathered around them in the course of years by their unflinching generosity and helpfulness in their intercourse with all around them. Sorrow has not left them untouched in their domestic life, as death has taken from them two of their three children, Vinnie A., who died at the age of seventeen, and one that died in infancy. Their only surviving child, Carance W., was married December 9, 1889, to Martha Beery, and they have one child, Mary Alora.

In politics, Mr. Lahman is a strong Prohibitionist, though formerly belonging to the Republican party. He is a man of exemplary habits, a firm advocate of temperance and of whatever will promote morality in the community. Mrs. Lahman is a consistent Christian and a valued member of the Dunkard Church.



**J**ACOB LEVAN has been for many years a much respected member of the farming community of this county, and has a good farm of one hundred and sixty-six and one-half acres on sections 120 and 121, South Dixon Township, which he bought in an unimproved condition more than a quarter of a century ago. He is a native of Prussia, Germany, born near the French line, September 14, 1822. His parental history is given in the biography of Mathias Lievan. Our subject and his family omit the letter "i" from their surname. He received a practical education in the German schools, and even as a boy was put to work in his father's vineyard on the banks of the Rhine, grape-growing being the principal business of the people along that river, and he was engaged in that until he emigrated to this country in 1853.

Our subject was accompanied on his journey to this country by his wife and father-in-law. The little company left their old home in the spring of the year, and journeying to Liverpool, England, embarked on an English sailing vessel, which brought

them across the Atlantic in thirty-six days, and landed them at Boston, Mass. They then made their way to Pennsylvania, and during a residence of two years and a half in that State, Mr. Levan worked on the great reservoir which in after years broke and caused the great Johnstown flood, and he also mined in the vicinity of Cambria. Coming to Lee County in 1855, he began life as a renter, and two years later bought the farm that he now occupies, having to go in debt for it. He has long since paid every dollar that he owed for it, and has placed it under substantial improvement, providing it with suitable buildings, and placing the land under excellent tillage. He also has it well stocked with a good class of cattle, horses and hogs. Mr. Levan is valued as a citizen, and is greatly esteemed for his worth as a man of exemplary habits, who is a good husband and kind father in his domestic life, and is always neighborly and obliging in his relations with outsiders. He and his good wife are sincere Christians and devout members of the German Catholic Church.

Our subject was married in his native land to Miss Angeline Ahl, who was born and reared in Prussia, and came of good German ancestry. Her father, Frederick Ahl, a miller of good standing, married Catherine Anser, who died at the age of thirty-two years, leaving two children, Mrs. Levan and her brother Mathias. The latter married and died in Germany. Frederick Ahl accompanied his daughter and son-in-law to America, and he made his home with them in Lee County until his death in 1875, at the age of seventy-three. He was a member of the Catholic Church, and was well known and greatly respected.

Mr. and Mrs. Levan are the parents of six children, of whom all are living but their eldest son, John, who died young. The others are Margaret, their eldest daughter, who is the wife of George Ortgies, a farmer in this township, who owns a good farm of three hundred and twenty acres; John M., who is represented elsewhere in this volume; Louis, who married Rosa Fiseher, and lives on a good farm of two hundred acres in Marion Township that he owns; Mary, wife of Sebastian Bechtel, a farmer near Sterling; Ellen, wife of Charles Bartholomew, now living on the

home farm; Caroline, wife of Conrad Miller, a farmer in this township. Mr. Levan and his sons are all sturdy supporters of the Democratic party, and take an intelligent interest in politics.



**A**NDREW H. ROSENKRANS. To this gentleman and his associates Lee County is largely indebted for the rapid advance it has made in agriculture during the last quarter of a century. He is one of the foremost farmers and stockmen of Wyoming Township, where he has large farming and stock interests, and occupies an important place among the successful breeders of fine road horses of Hambletonian and Wilkes strains.

Mr. Rosenkrans is a native of the State of New York, born March 10, 1835, and as his name indicates, he is a descendant of an old Holland family, some of his ancestors being among the Colonial settlers of the commonwealth of New Jersey. His father, Abram Rosenkrans, was born November 11, 1803, in the town of Wallpack, Sussex County, N. J. His father, grandfather of our subject, whose name was Benjamin Rosenkrans, was born in the same town March 31, 1770, and was a son of John Rosenkrans, whose birth occurred May 18, 1724. The father of the latter was Alexander Augustus Rosenkrans, great-great-grandfather of our subject who came from his ancestral home in Holland to America in the year of 1689, and landed at New Amsterdam, the future metropolis of the New World. From there he made his way to New Jersey, became one of its settlers, and founded a family in that State. One of his descendants bore a conspicuous part in the Revolution, and another was prominent in the War of 1812.

When the Colonists were battling for freedom from the Mother Country, John Rosenkrans was colonel of a regiment in the Continental Army, and accompanied Gen. Sullivan in his campaign against the Indians in the Susquehanna and Genesee Valleys as a commander of a brigade. He was wounded in the shoulder during the war, and subsequently died from the effects of the wound

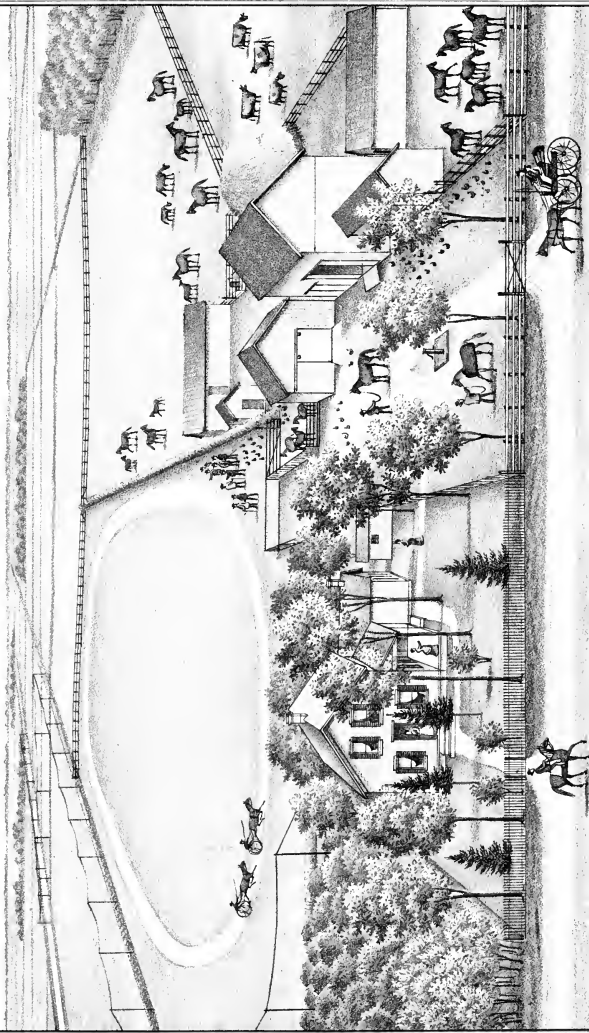
June 5, 1786. His wife was Margaret De Witt, a cousin of De Witt Clinton. She was born April 18, 1731. Benjamin Rosenkrans, grandfather of our subject, was in command at Sandy Hook in the War of 1812, and later was a colonel of the State militia. He was a well-to-do farmer, and owned some five hundred acres of land in Wallpack, N. J., and there he and his wife died when well advanced in years, his death occurring December 30, 1848, and hers February 1, 1842. She was born November 16, 1774, and in her maiden days bore the name of Margaret Schoonover.

The father of our subject passed his early life in his native State, and received his education in the local schools. When a young man he crossed over into New York, and resided there for a few years, and then returned to New Jersey. His next move was to Pennsylvania, and for several years he lived in that State, a part of the time in Luzerne and a part of the time in Wyoming County. In 1855 he came to Lee County, and identified himself with its pioneers. He bought a farm in Wyoming Township and resided thereon until 1879, when he moved to Marble Rock, Floyd County, Iowa, and made his home there the remainder of his life, which was brought to a close by his death which occurred November 19, 1889, at a venerable age. The maiden name of his wife was Lydia Henry. She was born in the State of New York, a daughter of Andrew Henry, and died in Wallpack N. J., May 15, 1838.

Our subject was only four years old when he was deprived of a mother's care by her untimely death, and two years later he accompanied his father and other members of the family to Pennsylvania, where the next twelve years of his life were passed. When he attained the age of eighteen his father gave him his time, and in the fall of 1853 he turned his face from the home of his boyhood and started westward to join two of his brothers, who were then living at Paw Paw, in this county. He came to Illinois by rail to Ottawa and thence by team to his destination. He immediately went to work with his brothers at Paw Paw as an apprentice to learn the trade of a carpenter, and remained with them a little over a year. Having become proficient at carpentering



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in 1855 he commenced working at his trade on his own account, and continued in that line until 1859.

Stirred by the great excitement caused by the discovery of gold at Pike's Peak, Mr. Rosenkrans started in the month of May, that year, for that point, with Dan Pine, their conveyance consisting of a wagon drawn by a pair of oxen and a pair of cows. They drove across the State of Illinois, passed over the Mississippi River at Burlington and the Missouri at Plattsmouth, then a small village, and as they continued on their journey Westward over the desolate plains they encountered innumerable herds of buffaloes. They had not gone very far in the direction in which they were traveling before they met people returning from Pike's Peak empty handed, who told them that there were no good prospects there. Our subject and his companion then changed their course and pushed on to California. They arrived at Carson Lake, Nev., in the month of October, and leaving their teams there, walked to Chinatown, seventy-five miles distant. After a week's stay there, they proceeded to Silver City, and mined there until 1860.

Returning to Carson City, they staid there two months and Mr. Rosenkrans worked at his trade. From there he proceeded on foot across the mountains to the famous mining town of Placerville, where he secured a ride to Sacramento, and on the 14th of July, 1860, set out for New York. Thence he went to New Jersey, and after a short visit among his old friends in that State, in the month of September he came once more to Lee County. He has once since visited California, going thither in 1884, being six days in making the journey, which before had consumed six months.

After his return from the mining camps of the Golden State, our subject settled down quietly to his trade, and gave his attention to carpentering until he was married, when he located on a farm of forty acres that he had previously bought in Willow Creek Township. He tilled the soil thereof for one year, and at the expiration of that time sold that place, and bought eighty acres of his present homestead. There were no buildings on it at the time, and the substantial improvements that

now adorn the farm is the work of his own hand, and fine fruit and shade trees that he has planted add beauty and value to the place. On another page will be noticed a view of the residence and surroundings. Fortune has smiled on his undertakings, and he has accumulated a handsome property. In time he bought one hundred and sixty additional acres of which one hundred and twenty join his original purchase, and the remaining forty lie across the street from it. He subsequently bought another farm of one hundred and sixty-six acres, and now has four hundred and six acres of finely improved land. He has superior facilities for raising stock, and is utilizing them to the utmost. Some years ago he began to raise road horses, and now has on his farm more than forty of as fine and well-bred horses of the Hambletonian and Wilkes blood as can be found in this part of the State. His phenomenal success in breeding horses is due to the fact that he has excited due discrimination in the selection of his stud, has made a close study of the animals, their needs and requirements, and their proper treatment, and has paid strict attention to the business.

Mr. Rosenkrans was happily married October 15, 1863, to Miss Lydia A. Mittan, in whom he has found a true wife, who makes his interest her own and is helpful and companionable. They have two sons, namely: Anson P., who was born July 31, 1869, and Byron M., who was born November 22, 1871. Mrs. Rosenkrans was born in Newton Township, Luzerne County, Pa., October 29, 1839, and is a daughter of Jephtha and Jane (Beemer) Mittan, the latter a native of New Jersey, and a daughter of Henry and Mary Beemer. Her father is thought to be a native of New Jersey, and is a son of Samuel Mittan. His father moved from New Jersey to Pennsylvania, and died in Luzerne County. Mrs. Rosenkrans's father was reared on a farm, and adopted farming as his life-work. He came from Pennsylvania to Illinois, making the removal with a team, and bringing his family and household goods along. He settled in Willow Creek Township, and bought a claim to a tract of Government land, which he has since improved into a fine farm and here he still makes his home.

The citizenship of a man of our subject's calibre

and progressive spirit is valuable to any community and we have seen that since he took up his permanent abode in this county Mr. Rosenkrans has been potent in increasing his wealth and enlarging its agricultural interests. He possesses a good degree of common-sense, has a mind of his own, and is indebted to no one for his ideas and opinions. Especially is this noticed in his politics, he being independent and bound to no party ties.



**N**ELS OLSEN has been well prospered since he sought a home in this country, and is now numbered among the well-to-do farmers of Lee County. His farm lies in Willow Creek Township, and is one of the average in the neighborhood in regard to cultivation, productiveness and improvement. Mr. Olsen was born on the rugged shores of Norway, in the town of Stavanger, in the Province of Ampt, April 14, 1833. His father, Ole Williams, was a farmer, and spent his entire life in his native land, he and his wife both being drowned in 1840. They left five children, of whom these three came to America: Andrew, Mary and our subject.

The latter was only seven years old when he had the misfortune to lose his parents, and for two years he lived with his grandparents, but from the time he was nine years old he has cared for himself. He worked for his uncle for his board and clothes until he was fifteen years old, and then was employed by others, receiving his board, clothes and \$10 a year in payment for his services. In 1856 Nels Olsen, who had now grown to sturdy, self-reliant manhood, and had taken unto himself a wife, emigrated to this land of plenty, where he hoped to do better for himself than was possible in his native country. Accompanied by his wife, he set sail from Stavanger in May, and landed at Quebec in July, after a voyage of ten weeks. From that city he came to Illinois, and the ensuing three years he worked by the month or day as a farm hand in La Salle County. He then bought a team and tilled a tract of land on shares. He was prudent and economical, and in 1864 he laid by

money enough to become independent, and then invested in a tract of wild prairie on section 13, Willow Creek Township. He has ever since been identified with the farming interests of Lee County, and by constant and well-directed toil has brought his land to a fine condition, has erected a neat set of buildings, and has added to the acreage of his farm, which now comprises two hundred acres of exceedingly fertile land.

In 1855 Mr. Olsen and Martha Olsen united their lives and fortunes in a marriage that has been a happy union, and has been blessed to them by these seven children: Lena, Swan, Lizzie, Willie, Oscar, Martin and Sarah A. Mrs. Olsen was born in the same Norwegian town that was the birthplace of her husband, and she is a daughter of Ole Svenson. Both she and Mr. Olsen were reared in the Lutheran Church, and have ever remained true to the faith of their fathers, being devoted members of the church of that denomination in this township, and none know them but to respect them for the genuineness of their Christianity, and for their kindly dispositions.



**A**LLEXANDER ARMSTRONG, who is an engineer on the Illinois Central Railroad and a resident of Amboy, was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., March 19, 1838. His parents, Alexander and Mary (Leonard) Armstrong, were natives of the same State, where they also died. Their family consisted of two children, Alexander and Jane, the latter becoming the wife of Thomas D. Jellico, and dying in Franklin County, N. Y. After the death of her first husband the mother of our subject was again married, and of this union one son was born, Samuel A. Rolf, who resides in St. Lawrence County, N. Y.

Our subject was a small boy when his father died, and remained in the Empire State until 1856. He then emigrated to Wisconsin and worked in the lumber regions for four years, afterward coming to Amboy and entering the employ of the Central Railroad Company as a fireman. Four years later

he was made engineer and in 1864 was promoted to be engineer of a passenger train. He has been twice married, the first time in 1869 to Edith A. Ellison, who was born in Matilda, in Canada, C. W., 1844. She died in 1874, leaving one son, George H., who is now baggageman at Amboy. In 1882 Mr. Armstrong was united in marriage with Miss Louisa Monhiem, who was born in Peru, Ill., February 15, 1856. She is a daughter of Mathias and Elizabeth (Bueholz) Monhiem, natives of Hanburg, Germany, who came to the United States and settled on a farm near Peru. They had five children: John, William, Louise, Henry and Lena.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong have one daughter, Edith, born July 7, 1886. In politics Mr. Armstrong is a Democrat, and a member of the Masonic fraternity, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.



**H**ON. LUTHER W. MITCHELL, who is the present representative of the Nineteenth District in the Illinois State Legislature, is a man of weight and influence in the political and public life of Lee County, as well as one of its most enterprising and progressive farmers and business men. He is President of the American Shetland Pony Club, of which he was one of the founders, and he is extensively engaged in raising thoroughbreds of that famous race of horses on his farm on section 25, Palmyra Township.

Mr. Mitchell is a native of this State, Colehester, in McDonough County, being the place of his birth, and February 5, 1843, the date thereof. He was yet young when his parents removed to Warren County, whence they subsequently went to Knox County and later to Whiteside County when he was eight years old, where he passed the remainder of his boyhood. He was given excellent educational advantages, and was very youthful when he became a pupil at the Mt. Carroll Seminary, where he paid diligent attention to his stud-

ies and made his mark as a bright scholar. When the war broke out, our subject watched its course with intense interest, and as soon as possible before he attained his majority, volunteered to serve his country in the hour of her greatest peril, enlisting in 1863 in Company A, One Hundred and Fortieth Illinois Infantry. He did guard duty for some time, and after his first term of enlistment expired, re-entered the ranks as a private in the Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, and at the close of the war was mustered out as Quartermaster-Sergeant, having been in the Quartermaster's department for more than a year.

Our subject retired from the army with a fine military record, showing him to have been a good soldier and an official of rare merit. Returning to the quiet scenes of his old home in Whiteside County, he resumed the profession of teaching, at which he had been engaged when he exchanged his books for the accoutrements of a soldier. In 1867 he came to Lee County to pursue that vocation and taught in the Sugar Grove school district the ensuing two years, when he moved to Jones County, Iowa, where he was engaged as farmer and teacher for two years, and then again returned to Sugar Grove, where he taught the following two years. He subsequently turned his attention to farming, and July 24, 1881, entered upon the business of raising Shetland ponies, for which his farm, that he devotes to that purpose, is admirably adapted. He has applied his whole energies to the further introduction of this breed of hardy little horses, which are such favorites with the children, and he was one of the prime movers in the organization of the American Shetland Pony Club, of which he is now President, and which has a membership in every State in the Union. This association for the encouragement of the propagation of this peculiar breed of ponies from the far-away Scotch isles is greatly indebted to Mr. Mitchell's zealous labors in its behalf for what it has accomplished. It has issued the first herd-book that has been prepared for the registration of the Shetland ponies, of which over five hundred are registered in this country, our subject, himself, having over sixty thoroughbreds eligible for registration. He has a herd of ninety-five of these ponies that are

fine specimens and excite the admiration of all lovers of horses. At the head of his stud is the well-known "Trinket" and "Trinket, Jr."

Mr. Mitchell has been eminently successful from a financial standpoint. He has considerable property in this county, including three tracts of land lying in this and Dixon Townships, nearly all of which is finely improved, and one of his farms, which he has acquired since he came here, is a well-equipped dairy farm, run in the interests of the condensed milk business.

Our subject was married in Lee County, Palmyra Township, to Miss Augusta Moon, and she has been an invaluable assistant to him in the making of their home, whose pleasant hospitalities are well-known and appreciated by their many friends. One daughter, Myrtle I., completes their household. She has been given fine educational advantages, and is now completing her musical studies at Dixon College. Mrs. Mitchell is a lady of superior character, is bright and well informed, and is a leader in social circles. She comes of one of the old pioneer families of the county and was born, reared and educated in Palmyra Township, of which her parents, Abner D. and Sarah (Hillman) Moon, were early settlers. Her father was born in 1817 and was but twenty years of age when he came to this county, before many settlements had been made within its borders. He was one of the first to locate in Palmyra Township, where he improved a good farm, and he was associated with the citizens who were most active in promoting its welfare, material and otherwise. He was a prominent Democrat and a well-known figure in local politics. He was a Baptist in religion, and his community lost one of its most trustworthy and valued citizens at his death in 1877. His wife now lives in Ashland, Neb., making her home with her eldest daughter, Mrs. J. B. Russell. She is as bright and active at the age of seventy-four as many a younger woman, and in her the Methodist Church finds a zealous member.

Mr. Mitchell is well equipped mentally as a business man and for public life, as he has a receptive, well-trained, evenly balanced mind, possesses a calm judgment, is sensible in his conclusions, and has positive convictions of his own on all subjects

with which he is conversant, while he is quick to perceive and acknowledge an error when it is clearly proven to him that he is in the wrong, and withal he is singularly true to his principles of right, and is correct in his habits. These characteristics have recommended him strongly to his fellow-citizens as eminently fitting him for the responsibilities of civic offices, and they have honored him and themselves by calling him to high positions. For two terms he was Supervisor of Palmyra Township, and in 1890 he was elected to represent the Nineteenth District, including Lee and Whiteside Counties, in the Illinois State Legislature. As a member of the House he has made his mark as a sound, progressive and public-spirited legislator, and he has made his influence felt in the passage of such laws as he has deemed would be most beneficial to the State. He has been on several important committees—on that of Finance, License and Claims, was one of the Agricultural Committee, and was President of the Republican Farmers' Committee.

Perhaps few men in the county are better versed in politics than Mr. Mitchell, who has long been a recognized leader of the Republicans in this section. For four years he was Chairman of the County Republican Central Committee, and since he has been in the Legislature, he has stood loyally by his party. During the remarkable Senatorial contest in the last session, which resulted in sending General Palmer to the United States Senate, he showed his fealty to Republicanism under trying circumstances that would have daunted a less determined man. He was very sick at the time, yet he persisted, at the peril of his life, in being carried from his sick-bed into the Senate chamber seven times, that he might cast his vote for ex-Governor Richard J. Oglesby for United States Senator.



**A**UGUST KEISTER. Having acquired a comfortable fortune as a general farmer, Mr. Keister and his wife are serenely passing their declining years in the pleasant home that is the result of their united labors,



enjoying to a full degree the esteem and veneration due their age and high personal worth. Mr. Keister purchased the farm that he occupies on section 21, Nelson Township, more than a quarter of a century ago, and now has its two hundred and fifteen acres under the plow, and well supplied with commodious farm buildings.

The birthplace of our subject is across the ocean, in the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, where he was born February 13, 1814. Christian and Hannah (Shaver) Keister, his parents, were also natives of Germany, and passed their entire lives in Leithurst, where they died—the father when eighty years old and the mother when much younger. They were true Christians and faithful members of the Lutheran Church.

The parental family comprises three sons and one daughter, of whom August is the only survivor. He was reared in his native country, and became master of several trades, learning to weave linen, also acquiring a thorough knowledge of farming, besides becoming a practical butcher. He was married near his birthplace to Miss Minna Goglemann, who was born and reared in the same neighborhood as himself. Her parents were natives of Hanover, Germany, and members of the Lutheran Church. Their family consisted of four daughters, three of whom are living: Mrs. Keister, one in Germany and one in Pennsylvania.

After the birth of five of their children, Mr. and Mrs. Keister determined to emigrate to the United States in the hope of becoming more prosperous, and in May, 1856, they went to Bremerhaven and embarked on the good ship "Alfred," landing at New York City after a voyage of six weeks and four days. From there they came to this county, and for ten years resided in Dixon Township. In 1856 Mr. Keister purchased the farm in Nelson Township, where he has since made his home. He has acquired all his property since coming here, as he had but \$200 in cash and his household goods when he settled here.

Mr. Keister and his estimable wife have for many years held to the faith of their fathers as regards their religion, and are conscientious members of the Lutheran Church. In politics he is a Republican and the country of his adoption has in

him a most loyal citizen. His sons are also stalwart adherents to that party to which their father gives allegiance. Four of his eleven children still remain at home: August, who assists in managing the farm, James, George and Lena. The others are: Fred, of whom see biography; Hannah, wife of James Jones, of Dixon; Caroline, a dressmaker in Dixon; William, a farmer in Nelson Township; Levena, wife of Nathan Willard, a farmer near Nelson Station; Charles, telegraph operator and station agent at Garden Prairie, in the employ of the Northwestern Railroad Company; and Henry A., station agent and night operator for the same company at Marengo.



**H**ARVEY E. WILLIAMS. The death of a good man is always to be deplored, not only as a loss to his immediate family and intimate associates, but also to the community in whose behalf he has labored and in which the vacancy occasioned by his death is hard to fill. Such is especially the case in regard to our subject, who has for many years been known as a prominent citizen of Dixon, upright in all his dealings and popular and well beloved wherever known. He came to this county in the spring of 1855 and settled in Dixon where he was engaged in business for eleven years. He then removed to a good farm in South Dixon Township which was a highly improved piece of land, comprising one hundred and seventy-two acres on section 16, and where he successfully carried on agricultural operations. It is supplied with fine farm buildings and is well stocked with cattle of good breeds, he having for years made a specialty of Short-horn cattle. His death occurred in Dixon Township, April 23, 1890.

Mr. Williams was born in Onondaga County, N. Y., December 16, 1817. He was carefully reared and received an excellent education and was married in Madison County, soon after becoming a successful contractor and at the same time carrying on a farm. On selling out his place, he came to Illinois in 1853, settling in Lee County in the spring of 1855. He was a very well-informed man

and was widely-known throughout the county where he was exceedingly popular and by his integrity and upright character made many life-long friends. For many years he was a member of the Masonic order and was a prominent Democrat. In everything that pertained to the upbuilding of the county and township, he aided by example and influence.

The parents of our subject were born and spent their entire lives at Manlius Township, Onondaga County, N. Y., where the father, Elijah Williams, died when about seventy-two years of age, and his wife when not quite so old. The mother's maiden name was Luey Edwards, and both she and her husband were worthy members of the Baptist Church. Of their five children two are yet living; one son enlisted during the Civil War in a New York regiment in which he was a commissioned officer and was killed at the battle of Chickamauga.

Harvey E. Williams was married in Sullivan Township, Madison County, N. Y., to Miss Wealthy A. Cropsy, who was a native of that county and township, born in 1843. She was carefully reared and well educated and has proved a true wife and devoted mother. She is a progressive woman and on the death of her husband took charge of the estate and has managed it with great wisdom and ability. She has recently moved to the city of Dixon, where she has erected a fine dwelling near Peoria Street and where she most hospitably entertains a large circle of warm friends. The parents of Mrs. Williams were John G. and Catherine (DuColon) Cropsy, natives of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., both removing when young to Sullivan Township, Madison County, of that State, where they were married and began their wedded life in that township, spending the remainder of their lives there, the wife departing this life when only forty-six years of age, and her husband living until the advanced age of ninety-two years. They were constant attendants of the Dutch Reformed Church. Mr. and Mrs. Cropsy have been the parents of seven children, five of whom are living.

Our subject and his wife have been the parents of three children, one of whom is deceased, Emma S. who was the wife of A. C. McCallister, now residing in Aberdeen, S. Dak. She left one daugh-

ter, who lives with her grandmother, Mrs. Williams. Cornelia is the widow of John S. Green, who died in Morrison, Ill., where Mrs. Green now resides. She has four children: Harvey and Iva, both of whom are married; Olive and Florence. The remaining daughter, Ella C., resides at home with her mother. Mrs. Williams is an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is foremost in every good work. Mrs. Williams has one great-granddaughter, Helen Sholes Green.



**M**ICHAEL MALONEY, County Treasurer of Lee County, and a member of the firm of Duffy & Maloney, also Vice-President of the Building & Loan Association of Dixon, has been one of the prominent men of this city for many years and is numbered among the early settlers of 1852. His birth occurred in Dunkirk, N. Y., in 1851, and he has therefore spent almost his entire life in Lee County. His parents, Patrick and Bridget (Mahan) Maloney, were both natives of the Emerald Isle and came of pure Irish ancestry. During childhood both had crossed the Atlantic to America and with their respective families located in Palmyra, N.Y., where they became acquainted and were married. After a few years they determined to try their fortune in the West and in 1852 located in Dixon, where they still reside. They and all of their children are members of the Catholic Church.

Under the parental roof, our subject was reared to manhood and received the educational advantages afforded by the city schools. After attaining to mature years, he married Miss Elizabeth Duffy, their union being celebrated in this city by the Rev. T. P. Hodnett. The lady was born in the Green Isle of Erin and with her parents, both of whom are now deceased, came to the United States. Her father and mother both died in middle life and their remains were interred in Dixon Cemetery. They were members of the Catholic Church and had a family of seven children. Elizabeth Duffy spent the days of her maidenhood

in her parents' home and afterward gave her hand in marriage to Michael Maloney. Their union has been blessed with one child, a daughter, Mary. They are both members of the Catholic Church.

Our subject has spent almost his entire life in Dixon and is widely and favorably known throughout the community. For twenty years of his business career he was connected with the Illinois Central Railroad Company as clerk and cashier in Dixon. He is now engaged in business as a member of the firm of Duffy & Maloney, dairymen, and they have built up an excellent trade. He is also Vice-President of the Building & Loan Association and is regarded as one of the representative citizens of the community. In politics, he is a supporter of Democratic principles, and in 1878 was elected Collector of Dixon. He is now serving as County Treasurer of Lee County, to which office he was chosen in 1890, and is proving a capable and faithful official. Those who have known Mr. Maloney from his boyhood, and have been witnesses of the upright life which he has lived, are numbered among his warmest friends. His circle of acquaintances is quite extensive and he has the high regard of all with whom business or pleasure have brought him in contact.



**A**LLEXANDER P. GILMORE is a son of one of the early pioneers of Lee County, and has been a resident of this part of Illinois as a boy and man for more than half a century. During that time he has won his way to an important place among its leading agriculturists, and has been serviceable in reclaiming the land from its original wildness. His home is in Brooklyn Township on a choice farm, whose fine improvements are the result of his persistent labor, and he owns besides a large body of land in Viola Township.

Mr. Gilmore was born in the city of New York, July 4, 1826. His father, John Gilmore, was born in the North of Ireland, and was the son of an-

other John Gilmore, who is also supposed to have been a native of the northern part of Ireland, and was of Scottish ancestry. He was a resident of Ireland for many years, but finally came to America and settled in New York. He subsequently sent for his family, but the vessel on which they sailed was wrecked, and his wife and two sons perished. Two daughters were saved and afterward made their home in New York City. During the latter part of his life, the grandfather of our subject lived with his son John in Brooklyn Township.

The father of our subject was only twelve years old when he left his home in the Emerald Isle and came to this country, and the next few years of his life were spent in New York City, where he learned the trade of a morocco dresser. He was there married to Hannah Smith, who had come from Ireland, her native country, to America with her parents. In 1830 Mr. Gilmore turned his back on the metropolis of the United States and sought the primeval forests of the Territory of Michigan, where he designed to build up a new home. Accompanied by his family, he traveled by way of the Hudson River to Albany, from there by canal to Buffalo, thence by lake to Detroit, where he took a team and journeyed into the interior of the country a distance of twenty miles, and bought a tract of timber on which he located. He found the country in an extremely wild condition, bears, deer and other wild animals roaming at will through the woods and on the prairies, and Detroit was but a hamlet, with no signs of its present size and importance.

Mr. Gilmore cleared thirty-five acres of his land during his five years' residence in Michigan, and then disposed of it at a good price and came to Illinois in 1835. The removal was made with teams and a part of the household goods were brought along. The family camped by the wayside at night, or whenever needful, and at other times made their way as rapidly as possible to their destination. Arriving at Chicago, then a small village, the father left the others in camp near by, and set out on foot to explore the country for a suitable location, William Guthrie, a veteran of the Black Hawk War, going with him. They vis-

ited Lee County, which, at that time, had not been organized, and they found Zachariah Malugin holding sole possession of this part of the country as its only inhabitant. He was holding claim to a large tract of land, and Mr. Gilmore bought a share of his claim for \$50, including a part of Malugin's Grove. He returned for his family, and completed for their dwelling a cabin, for which the logs had been put together, and he rived boards for the roof and split boards for the door and floor. No nails entered into the construction of the building, and the chimney was a rude affair of sticks and clay with a stone foundation. Deer and other kinds of game were plentiful and the Indians still lingered around their old hunting grounds. Dayton, thirty miles distant, was the nearest milling point, and there, also, was the nearest smithy. There were no railways for years and Chicago was the nearest place where the pioneers could go to sell their wheat and other produce, and obtain necessary supplies in return. Mr. Gilmore resided on his farm some years, and he then built a public house on the Chicago & Dixon Road, and for some time provided entertainment for man and beast, winning much popularity and becoming quite generally known in his character of mine host. He subsequently removed to Mendota and made his home there the remainder of his life, though his death occurred in California shortly after he went there to visit a daughter. His wife died at the home of our subject. They were for many years devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which they joined at Malugin's Grove in 1837, being among the original number that formed the church.

A lad of nine years when the family came to this State, our subject had not completed his education, and so attended the pioneer schools of this county, that were taught in a log house, which was provided with furniture made by hand, the seats being made of boards with wooden pins for legs, and a board placed on wooden pins that were driven into holes bored in the wall served as a writing-desk for the pupils. His experience at home was much like that of other farmers' boys, and he was not very old when he began to make himself useful on the farm. He remained an in-

mate of the parental household until 1850, when he joined the hundreds of emigrants that were passing continually through the State on their way to California in search of gold. He set out on the long and momentous journey over the plains on March 4th with ox-teams, going with others, and crossed the Mississippi at Rock Island, while the Missouri was crossed at Council Bluffs. No white settlers were encountered between the latter river and Salt Lake, the stronghold of the Mormons, but buffaloes were often seen in countless numbers. Arriving at Hangoon, September 6, Mr. Gilmore soon began to mine, and was thus engaged there until December, 1853, when he started on his return home with the proceeds of his hard labors, and coming by way of the Isthmus, touched at Kingston and Jamaica, and finally landed at New York City.

After he came back from his sojourn on the frontier, our subject quietly settled himself to farming on eighty acres of land in Brooklyn Township, that his father had given him, and which is included in his present farm. He first erected a suitable dwelling, and has been continually making other improvements, so that he has an attractive place, and from his finely tilled fields he reaps abundant harvests. His farm has been added to by the purchase of more land, and now comprises two hundred and ninety-five acres of well-drained and very fertile soil. He has, besides four hundred acres of swamp land in Viola Township, which will, with improvement, become fine farming land.

Mr. Gilmore has been twice married. In February, 1855, he was married to Miss Mary Frost, a native of Maine and a daughter of Daniel and Eulalie Frost. Mrs. Gilmore died in October, 1865. Mr. Gilmore was married in 1867 to his present wife, formerly Miss Louisa Fiske, a native of Canada and a daughter of John Fiske. Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore have seven children living, namely: Robert, Nellie, Arlow, Carrie, Fred, Josephine and Harry. Carrie, the second daughter, is the wife of the Rev. Wallace Fiske.

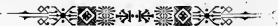
Our subject and his wife are people whose many genial, kindly characteristics have won them a warm place in the hearts of their neighbors and

THE LOOK



JESSE BEEMER.

other friends, and in them the Methodist Episcopal Church finds two of its most exemplary members. Mr. Gilmore was for many years a Republican, but his strong feelings in regard to temperance have carried him over to the Prohibitionists.



**ANNNAH J. (VAN AUKEN) BEEMER**, widow of the late Jesse Beemer, is a most worthy representative of the noble pioneer women of Lee County, without whose help and encouragement their fathers, husbands and brothers could not have accomplished what they did in the development of this region, and in laying the foundation of a prosperous community. she is one of the oldest settlers now living within the limits of the county, and is contentedly passing the declining years of a well-spent life in the old home in Wyoming Township which she and her husband established here in pioneer times.

Mrs. Beemer was born in Sussex County N. J., June 8, 1821. Her father, John W. Van Auken, was a native of the same State as herself; his father being a farmer, and passing his last years in Sussex County. John Van Anken was reared and married in New Jersey, and subsequently moved from there to Pennsylvania. He finally came from the latter State to Illinois, and lived in Kane County until after the death of his wife, and from that time he made his home in this county with his daughter of whom we write until he departed this life at a ripe age. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Rachel Rosenkrans, was likewise a native of New Jersey.

Our subject spent her girlhood in her native State and when a young woman accompanied her parents to Pennsylvania. She was carefully instructed in the duties of the household, and remained an inmate of the home of her parents until she was called upon to preside over one of her own, her marriage with Jesse Beemer taking place in 1838. He was a native of Sussex County N. J., and a son of Henry and Mary Beemer. He was an active and stalwart young farmer, well fitted to

cope with the pioneer life that lay before him, and in his young bride he had a most capable helpmate, who with characteristic cheerfulness, bravery and devotion to the husband of her choice shared with him the struggles necessary in the making of a home in the wilderness, and lightened for him by her constant helpfulness the burden of support of an increasing family as the years passed by. Mr. Beemer bought a tract of forest-covered land near Buttermilk Falls, Penn., and there built a log house in which he and his bride commenced life together. He cleared quite a tract of land, and was engaged in its tillage until 1847. In the month of September, that year, accompanied by his wife and six children that had been born to them in their old home, he started across the country with a team to make the long and tiresome journey to the wilds of Illinois, where he had determined to settle to take advantage of the cheap land and fertile soil of this region. After six weeks' travel the family arrived in Lee County, which they found in a wild, sparsely settled condition, with wolves, deer and other wild animals roaming over land that they were to see converted into valuable farms as the years sped away, and where they were one day to see many thrifty towns and villages.

After his arrival here Mr. Beemer bought a tract of Government land on section 6, Wyoming Township, and there being no house on the place he rented a home at Lauton's Grove the ensuing two years. In the meantime he built the residence which is occupied by his widow, drawing the lumber for its construction from Chicago, as there were no railways here for some years after his settlement at this point, and that city was the nearest market and depot for supplies. He devoted himself closely to the work of redeeming his land, constantly making improvements, and in time his farm compared with the best in every particular. He and his wife were industrious and frugal, made good use of their means, surrounded themselves with every needed comfort, enjoyed the respect and friendship of their neighbors, and had as much prosperity and happiness as falls to the lot of ordinary mortals. Their wedded life of nearly half a century was brought to a close July 5, 1886, by

the death of the well-beloved husband. In dying he left behind him a good record as a pioneer, as a citizen and in all the relations that he had sustained towards others. His portrait is presented in connection with this sketch and will be welcomed by his large circle of friends who reverence his memory. Mrs. Beemer is the mother of fourteen children, of whom all married but one, and eight of them are living to bless and comfort the sunset of her life, namely,—Alpheus, Rachel, Everett, Millard, Mary, Lydia, Ida and John. These are the names of those who have passed away,—George, Rosella, Sarah, Emma, Lorella and Charles. Mrs. Beemer has sixty-four living grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.



**C**HARLES H. CARD has been identified with the practical farmers of Northern Illinois for many years, and has contributed his quota towards the development of its marvelous agricultural resources. For nearly a quarter of a century, he has carried on his operations in De Kalb County, Ill., where he had a good farm. A native of Cazenovia, Madison County, N. Y., he was born April 28, 1822. His father, Richard Card, a native of Rhode Island, was an early settler of Madison County, where he bought a tract of land, which is included wholly in the town of Cazenovia. He was a blacksmith, and while doing a thriving business at his trade, he at the same time superintended the improvement of his farm and resided thereon until his untimely death in 1830 deprived his community of a very useful citizen. The maiden name of his wife was Annie Palmer, and she was a daughter of John Palmer. She was born near Hoosick, N. Y., and died in Corning, N. Y., in 1853. She was the mother of nine children that grew to maturity.

He of whom these lines are written passed his early life in his native town and was educated in the public schools. He lived with his mother until he attained his majority. He inherited a part of the old homestead and farmed it for three

years. In 1848 he paid his first visit to Illinois, coming hither by the way of canal and lakes to Chicago and then proceeding on foot to De Kalb County, where he invested in a tract of Government land in Shabbona Township. After entering his land, he returned to New York and erected a building at Corning, which he devoted to the grocery business the ensuing two years. His store and stock were then burned and he accepted a position as baggage master on the Erie Railway, which place he occupied two years. He then turned his attention to carpentering.

In the meantime our subject had not forgotten the impression made upon him on his visit to Illinois, as to the many superior advantages its rich, virgin soil gave to a wide-awake, progressive farmer over the older settled portions of the country, and in 1854 he came back to locate on his land in Shabbona Township. He at once erected suitable buildings, began to cultivate his land, and in the twelve years that he lived upon it brought it into a fine condition. He then sold and bought the place where he now resides in East Paw Paw, where he is living in a cozy home, surrounded by every evidence of comfort.

March 14, 1843, Mr. Card and Miss Julia Greenman were united in marriage, and for nearly half a century they have traveled life's road together, sharing each other's joys and lightening each other's sorrows, and securing to themselves the universal respect of the community, where they have passed so many years, by lives of unselfish devotion to duty, wherein they have tried to do as they would be done by. Mrs. Card is an exemplary member of the Presbyterian Church. She is a native of the same town in which her husband was born, and is a daughter of Gardner Greenman, who was also a native of New York, his birthplace being in Rensselaer County. He moved from there to Madison County when a young man, and was there married to Betsy Savage, a native of Vermont and a daughter of John Savage. Her father is thought to have been born in Connecticut and to have removed from there to Vermont, of which State he was a resident for some time. He subsequently went to New York and bought a farm in Cazenovia Township, upon which he spent his remaining



days. His wife spent her last years with her children, and died at the home of her daughter, wife of our subject, in De Kalb County. Mr. and Mrs. Card have three children living: Lewis, Etta, and Edwin. Lewis married Emma Co. greaves, and they have two children: Albert and Charlie. Etta married Dr. Joseph Atherton, and they have two children: Boyd C. and Card Leslie. Addie, the elder daughter of our subject, married N. R. Wheat and died April 17, 1889, leaving two children: Elsie and Julia.



**G**EORGE T. NOE was born in Willow Creek Township, May 21, 1855, and is to-day numbered among the substantial, enterprising and intelligent farmers who are so ably conducting the rich agricultural interests of Lee County. He is a son of Cummings Noe, a pioneer of Illinois, who was a factor in developing the resources of the northern part of the State, and for many years before his death was identified with the farming interests of this county.

The grandfather of our subject, Abraham Noe, was born November 27, 1772, in the city of Perth, Amboy, and was married August 10, 1795, to Phebe Condit, who was born August 7, 1776. Their children were named Hannah D., Aaron A., Jonathan C., Myme C., Jephtha C., Cummings M., Ebenezer C., and Richard H.

Cummings Noe was born at Caldwell, Essex County, N. J., July 20, 1809, and was about eight years old when his parents went from there to the primeval wilds of Ohio, and were early settlers of that section of the country. He attended the rude pioneer schools of those early days of the settlement of the Buckeye State, which were taught in log houses that were without regular windows, greased paper placed over a hole in the wall serving to admit the light instead of glass. In 1834, in the full vigor and flush of manhood, he too became a pioneer, coming to Illinois with his family, journeying hither with teams. He first located in Tazewell County, but a year later he removed to Joe Daviess County, going there with a team. The

following year he again pulled up stakes and took up his abode in Ogle County, his wagon being a primitive affair, with wheels made of sections of a log. For eight years he lived there, and then made still another move, and this time came to Lee County, where he dwelt in peace and contentment the remaining days of his life.

For many years Mr. Noe, Sr., was a resident of Willow Creek Township, where he bought a tract of Government land on section 17, and gave his attention closely to its improvement, his first work being to build a house to shelter his family. He found the surrounding country in a wild condition, with but few attempts at development, and as there were no railways here for some years after his settlement, he had to draw his grain to Chicago, seventy miles distant. Deer and other kinds of game were plentiful.

In 1879 Mr. Noe for the last time changed his dwelling place, removing to Viola Township that year, and settling on a farm that he had previously bought, and there death found him at a ripe age in 1884. His wife survives him and still makes her home in Viola Township. She was also a native of New Jersey, and prior to her marriage her name was Martha Parkhurst, being the daughter of Benjamin and Betsey Parkhurst. She is the mother of eleven children: Mary, Emery, Erastus, William, Phebe, Ruth, Amos, Martha, Nancy, Eli and George. William and Amos were brave soldiers in the late war, members of Company B, Twenty-seventh Illinois Infantry, and both gave up their lives for their country while in her service.

The subject of this biographical review was given excellent educational advantages, attending first the local district schools, and then having the benefit of eighteen months' study in the college at Weston, Iowa, that has since been removed to Toledo. After leaving college, his taste for agriculture led him to adopt that which Horace Greeley styled the "noblest of professions" for his life work, and he has devoted himself principally to farming. He remained with his parents until his marriage, affording his father valuable assistance in carrying on his farm, and he then settled on the farm on which he now resides. This contains two hundred and seven acres of land, that is

exceedingly fertile, is under good cultivation, and is provided with substantial and roomy buildings for every needed purpose. Mr. Noe is a man of exemplary habits, who is well thought of by the entire community where he has been known as boy and man since his birth. He is a veritable Christian, whose life is guided by principles of honor and honesty, and in him the United Brethren Church has one of its most consistent members, who favors all things that tend to the moral and social elevation of his township. He is especially interested in temperance reform, and is a staunch Prohibitionist.

Mr. Noe is happy in his domestic relations, as he secured a good wife by his marriage, in 1878, with Mrs. Caroline Yetter, widow of Philip Jacob Yetter, and a daughter of Gottleib and Rosina Hochstrasser. Seven children have blessed their union, namely: Eda L., Mary M., Carrie B., Laura N., Clarence C., Raymond E. and Inez C. Mrs. Noe has two children living by her first marriage, George H. and Rosina P.

Mrs. Noe was born at Troy Grove, this State, of which her father was a pioneer. He was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, November 9, 1820, a son of Jacob Hochstrasser. He was reared and educated in the Fatherland, whence he came to this country in the prime of manhood in 1847, setting sail from Antwerp and landing at New York in July, after a voyage of forty-two days. He made his way to New Jersey, and was employed there on a farm by the month for three years. In 1850 he came to Illinois with his wife, having been married in Philadelphia in October, 1849, to Miss Rosina Dimler, who was also a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, born February 27, 1826, to Michael and Rosina Dimler, likewise natives of Wurtemberg. Her father spent his entire life in the old country, but her mother came to America in 1848, and, settling in Philadelphia, took a second husband in the City of Brotherly Love.

Mr. Hochstrasser and his bride journeyed to their new home on the broad prairies of Illinois by rail from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, thence by river, canal and lake to Chicago, and from there by canal to La Salle County, and the ensuing two years were passed in Peru, where he was employed

in the warehouses. He then rented a farm at Troy Grove, and a year later came to Lee County. He bought eighty acres of land in what is now Willow Creek Township, paying \$325 for it, and at once set about the pioneer work that lay before him in further developing his place, on which a log house had already been erected, and sixteen acres of the land broken. During his many years' residence on his old homestead, he made many valuable improvements, including the erection of a good set of frame buildings, and he placed his original purchase of land under good cultivation, besides buying an eighty-acre tract joining, which he also improved. In 1884 he rented his farm, and, removing to Lee County, has since lived there in honorable retirement. He and his good wife have been blessed by four children: Caroline (Mrs. Noe), Mary, wife of Jacob Meyer; Sophia, wife of Carl Yetter; and Luey, wife of Peter Wagner. Mrs. Noe and her parents are devoted members of the Evangelical Church.



**W**ILLIAM B. TRUDE, who has been a resident of Amboy since 1855, is well known as an old engineer in the passenger service of the Illinois Central Railroad. There are two families of this name in the United States, one being of French and the other of English extraction. The former is the one to which the subject of this sketch belongs.

John Trude, the founder of the name in America, was impressed into the French navy at the age of eleven years and was held in service until twenty-two years old. On his return home, he could learn nothing of his family, and as the Marquis Lafayette was preparing to depart for America, the young man joined him as an adventurer enlisting in the cause of the colonies. After his arrival upon our shores, he fought in the battle of the Brandywine and other engagements, and, at the close of the war, settled at Horse Neck, R. I., where he married an American lady by the name of Baker and lived to the advanced age of nearly ninety years. He reared a family of four sons and three

daughters: one son, John, settled in Chautauqua County, N. Y.; another son, Nathan, lived and died at Watertown, N. Y., and another, William D., the father of our subject, was born at Horse Neck, R. I., June 21, 1790. He married Betsey Eldridge, who was born the same year in Washington County, N. Y. Her father was a Revolutionary soldier, and fought at Crown Point, Bennington, Stony Point, and Saratoga. This couple resided in St. Lawrence and Niagara Counties, N. Y., and in 1854 came to Illinois and settled at St. Charles, Kane County, where they passed away at the age of seventy-eight and sixty-three years respectively. Their family consisted of eight children: Amos, a farmer, who resided at Sycamore, Ill., and there died in 1890; James, who was also a farmer, died near Galena, this State; Alonzo resides in East Saginaw, Mich.; Martin is a resident of California; Phebe married Sidney Weldon and they make their home in Nebraska; Susan married John Weldon and died at Mineral Point, Wis.; Nancy is the wife of Sanford Hays and resides at Freeport, Ill.

Our subject, who is the youngest of the family, was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., December 29, 1831. His early life passed upon a farm. In 1853 he came to Illinois and stopping at St. Charles, he became employed as a fireman on a locomotive, which ran on a branch road at that place. March 14, 1855, he came to Amboy and entered the employ of the Illinois Central, serving as fireman until 1862, and since that date as engineer. He has been in the passenger service since 1864, his run being between La Salle and Dubuque. He was married in 1858 to Candice Rolf, daughter of Aaron and Mary Rolf, who was born in Lisbon, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., December 25, 1836. Her father, Aaron Rolf, was of English parentage and was a native of Essex County, N. Y. He was educated for the medical profession, but becoming dissatisfied with it he settled on a farm in St. Lawrence County, becoming one of its most honored and influential citizens and being frequently elected to public office. He attained the advanced age of eighty-one years. To this worthy couple nine children were born, all of whom grew to maturity and of whom the following record is given:

William died at Watertown, N. Y.; Rosella, now Mrs. John Loard, resides at St. Charles, Ill.; Nancy, who married Henry Armstrong, died at Ogdensburg, N. Y.; Elizabeth became the wife of David Getty and resides at Amboy; Sophia, who became the wife of Samuel Wells, died at Baldwinville, N. Y.; Winter is in the West; George was accidentally killed in the yards of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad at Chicago. He was the oldest engineer in the service of that company, and was an earnest Christian gentleman. Robert resides in Minnesota, and Candice, the wife of our subject, is the youngest child. She came West in 1855 to visit her brother in Chicago and remained until the date of her marriage with Mr. Trude.

Mr. and Mrs. Trude are the parents of two children: Fred W., born in Amboy, July 19, 1859, was married in 1881 to Josephine McCormick. They have one son, William Fred, who is a conductor on the Illinois Central and resides at Amboy; Frank E. is a telegraph operator in the service of the Illinois Central. Mrs. Trude is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Trude is a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and also of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In politics, he is a Republican. The family are among the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of Amboy.



**G**EORGE W. HEWITT, M. D., was one of the ablest and most distinguished physicians of his day who practiced in Lee County many years, and by his death his profession was deprived of one of its noblest representatives, and his community met with a sad loss, many a household mourning for the beloved and honored physician whose presence had so often brought healing, and whose friendship is now a pleasant memory. It gives us pleasure to place his life record on these pages, together with that of his son, Dr. Henry M. Hewitt, upon whom his father's mantle has fallen, and who has already attained

distinction as one of the most learned and skillful physicians of this part of the State.

Dr. George W. Hewitt was born in Middleburgh, Franklin County, Pa., December 23, 1830, a son of G. W. and Margaret (Conklin) Hewitt, to whom were born four sons and three daughters. His parents were wealthy, and left each of their children a handsome fortune. Although he was rich and could have led a life of ease and luxury, he was of far too active a temperament for that, and chose instead to enter the laborious profession of a physician. He began his studies with Dr. Chew, of Baltimore, Md., as preceptor, and at the same time attended lectures at the University of Maryland, from which he was graduated in 1854, with high honors, having attained a remarkable degree of proficiency in his studies. In the spring of the same year, he came to Illinois as offering a wider field for the exercise of his talents than some of the older States, and on the 1st of May opened an office at Franklin Grove. He was untiring in his devotion to his profession, and ere long became widely known, not only in Lee County but far beyond its bounds, as a physician of unusual intelligence and ability, the people among whom he settled early recognizing his professional merits, and to the last day of his life his friends and patrons looked upon him as pre-eminently the best medical adviser in this section of the country. He also had a high standing among his brother physicians as one who kept well abreast of the times, was quick to perceive the value of new methods, and to adopt them wherever feasible in his general practice, which was large, and he was honored by appointment to various distinguished positions in connection with his calling. In 1871 he was a delegate from the Illinois State Medical Society to the American Medical Association, and besides being a member of the latter was an honorary member of the California Medical Society. His course was patriotic during the war, and he rendered valuable service to the Government as surgeon of the Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry, and he was a member of Col. Kirk's staff as Brigadier-Surgeon when the General was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General.

On September 26, 1856, Dr. Hewitt, Sr., was

wedded to Caroline Davis Miller, and theirs was a true marriage, whose happiness was uninterrupted until the death of the beloved wife seven years later, November 19, 1863. She left two sons, Henry M. and George W., who were aged respectively five and three years when they were so sadly bereft of their mother. After that they were well cared for by their aunt, Miss Amanda T. Miller. George W. Hewitt was born July 31, 1859. He attended medical college two years during his youth, but on account of ill health was obliged to give up his ambition to be a physician, and turning his attention to the study of law, he was educated for that profession at the Union Law School, of Chicago, from which he was graduated in the Class of '82. He is now one of the most prominent attorneys of Western Iowa, having his place of residence at Council Bluffs; he is one of the leading Masons of that vicinity, and has taken the thirty-second degree.

The elder Dr. Hewitt was scarcely past the prime of life, and it seemed as if many more years of usefulness lay before him, when his brilliant career was terminated by his untimely death. September 1, 1879, his team ran away, and he was thrown off a bridge to the stream twenty feet below. He received injuries from which he only partly recovered, and in October, 1880 had his first stroke of paralysis. January 5, 1881, he had a second stroke, which caused his death on the 12th of that month. The community where he lived for so many years was plunged into sorrow at his demise, as he had identified himself with its every interest, and was always foremost in all that pertained to its social and religious life. He was prominent as a Knight Templar Mason, and was an active member of the Presbyterian Church, where his presence is missed, as well as his generous benefactions in promoting its every good work. The Doctor was a sound man of business, added to his inherited property, and left a large and valuable estate, which has been ably administered by his son, our subject.

Henry M. Hewitt, M. D., was born August 24, 1857. He was given a liberal literary education at the Illinois State Normal School and at the Northwestern University. He ranked high in

scholarship at both institutions, and laid a solid basis for his medical studies, which were pursued at Rush Medical College, Chicago, whence he was graduated before he was twenty-one years old. As he was too young to practice his profession, he further fitted himself for it by spending one winter in the hospitals of New York, and then he passed ten months in Europe in visiting the hospitals at Heidelberg, Paris and London, where he gained a practical experience in his calling that has been of incalculable value to him since his return, when he established himself at Franklin Grove, entering upon his practice here at his old home in 1879. He needed no introduction to the people among whom his boyhood days had been pleasantly passed, who regarded him with favor for his own sake, as well as for that of the father whom they so revered. He early showed that he had inherited in a full degree the talents that placed his father at the head of the profession, and he has already won an enviable reputation as a very successful practitioner.

Dr. Hewitt was married October 17, 1883, to Miss Eliza J. Durkes. She is a native of Franklin Grove, born June 16, 1859, and is a daughter of Conrad Durkes. Mrs. Hewitt is a lady of culture, having been finely educated in the famous Mt. Holyoke Seminary for girls, at Holyoke, Mass., from which she was graduated in the Class of '82. Her pleasant marriage with our subject has brought them three children: George W., born May 26, 1885; Mary D., September 1, 1889, and Henry M., Jr., November 16, 1891.

The Doctor devoted himself so assiduously to his beloved profession that his health failed while he was administering to the ills of others, and June 15, 1888, he abandoned his practice to travel to California to recover his former vigor. He was accompanied by his wife, and for twenty-two months they journeyed over the Golden State with a horse and buggy, and visited all parts of it. Returning to Franklin Grove April 1, 1890, restored to health and with a fresh supply of strength to enable him to withstand the strain of his professional life, he resumed his practice. The Doctor is also quite a competent business man, and manages his financial affairs with consummate

skill. He is wealthy, and besides his property at Franklin Grove, has a farm in Iowa, and a ten-acre, five-year-old orange grove at Rialto, Cal. His pleasant social qualities, courtesy and consideration in his intercourse with all with whom he comes in contact, whether of high or low degree, have won him many friends. Politically, he is a Republican, and his connection with the Masonic Society is as a Knight Templar.



**E**BENEZER L. CLAPP, is a highly respected citizen of Lee Center, and an early pioneer of this county. He was born in Hampshire County, Mass. in 1819 and lived there until fifteen years of age. His father was proprietor of an hotel, running a stage and also carrying on farming. When our subject was fifteen years old, he went to New York City, being employed for two and one half years with James Hall & Co, wholesale drygoods merchants. He then entered the employ of Eno & Phelps, in the same business, remaining with him for about two years.

About this time, Mr. Clapp had his attention directed to Mobile, Ala., to which place he went with the intention of going into business there, but not being satisfied with the outlook of things he changed his mind, and after remaining in that city for six months went to Selma, Ala., and entered the employ of Johnson & Dore, merchants, with whom he remained eighteen months. He then returned to the East and going to Hartford, Conn., engaged in business for some five years in the retail trade. At the expiration of this time he returned to New York and opened up business, dealing in carpets, boots and shoes, for some three years. He then sold out and bought a retail establishment of John S. Quiek which he carried on for some years, finally disposing of it and forming a partnership with Mr. Nelson, of St. Louis. They were together in business for some years and then dissolved partnership. After leaving Eno & Phelps and previous to engaging in trade for himself he spent two years in Troy, New York.

In 1847 Mr. Clapp came to Illinois, locating in

this county, where in company with his father he bought some four hundred acres of land, where Lee Ceuter now stands, and on which he built a log cabin, and has resided on that place every since. During all that time he has carried on farming and has also dealt largely in sheep, having brought the first of these animals of any importance to Lee County.

Mr. Clapp was married in Utica, N. Y., to Catharine Bull, a native of Winstead, Conn., and they are the parents of five children, namely: Fred B.; Edwin and Ruggles W., both deceased; Alice L., and Kate E. Mr. Clapp has been very successful in his business undertakings and his farm consisting of sixty-two and one half acres, is highly improved and contains good buildings and all conveniences for carrying on agricultural pursuits. Mr. Clapp is a Republican in politics and he and his family are highly esteemed by their fellow-citizens.



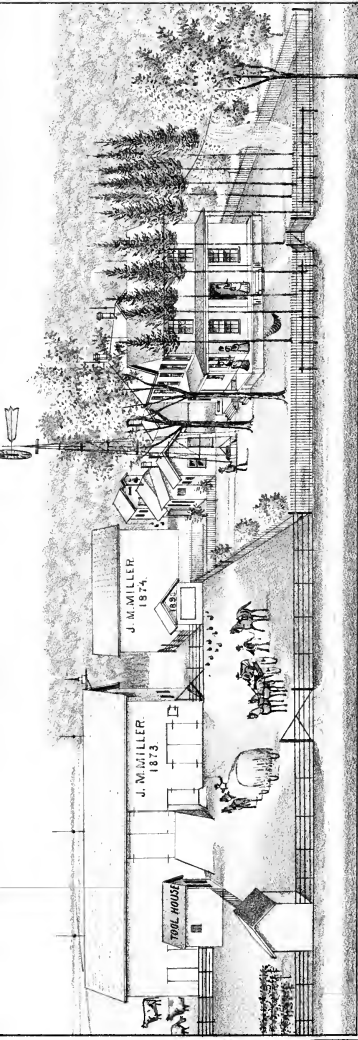
**D**EACON ISRAEL F. HALLOCK. Lee County may well be proud of the record of her pioneers, who were earnest, resolute, self-respecting, self-helpful, hard-working men, well fitted to cope with the difficulties and hardships of frontier life, and performed a great work in developing the resources of the country. Among those who are still living amid the scenes of their early struggles with the forces of nature that have produced such grand results, enjoying a hale and cheerful old age, is Deacon Israel Hallock, and his fellow-citizens in Wyoming Township and elsewhere do him honor not only as one of the early settlers of this region and one of its prosperous farmers, but for his genuine worth as a man and a citizen.

Our subject was born June 16, 1818, in Mt. Hope, Orange County, N. Y., and is descended from some of the early families of that State. His father, Joseph Hallock, was born in the same county as himself, while his grandfather, for whom he was named, was born in Suffolk County, Long Island. He in turn was the son of another Israel

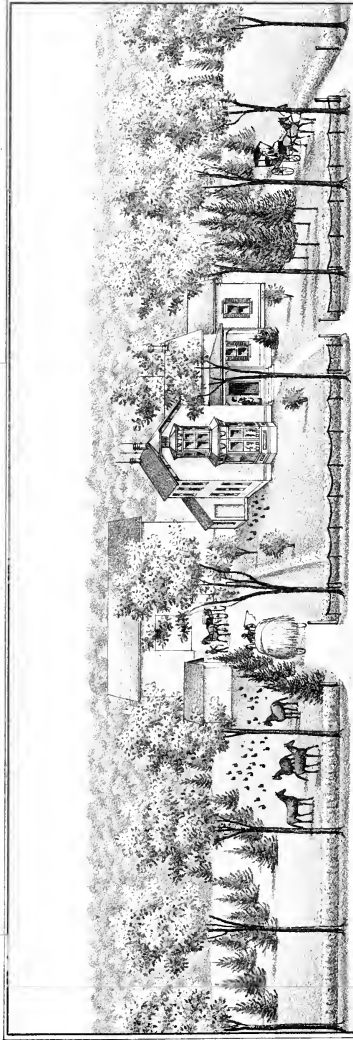
Hallock, who was also a native of Suffolk County, and was a son of one Zebulon Hallock, who was born in the same place as himself, which was likewise the birthplace of his father, William H. Hallock. The father of the latter was William Hallock, a native of Long Island, and a son of Peter Hallock, who, says tradition, was the first white settler to put his foot on the Island. He was of English birth, came to this country when a young man, landed at Hallock's Neck, Southold, Long Island, in 1640, and there dwelt in peace and contentment the remaining years of his sojourn on earth.

The great-grandfather of our subject removed from Suffolk County to the main land during the latter part of his life, and spent his remaining years in Orange County. The grandfather of our subject was reared and married in Orange County, the maiden name of his wife being Reed. He was a farmer, and carried on farming in Mt. Hope Township, where he died in fullness of time. The father of our subject grew to man's estate in his native county, and in due time took unto himself a wife in the person of Esther Youngs, a native of Suffolk County, L. I., and a daughter of Thomas and Esther (Comstock) Youngs; she died in Orange County. Mr. Hallock adopted the calling of a farmer, and pursued it in his native town until 1835, when he left Mt. Hope and took up his residence in Luzerne County, Pa. Thence he came to Illinois in 1841, and was a pioneer of Wyoming Township, purchasing of his son a claim on section 24. His last years were spent here, and at his death he was laid to rest in the cemetery at South Paw Paw. He was twice married, and was the father of fifteen children. He served in the War of 1812.

Our subject was seventeen years old when he went to Pennsylvania with the family, and he remained an inmate of the parental home until he married and established one of his own in 1839. In the spring of 1840 he came to Illinois with his young wife to try his fortunes on the rich soil of the Prairie State. They journeyed thither with a horse and wagon, and after traveling six weeks and five days, arrived in Stark County, where he proposed to locate. After his arrival he traded his wagon for forty acres of land, and borrowed



RESIDENCE OF J. M. MILLER, SEC. 14., CHINA TP., LEE CO., ILL.



THE END



\$50 with which to pay the balance. He invested also in a cow, and then had \$3 left with which to commence housekeeping. The locality where he settled was very unhealthy, so he and his wife only staid there three or four months and then came to Lee County as a much more desirable place of residence. They found this part of the country in all its original wildness, with but few white settlers, and the land, which was all owned by the Government, had not been sub-divided.

On coming to Lee County Deacon Hallock bought a claim on the southwest quarter of section 24, of what is now Wyoming Township. Three acres were fenced and broken, but there were no buildings on it. His first work was to erect a log house in which he wintered. At first he had no team to work with, as he had exchanged his horse for his land, but he was very industrious, and soon had the wherewithal to buy a pair of steers, which he broke, and for some years did all his farm work and marketing with them. In the spring of 1841 he sold his claim to his father, and made a claim to a tract of land on section 25, the same township. He built a log house, and at once commenced to improve the land. He worked hard, his labors being directed by good judgment, and he prospered accordingly. He placed all his land under excellent cultivation, erected a neat set of frame buildings, and planted fruit and shade trees, including a grove of beautiful maples, which gave the farm its name as "Maple Grove Farm." When he first settled on the place there were no railways in this part of the country, or for some years, and he used to carry his grain to market in Chicago with an ox-team, a week being consumed in making the round trip. In 1873 he sold his homestead, on which he had expended so many years of care and labor, and removed to the place he now occupies on section 24, Wyoming Township, the farm improved by his father-in-law, Deacon Orlando Boardman. His residence, a view of which appears on another page, stands on the ground where the Baptist Church was organized.

Deacon Hallock was married December 19, 1839, to Miss Persis P. M. Boardman, and for more than half a century they have walked hand in hand, faithfully sharing the joys and sorrows falling to

their lot, and giving to the community where they have lived for fifty-one years the example of a true wedded life. Of the children born unto them two grew to maturity, Jane Elizabeth and William H. William was born December 28, 1851, and was reared and educated in this his native county. He was married December 31, 1876, to Miss Althea Ketchum, and died January 19, 1883, leaving two children, Jessie and Franklin William. Jane Elizabeth married S. A. Tarr, and they have six children: Franklin, Renben and Robert (twins), Mary, Thomas and Lida.

Mrs. Hallock was born in the town of Corinth, Saratoga County, N. Y., February 27, 1819. Her father, Orlando Boardman, was a native of Massachusetts, from which his father, Daniel Boardman, went to the primeval wilds of Saratoga County, and was a pioneer of Corinth, where he engaged in the drug business, passing his remaining years there. The maiden name of his wife was Averill. Mrs. Hallock's father grew to manhood in Saratoga County. In 1827 he went from there to Luzerne County, Pa., and operated a sawmill and carried on a thriving lumber business, as he had previously done in Saratoga County. In 1840 he became a pioneer of Lee County, buying a tract of Government land on section 24, Wyoming Township, which he developed into a choice farm, and made it his home until death closed his eyes June 10, 1873, in the sleep that knows no waking this side of eternity. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Brace, and she was a daughter of Daniel and Mary (Rowland) Brace. She was born in Saratoga County N. Y., and died in Luzerne County, Pa., in 1832, at the age of thirty-six years.

Our subject is a self-made man in the truest sense of the term, and well deserves the success that has attended his efforts, as in all his relations with others and in all his dealings, he has borne himself honorably—honesty, truthfulness, and justice his guiding principles throughout a long life that has passed the seventy-third milestone of the journey between the cradle and the grave; his wife is also more than seventy-three years old. She was attacked by a stroke of paralysis on October 3, 1891, from which she has not recovered and

she is in a very feeble condition at the present writing (1892.) This worthy couple, who are deeply respected by all who know them, are earnest Christians, and for forty-nine years have been members of the Baptist Church, in which he has officiated as Deacon for forty-one years.



**J**EREMIAH M. MILLER has devoted his life to farming and stock raising, and has accumulated a comfortable property, which includes one of the best farms in all China Township. A Pennsylvanian by birth, he first saw the light of day December 4, 1845, in Somerset County, of which his parents and grandparents on both sides of the house were also natives, his ancestors having settled there probably at some period anterior to the Revolution. He is the son of Moses W. and Catherine (Livengood) Miller, who were reared and married in the county of their nativity. The former was a son of William Miller, and the latter was a daughter of Peter Livengood.

The parents of our subject left their old home where they had lived so many years, and where the father had been actively engaged at his occupation as a farmer, and on the 1st of May, 1868, came to Lee County and took up their residence on section 14, China Township. They dwelt there serenely the remainder of their days, and passed from the scenes of earth at a ripe age, his death occurring February 3, 1886, and hers March 3, 1888. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom our subject was the fifth in order of birth.

His boyhood was spent on his father's farm, and there he learned lessons in practical farming, which were of use to him when he started out as an independent farmer. He lived with his parents until his marriage in his native county August 23, 1863, to Miss Priscilla A. Hoover, a daughter of Frederick and Mary (Arms) Hoover, who were natives respectively of Somerset County, Pa., and of Walnut Creek, Ohio. They had married and settled in Somerset County, and there died in the course of time, Mr. Hoover's death taking place

May 29, 1867, and Mrs. Hoover's February 22, 1880. They were the parents of fifteen children, of whom Mrs. Miller was the seventh. She was born February 12, 1841.

The spring following his marriage Mr. Miller settled in Saulsbury, Somerset County and resided there until the spring of 1866. From that time he has been identified with the farmers who are so ably carrying on the great agricultural interests of Lee County. He then located in China Township, where he still lives. He conducts farming and stock-raising on quite an extensive scale, and is one of the moneyed men of his adopted township. On another page of this volume may be found a view of his homestead. His farm is very favorably situated on section 14 and comprises three hundred and three acres of land that are well tilled and highly productive, and a fine set of first-class, roomy buildings adorn the place. The cattle and horses that feed in the pastures are of excellent breeds and the hogs are of good grade.

Seven children have been born unto our subject and his wife, whom they have named William H., Harvey M., Alice A., Arabella E., Milton, Calvin, and Edith. William married Laura Lookingland; Calvin died at the age of three and one-half months. Mr. Miller is a Republican in politics and is faithful to the party of his choice. He is a man of good principles and habits, a good neighbor, always willing to accommodate and help others, and his fellow-townsmen have always found him straight-forward and even-handed both in word and deed.



**M**ILES L. GOODYEAR, editor and proprietor of the Paw Paw Times, is a bright young journalist who has already made his mark in his profession. He is a native of this county, a scion of the sturdy pioneer stock that peopled this region in the early days of its settlement, and he was born on the parental homestead near East Paw Paw, September 21, 1866. He is a son of Henry A. and Elizabeth C.

Goodyear, formerly well-known and honored residents of this county, but now living in Scranton, Iowa.

The father of our subject was born in Cayuga County, N. Y., and his parents were Lloyd and Mary (Lepper) Goodyear, who were also natives of New York. They continued to live there until 1847, when they came to Illinois and settled near East Paw Paw, where the grandfather bought a farm, and was one of the early pioneers of this region. He managed his farm, and a part of the time, worked at his trade as a shoemaker, and there his busy life was brought to a close by his death at a ripe age. His wife spent her last years with their son James in East Paw Paw. These are the names of the seven children that they reared: Franklin, Nelson, Henry, William, John, Elmira and Olive. Franklin and Nelson did faithful service in the late war, and both sacrificed their lives for their country—the former returning home sick, and dying soon after; and Nelson dying from the effects of a wound received in the heat of battle.

The father of our subject grew to a stalwart manhood in his native State, and then went to Ohio to find some vent for his energies. In Geauga County, he met and in due time was married to Elizabeth, a daughter of Avery and Elizabeth (Martin) French. Her parents, who were natives of New York, were pioneers of that county, and there she was born, when that part of the country was but little more than a wilderness. Her parents subsequently removed to this State, and were early settlers of Shabbona, in De Kalb County. In 1847 the father and mother of our subject came to Illinois, and cast in their fortunes with the few pioneers that had already settled in Lee County. Mrs. Goodyear may truthfully be regarded as one of the pioneer educators of this part of Illinois, as she was prevailed upon to take charge of a school shortly after she came here. In a letter written to her son Miles, of this biographical review, she tells him in simple and earnest language of the emigration of herself and husband thither—touches upon the hardships that the pioneers had to endure in order that their children might have better homes, higher advantages and greater opportun-

ities than they themselves had had, and gives us a glimpse of the times. It gives us great pleasure to transcribe this interesting word picture of pioneer scenes to these pages.

"We moved to Illinois in 1847 from Geauga County, thirty miles from Cleveland. At Cleveland we took a steamer for a trip around the lakes, and arrived at what is now the great city of Chicago on the morning of the fourth day. Found only a few buildings there, which were almost deluged in mud and water, for 'twas rainy, and it looked dreary enough. As there were no railways and stage from Chicago to Dixon only ran twice a week, we had to look around for a conveyance. Found a man that had brought a family in, and would carry us to our destination for a certain sun, so we accepted the offer, though the conveyance was an old lumber wagon with board seats, and was very uncomfortable to ride in. The roads were very bad and we traveled only twelve miles the first day. Staid that night at Doty's tavern, the next at Aurora, and the third night got to the home of my parents at Shabbona.

"We stayed there a couple of days, and in the meantime paid a visit to the Indian encampment of old Shabbona and his tribe in the grove at that place. We then came to Paw Paw, which at that time was a very small town, with no stores or places of business, and no churches or places of public worship save at South Paw Paw in a small school house.

"A new school house has just been built and enclosed at West Paw Paw, just south of the town right among the hazel brush, and teachers being very scarce, I was engaged to teach in that building, at \$1.50 a week, an enormous price they thought then, and board around the district or board myself. After an experience of a few nights of the former mode, I chose the latter. Children were quite numerous for a new place, and were quite well behaved and ready to learn. Society was like that in other new places and in some older settlements, drinking, gambling, fighting and lawsuits being quite common.

"There were two taverns between West and East Paw Paw one just out of town kept by David Town; another further east kept by Mr. Robinson.

The nearest market was Chicago, the farmers hauling their grain and produce there with teams, sometimes ox-teams at that, taking the most of the week to make the journey, and camping on the way at night in order to have anything left from the proceeds of their sales. Those were trying times such as our children know nothing about."

We may add to this that, besides her good work as a teacher, the mother of our subject was very active in religious matters, and assisted in organizing the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which she was one of the original members, and was thoroughly identified with it as long as she lived here.

The first year after coming here the father of our subject worked out by the day, and then bought a tract of land on the Chicago and Dixon Road, and resided thereon a few years. In 1849 he joined the tide of emigration flowing across the plains and mountains to California, and the following year, weary of the rough camp life of the frontiersman, he returned to Illinois, coming back by the way of the Isthmus. He subsequently went to Missouri, but resided there only a short time, for, as he was a sound Republican and no friend to slavery, he incurred the hostility of the slave holders, and was ordered to leave. Returning to Lee County, he settled on a farm in Wyoming Township, and was quietly engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1874, when he abandoned farming to engage in mercantile business at Paw Paw. He continued at that until 1880, and then sold out, and removing to Scranton, Iowa, has been a resident of that place ever since. He and his wife have seven children living and one dead.

Our subject was reared and educated in his native township, attending school during his boyhood at Paw Paw and East Paw Paw. In 1879 he entered upon that calling that has led him to the editor's chair, as he then began to set type in the office of the Paw Paw *Herald*. He remained there a few months, and then went to Iowa with his parents, and found employment in the office of the *Journal* at Scranton. He gained valuable experience during his three years in that office, and at the end of that time he came back to Paw Paw

to accept a position as foreman in the *Times* office. He was subsequently promoted to be superintendent of the job printing department and to the post of general local editor of the paper. He soon became familiar with the duties of his positions, and gained such a comprehensive knowledge of how to conduct a paper that shall be successful from a literary point of view as well as financially, that he was justified in the venture that resulted in his purchasing the *Times*, with the publishing office and good-will of the establishment. He is assisted in the publication of the paper by his bright young wife, who is an expert compositor, and helps her husband in various other ways. The *Times* is issued in a neat and attractive form, the local news is written up in an interesting manner, and the paper is in high favor with the people among whom it circulates as a clean, reliable family newspaper, replete with information, giving a careful resume of the doings of the outer world, and as its merits are becoming known its subscription list is constantly lengthening. —Editor Goodyear is a pronounced Republican in his political opinions, which are candidly expressed in his paper, while a fair hearing is always given to the advocates of other parties. He is active in local public life, and is serving his fourth term as Town Clerk of Wyoming.

Mr. Goodyear was married February 19, 1890, to Miss Lottie Lieher. She is a native of Paw Paw, and a daughter of John and Augusta Lieher. Mrs. Goodyear was educated in the schools of Paw Paw, and pursued an excellent course of study at the High School under the careful guidance of Prof. G. W. Andrew. She was graduated from that institution with the Class of '88, and taught school successfully from that time until her marriage.



**A**BRAM V. CHRISTIANCE, an old and respected resident of Malugin's Grove, was one of the first settlers of Lee County, and as a pioneer who has contributed to the development of this portion of Northern Illinois, we are pleased to represent him in this

**BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD.** His birthplace is two and one-half miles east of Schenectady, the county seat of Schenectady County, N. Y., and he was born December 11, 1808. His father, whose given name was Evert, was a native of the same county, a son of Cornelius Christiance, who was for several years engaged in the mercantile business in that part of the Empire State. In 1814 he went to Ohio, and was employed in surveying Government land in that State for a time. He returned to New York, and died there.

The father of our subject was reared and married in his native State, and for some years before there were railways or canals, he was engaged in teaming between Albany and Buffalo, driving a six-horse team. In the latter part of his life he came to Illinois and his closing years were spent with our subject. The maiden name of his wife was Eva Van Epps, and she was a native of the State of New York, a daughter of Abram Van Epps, who was also born in New York, the town of Medina, Orleans County, being his birthplace. He was a descendant of one of the old Dutch families that were among the early settlers of New York. For some years he kept a tavern in Schenectady County, and, so far as known, spent his entire life in his native State. The mother of our subject died in Schenectady County in 1813.

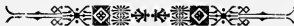
The subject of this life-record was a child of five years when he was left motherless. When he was six years old, his grandfather Christiance took him to Ohio, and he staid with him while he was engaged in surveying there. Returning to his native State with his grandfather, he grew to manhood amid the familiar scenes of his native county, and in due time took unto himself a wife, and began life in earnest. He resided at Medina, Orleans County, for a time, and then decided to come Westward, and the summer of 1835 found him on his way to Illinois with a team. He arrived at Malugin's Grove in August, and saw the scene of his future home a wilderness, where deer and all sorts of wild game roamed at pleasure over the uncultivated prairies or through the timber, whence often at night the howls of the wolves disturbed the slumbers of the few settlers that had ventured within their domain, and Indians were still living

in the very grove where he chose the location of his future abode. The land was all owned by the Government, and was not yet surveyed, and Lee County formed a part of Ogle County. There were no railways for a number of years, and the people had to go all the way to Chicago to dispose of their crops and obtain necessary family supplies.

During his fifty-six years' residence here, Mr. Christiance has witnessed a great change in the face of the country, has seen its gradual development to a finely improved, wealthy, farming community, where are found all the evidences of an advanced civilization in its many and varied agricultural, manufacturing and commercial interests. When he first came here, he made a claim to a tract of land in Malugin's Grove, and at once erected his pioneer home, the typical log cabin of the olden days when Illinois was a frontier State. He split shakes to cover the roof, made a puncheon floor, and constructed a chimney of mud and sticks, upon a stone foundation. When the postoffice was established at Malugin's Grove, it was placed in his charge, and he is known in the history of the county as one of the first Postmasters appointed within its limits.

Mr. Christiance was first married sixty-one years ago, in the year 1831, to Caroline Barhydt, a native of Schenectady County, N. Y. She died in 1871, after a married life of forty years. Our subject has five children living of that marriage: Cornelius, whose birthplace is at Malugin's Grove, and who was probably the first white child born in the county; George, James, Sarah and Caroline. The second marriage of Mr. Christiance, which took place in 1876, was to Miss Rosaline A. Elkins, a native of Warsaw, Wyoming County, N. Y., and a daughter of William S. Elkins, who was born in Vermont. His father, Charles A. Elkins, is supposed to have been a native of the Green Mountain State also, and he went from there to the wilds of Genesee County, and settled in that part of it now known as Wyoming County, becoming a pioneer of the town of Perry, where he followed his occupation as a cooper until his demise. The father of Mrs. Christiance learned the trade of a pump-maker, and carried it on in Perry until 1854, when he came to Illinois to spend the remainder of

his life in this State. He resided at Batavia, Kane County, a few years, and then removed to Mendota, where he manufactured pumps until his earthly career was closed in death. The maiden name of his wife was Betsy J. Nevins. She was born in Vermont to John and Susan Nevins, and died at Perry, N. Y.



**J**OHIN LAWRENCE, who is numbered among the early settlers of Lee County of 1840, was a well-to-do farmer residing on section 27, Palmyra Township. His life was a busy and useful one and its record, we feel assured, will prove of interest to many of our readers. He was born in the town of Duretta, Madison County, N. Y., January 10, 1814, and was of English descent. His grandfather, John Lawrence, lived and died in the Empire State, where were born unto him and his wife several children, among the number Lawrence, the father of our subject. He was born in Dutchess County, where in the usual manner of farmer lads he was reared to manhood. There he also wedded Miss Mary De Loan, also a native of that county, and of High Dutch descent. After their marriage they removed to Madison County, N. Y., where as farming people they resided for some years. Mr. Lawrence was accidentally killed, while moving a house, at the age of fifty. His widow and her children subsequently came to the West and east their lot with the early settlers of Lee County, Ill., where the mother died at the age of seventy years. She was a sincere Christian woman, who held membership with the Baptist Church and her teachings left their impress on her children. Only two of the family are yet living: our subject and his sister Rachel, who, now nearly eighty years of age, is living in Jordan Township, Whiteside County, where her husband, John Thompson, engaged in farming until his death.

We now take up the personal history of Mr. Lawrence, who spent his boyhood days upon his father's farm and in his youth learned the trade of a shoemaker, although he has never followed it for

a livelihood. He came to Illinois a single man and here was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Rodgers, who was born in Dutchess County, N. Y., but spent the days of her maidenhood, until coming to Illinois, in the Province of Ontario, Canada. At the age of sixty she was called to her final rest, dying at her home in Palmyra Township at the age of seventy-three, in the faith of the Baptist Church, of which she was a member.

Mr. Lawrence was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Mary Mason, *nee* Parks, who was born in the Empire State, July 24, 1833, and when three years old was brought to Lee County by her parents, Hiram and Martha (Moon) Parks, both of whom were natives of Vermont and descended from early New England families. In Franklin County they were married and lived upon a farm until after the birth of two of their children, when they emigrated Westward, locating on Government land in Palmyra Township, this county. Mr. Parks there improved a good farm, which he made his home until his death in 1883, at the age of seventy-five years. In religious belief he was a Baptist and in political sentiment a Republican. Mrs. Parks is yet living, and although now eighty-three years of age, is still well preserved. She, too, is a member of the Baptist Church, and her home is with her daughter, Mrs. Lawrence. It was in 1851, that Mary Parks, in Palmyra Township, became the wife of Rodney Mason, a native of New York, who was brought by his parents to Illinois when a youth. He made farming his life work and continued that occupation until called to the home beyond at the age of forty-four years. He was a hard-working man, upright and honorable in all his dealings and left to his children an untarnished name. Blanche, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mason, is now the wife of A. D. Chapman; and Ellis, the son, who wedded May Reed, is now living in Northwestern Iowa.

Fifty years have passed away since John Lawrence came to this county, with the history of which he has since been prominently identified. He aided largely in its growth and development, watched with interest its progress and ever gave his support to those interests calculated to benefit

the community or promote the general welfare. In politics he was a Republican. Having lived an upright life—a life above reproach—he certainly deserves a representation among the honored pioneers, leading business men and best citizens of his adopted county. He departed this life September 26, 1891, leaving many warm friends to mourn his loss.



**C**HARLES F. FURLEY, one of the respected citizens, progressive farmers and extensive stock-raisers of Palmyra Township, residing on section 5, is a native of Washington County, Md. His grandfather, William Furley, was of English extraction, and lived and died in Pennsylvania, near Chambersburg. He was a man of remarkable vigor, seeming to possess an iron constitution, and reached the advanced age of seventy-four years. He married Miss Susan Snook, who was born in Maryland, of German parentage, and died in Chambersburg, Pa., at the age of eighty years, some time after the death of her husband. Their son, James A., was the father of our subject. In Maryland, his native State, he was reared to manhood, and in the Mexican War he served his country as one of its soldiers. Possessing a mechanical turn of mind, he learned the trade of carriage-making and located at Gettysburg, Pa., where he carried on business or some years in that line. He afterward engaged extensively in stock-dealing, and at the same time was engaged in making chains, quite a prominent industry at that time, but is now living a retired life in Polo, Ill., where he located about 1887. He is now sixty-nine years of age. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary J. Black, is also well advanced in years, being sixty-three years old. Her family is noted for longevity. Her father, Frederick A. Black, is still living in Frederick County, Md., and although he is now eighty-eight years of age, is still hale and hearty, and can climb the mountains of that region with comparative ease. His wife died of dropsy a number of years ago. He is now married to his third wife. In a family

of nine children, of whom three sons and five daughters are yet living, Charles Furley is the second in order of birth. In the county of his nativity his education was acquired, and at the age of eighteen he there learned the trade of a chain-maker and blacksmithing and coach-making, also did general supply work. On coming to Illinois in 1871, he established a smithy in Prairieville, which he carried on for some years in connection with farming.

As a companion on life's journey, Mr. Furley chose Miss Sarah H. Harvey, their union being celebrated in Carroll County, on the 21st of April, 1873, where the lady was born in 1854. Liberal educational advantages were afforded her, and she has a cultured mind and many accomplishments. Her parents, William and Permelia (Green) Harvey, were natives of Indiana, who came to Illinois after their marriage, and were among the early settlers of Carroll County, where the father developed a farm from raw land that he had procured from the Government. They spent their remaining days thereon, and both died in middle life. During her maidenhood Mrs. Furley engaged in teaching, and met with excellent success in that undertaking. She is now Postmistress of Prairieville, to which position she was appointed by President Cleveland. Her predecessor was her husband, who is a Republican in politics, while she is a Democrat in political views. Mr. Furley has also held other local offices, has been Chairman of the Republican Committee and takes an active interest in the success of his party, doing all in his power to promote its welfare. Himself and wife are numbered among the best people of the township, and Guy, their only child, is an intelligent and well educated young man, and is now a student at the Normal School, in Dixon.

Mr. Furley now devotes much of his attention to stock-raising. His farm is a valuable property, well improved with good buildings, and the neat appearance of the place indicates the thrift and enterprise of the owner. He also owns thirty-three acres of fine land adjoining the corporation limits of Prairieville, and this is also highly improved. As a stock-raiser, he has a reputation which any in that line might well envy. Mr. Furley is the owner

of "Harold Chief," which is a half-brother to "Maud S.," and also has upon his farm twenty-five head of highly bred horses. He has now made his home in Palmyra Township for nineteen years, and during that period his life has been such as to win him the confidence of those with whom business relations have brought him in contact, and the warm personal regard of many friends.



**H**UGH DUFFY has shown marked ability as a farmer by transforming the one hundred and thirty-eight acres of land now included in his homestead, situated on section 15, Nelson Township, into a fruitful, highly cultivated farm, which is amply supplied with modern improvements and all the appliances and machinery for facilitating agricultural labors. Mr. Duffy devotes his farm partly to the dairy business, which is quite an important source of income, and partly to raising grain and stock, he has also for many years conducted a lucrative business as a well-digger.

Our subject was born in October, 1829, in County Monaghan, Ireland, in the parish of Anna Mullen, in the town of Carntree, his birthplace being within a mile of the ancestral home of Gen. Jackson's father and grandfather. The parents of our subject, Philip and Ann (Coyle) Duffy, were lifelong residents of that Irish county and were descendants of the old Celtic stock. Both died when comparatively young, his death occurring in 1840, at the age of forty years, and hers at the age of thirty-five years. They were members of the Catholic Church and were true Christian people, who were greatly respected by their neighbors. The father was a farmer by occupation.

Our subject was but ten years old when his mother died, and only eleven years of age when his father closed his eyes in death. This sad bereavement left him dependent on his own resources for a livelihood. Fortunately, the little Irish lad was made of good stuff that could withstand the buffets of the world. He had a resolute will, an unflinching courage and a cheerful, hopeful dispo-

sition. He was active and healthy, had been trained to industrious habits, notwithstanding his youthfulness, and was ready at all times to perform any kind of honest labor. To a mind like his, the United States presented many attractions, and in 1847 he carried out his determination to emigrate to this country, sailing from Liverpool March 22, in the "Wisconsin," which was commanded by Capt. Mumford. He landed in the city of New York on the 20th of April, after an unusually quick passage for those times. The next two years of his life were passed at Warwick, R. I., and he then came Westward in the year 1849, and has since lived in Lee County. He was well equipped for the pioneer life of those days, as we have seen, and has made his mark as a pioneer to whom all honor is due. He has not only witnessed the great changes that have taken place since he first set foot on this soil, but he has had a hand in bringing about the gradual development of the county into a rich and highly improved agricultural center.

In 1851 Mr. Duffy made his first purchase of land, to which he has since added other land. The fine farm that he now owns is the result of his untiring labors. He has erected a substantial, commodious barn, fitting it up with all the conveniences in general use to-day, and he has put up other well-arranged buildings. Together with his farming he carries on quite an extensive dairy business, using thirty cows for the purpose. For many years he has been a well-digger, having all the necessary machinery, and has dug over one hundred deep wells. As in all things else, Mr. Duffy is independent in politics, having a mind of his own, and is bound by no party ties. He is a thoroughly good citizen, loyal in thought and act to his adopted country. His fellow-townsmen always find him genial and obliging in his intercourse with them and fair in his dealings. The religion of his ancestors is dear to him, and he and his family are Catholics.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Isabel Hammill was solemnized at Dixon. Mrs. Duffy was born and reared in the same county where her husband had his birth. Her parents, Patrick and Catherine (Dailey) Hammill lived and died in Ireland, her father attaining the venerable age of ninety-



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*Yours respy  
Colling Aycart*

seven years, while her mother was in the prime of life when her death occurred. Mr. and Mrs. Duffy have experienced sorrow in their wedded life in the death of six of their children, all dying quite young, who were named Mary A., Philip, Patrick, Katie, Isabel and Frank. The children spared to bless and cheer their declining years are John, Alice, Patrick and Henry. John, who works in the condensed milk factory at Dixon, married Miss Kate McManns. Mrs. Duffy departed this life at her home in Nelson Township, December 28, 1891, aged sixty-three years.



**C**OLLINS DYSART, a representative of a noted pioneer family, is one of the foremost native-born sons of Lee County, and belongs to the number who are to-day among its most enlightened and enterprising citizens, and are prominent in various walks of life. He is one of the most successful of the young farmers and stock-raisers of this part of Illinois, and has a large and finely appointed farm on sections 7 and 8, Nachusa Township, stocked with horses, cattle and swine of standard breeds. He is serving his first term as a member of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, and as an incumbent of this important office displays an aptitude for public life that makes him a valuable civic official.

Our subject was born on the farm on which he makes his home, November 7, 1858. He is a son of Philip Dysart, who has long been an honored citizen of this county, and is now living in retirement in the city of Dixon, in his pleasant home at No. 303 West Third Street. His native place is in Huntingdon Co., Pa., and he is a son of James Dýsart, who was a Pennsylvanian by birth, and the son of an Irishman, who was of Scotch-Irish blood, and came from one of the leading families of the North of Ireland. James Dysart grew to maturity in Fairfield County, his native State, and in early manhood moved to Huntingdon County, whence he came to Illinois in the '40s, and entered large tracts of land in this county, which were subsequently improved by himself and his

sons. He became a prominent and wealthy pioneer of this section, and died here when an old man.

Philip Dysart lived in his native county for some years after attaining man's estate, and then came to Lee County in 1852. He did not at the time settle on the farm on sections 7 and 8, Nachusa Township, taken by his father some years before, but in 1855 located thereon and broke the first sod of its fertile soil. With characteristic energy he worked to develop it into a good farm, and soon had a good set of farm buildings erected and everything about the place in good order. He made it his home until 1883, when he left it in charge of his son and retired to Dixon.

After coming to this county, Mr. Dysart was married to Miss Ruth Igon, who is, like himself, a native of Pennsylvania, born in Blair County. After the death of her mother, in that State, the family came to Illinois, and the father, Jacob Igon, died in 1879 in the town of Lamoyille, at the home of his son. Mrs. Dysart was young when she came to Illinois, and is the only surviving member of the family. Both she and her husband are well and active, retaining much of their old-time vigor, and may be said to be "growing old gracefully." They are prominent in social circles, having many friends and acquaintances, who have been attracted to them by the genuine worth of their characters.

Collins Dysart is the eldest of the three children born to his parents, and he and Clyda E., who is with her parents in Dixon, are the only survivors. Their sister Ina, former wife of C. B. Crawford, Postmaster at Nachusa, died in September, 1889, aged twenty-nine years. Our subject has always lived on the farm that is now his. In the local public schools he laid the foundation of a sound education, which was extended at Mt. Morris Seminary and Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa, which he attended some two years. He also had a good training in all that pertains to his calling, and not only does he keep well abreast of the times in regard to current events and all things that are of interest to an intelligent, inquiring mind, but he keeps himself well informed as to the progress of agriculture in regard to new methods and new discoveries that have a bearing upon it.

Although having had control of this farm since 1880, Mr. Dysart did not purchase it until about 1891. Its three hundred and twenty acres of choice farming land are under a high state of cultivation, and its improvements rank with the best in the neighborhood. Mr. Dysart raises stock extensively, and has a fancy for thoroughbreds. In cattle, he has a fine herd of Polled Aberdeen Angus of high grade. He is a young man of much force and independence of character, frank and manly withal, and popular with his fellow-citizens. He is an ardent Republican in his politics, and, as before mentioned, is identified with the public life of his native county as a member of its board of Supervisors, representing Nachusa County.

Our subject was married in Rock Island County, near Milan, to Miss Ida M. Johnson, a daughter of Mathew T. and Helen E. (McClellan) Johnson. Her parents are natives of New York, born and reared near Ithaca, and after marriage they came to this State. They are now well-to-do citizens of Rock Island County, where they still make their home on the farm that they have improved near Milan. In that home Mrs. Dysart was born April 25, 1860. She was finely educated at Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is earnestly interested in its progress. The pleasant household circle of our subject and his amiable wife is completed by their two children, to whom they have given the names of Ruth H. and George H.

The attention of the reader is invited to the lithographic portrait of Mr. Dysart, represented on an accompanying page.



**F**INLEY McMARTIN, one of the prominent and representative citizens of Dixon, doing business as a money broker and real-estate agent, has been identified with the history of the community since 1864, and taken a prominent part in the upbuilding and progress of the town and county.

Mr. McMartin was born in Amsterdam, Mont-

gomery County, N. Y., May 22, 1819, and is of Scotch descent. His grandfather was a Scotchman, who spent his entire life in his native land, and was a prominent citizen of the community where he resided. His son, Finley McMartin, the father of our subject, was reared to manhood in Scotland, and acquired a military education. He became Captain of a company of English soldiers, and was sent to irritate and keep in subjection the Irish, but when he found out what would be required of him he would not consent to do his duty as was expected by the English peers, and so resigned. He then came to the United States and settled on a farm near Amsterdam, N. Y., where he lived for many years, his death occurring at the age of sixty. He had married a Scottish lady, Henrietta Bell, daughter of a prominent Presbyterian minister, and she, too, died at the old home in Amsterdam in 1851, a few years after her husband's death, being then seventy-five years of age. Both were members of the Scotch Associate Reformed Church, and in their lives exemplified their religion. Three of their children are yet living: Finley, of this sketch; John, of Amsterdam, N. Y.; and Mrs. Ayers, of Denver, Col.

Our subject was one of the self-made men of this county. He began life for himself at the early age of fourteen years, at which time he learned the trade of a woolen manufacturer, working at that industry and at carpet weaving until 1846, when with a friend he embarked in business as a photographer, making pictures by the old process known as daguerreotype. They did business in Virginia for some time, after which Mr. McMartin went to Oxford, Ohio, and entered the employ of P. P. Roots, a cloth manufacturer. After a few months he was assigned to the management of Mr. Roots' mill at Connersville, Ind., where he was engaged in buying wool and selling the finished cloth. Subsequently he was employed in a woolen mill in Dayton, Ohio, until December, 1848, when he returned to his native city, and afterward went to New York. With the \$1,500 which he had saved from his earnings in former years, he now purchased goods, which he loaded on a sailing vessel, and on the 8th of March, 1849, started for San Francisco, Cal., by the Cape Horn


route. The vessel reached its destination in September. As the sailors deserted the ship, Mr. McMartin helped to discharge the cargo. The Western metropolis was then a town composed of adobe houses and cabins on stilts. It was most difficult in those days to get goods transferred from one place to another. They transferred the cargo to another boat and took it up to Sacramento. Finally he secured a four-horse team and a portion of his stock was taken to Auburn. That which could not be loaded onto the wagon was left in tents in San Francisco, and a fire breaking out, all was destroyed. The party with which Mr. McMartin had come, opened up a mine in that locality, where they worked until the following spring, and then went up the Yuba River, where our subject engaged in gold digging until he had acquired quite a little fortune. After eighteen months spent in the mines, he returned to New York City by way of the Isthmus route in 1851, and thence went to his old home in Amsterdam. On the return trip they had stopped in Havana, Cuba, where they celebrated the first day of the year 1852.

Mr. McMartin soon after again traveled Westward, but his journey was not of such length as that which he had just made. In 1853 he located in Washington County, Iowa, where, with the gold he had dug in California, he built a flouring and saw mill on Skunk River, and continued its operation for nine years. During that time, in Lancaster, Iowa, he was united in marriage with Miss Martha E. Russell, a native of Greenville, Tenn., and a daughter of Thomas and Nancy (Galbraith) Russell, the former born in Scotland and the latter in Ireland. Both were members of the old Presbyterian Church, with which their ancestors had been connected for long years. During youth Mr. and Mrs. Russell had come to this country and were married in Tennessee, where a family of children were born unto them. Removing to Illinois, they located in Henderson County, and some years later went to Keokuk County, Iowa. Both died in Brighton, that State, Mr. Russell at the age of fifty-eight years, and his wife when seventy-five years of age. Of their children, four are yet living, namely:

Mrs. Rosanna Kemp, a widow, now living in Iowa; William H., a resident farmer of Washington County, Neb.; Martha, wife of our subject; and Thomas, a fruit-grower of California.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. McMartin were born five children, but only two are now living: Thomas B., who married Jennie Bowen and is living in Sioux Falls, S. Dak., where he is doing an extensive business; and Ellie B., a well-educated and accomplished young lady, at home. Clementine died at the age of twenty-five years, leaving a husband to mourn her loss; Carrie died at the age of twenty-three years; and Charles died in infancy.

Mr. McMartin is a supporter of Republican principles, and his wife is a member of the Presbyterian Church. In his business affairs he has prospered, and is now numbered among the substantial citizens of Dixon. For some years he has carried on operations as a money broker, and is now also engaged as a real-estate dealer. He owns three good dwellings on Sixth Street near Peoria Street, and two on Third Street, together with his own pleasant and commodious residence situated at the corner of Everett and Wilkinson Streets. He also built in Dixon a woolen factory and a flouring mill, both of which he carried on for some years. As before stated, he has been closely connected with the growth and upbuilding of Dixon, and is ranked among her progressive business men and best citizens.



**B**ENJAMIN F. ELLSWORTH is the son of an early settler of this county, and is himself one of its pioneers who has done no small share of the work of development that has made this one of the best improved agricultural regions of Northern Illinois. His farming interests are located in Willow Creek Township, and his farm, with its well-tilled fields and substantial buildings, is comparable with the best in this section.

Our subject comes of good old New England stock, and is a native of that part of the country, Pownal, Bennington County, Vt., his birthplace,

and January 2, 1826, the date of his birth. His father, Isaac C. Ellsworth, is supposed to have been born in the same town, and he was a son of one of the early settlers of that county, James Ellsworth, who was a farmer. He spent the latter part of his life in the State of New York.

Isaac Ellsworth learned the trade of a hatter when he was young, and followed that occupation in Pownal. In 1842 he removed to Ohio, taking with him his wife and six children, traveling by team to Troy, by Erie Canal to Buffalo, by Lake Erie to Cleveland, and thence by team to Parkman, in Geauga County. He bought a farm near Parkman, and carried it on until 1846, when he sold it, and again started out into the world, having decided to establish a new home in the Prairie State and take advantage of its wondrously fertile soil. He came to his destination by the way of the lakes to Chicago, and from that city with a team to Paw Paw. He invested in a tract of Government land two miles north of Paw Paw, and resided thereon many years, devoting himself to agriculture. When the infirmities of age came upon him he went to live with his daughter, Mrs. Butler, at Malugin's Grove, and she cared for him until he closed his eyes in death. The maiden name of his wife was Theodosia Billings. She was born in Bennington County, Vt., and died on the home farm near Paw Paw in 1850. She was the mother of seven children.

Our subject passed his early life amid the pleasant scenes of his birth, and when his parents removed to Ohio he accompanied them, and continued with them until the fall of 1845. In the month of September of that year, he started with an ox-team to perform the tiresome journey to Illinois, where he had determined to try life. He was a month on the way from the time of his setting forth until his arrival at Sugar Grove, in Kane County, where he spent the winter. In the following spring he came to Lee County, which he found to be little more than a wilderness, with but few white inhabitants; the most of the land owned by the Government and for sale at \$1.25 an acre; deer and other wild animals roaming where are now fruitful farms, and there were no railways or other means of communication with the outside

world, except the timber, and Chicago, many miles distant, was for some years the nearest market and depot for supplies.

Mr. Ellsworth farmed with his father until his marriage, and then bought a farm joining the old homestead. In the fall of 1859 he sold his property in this county, and went to Kansas, making an overland journey. He bought land in Miami County, but as it was at the time of the border troubles, and as he was a well-known sympathizer with the anti-slavery element, that territory was a very unsafe abiding place for him, and in 1861 he wisely returned to Illinois. After coming back to Lee County he worked his father-in-law's farm for a year, and at the end of that time bought a farm in Viola Township. He lived upon it until 1865, and then renting it came to Willow Creek Township, and purchased a home on section 17. He was soon appointed Postmaster of the Willow Creek Postoffice, and acted in that capacity the ensuing eight years, giving general satisfaction to all concerned, and managing the affairs of the office promptly, methodically and carefully. In 1874 he bought another farm in Viola Township, and spent a few months in its cultivation. Selling that place he again took up his abode in Willow Creek, but only for a short time, as in the spring of 1875 he returned once more to Viola Township, and again purchased a farm within its precincts, which he retained in his possession until 1878, when he sold it and from that time has been a continuous resident of Willow Creek. In 1879 he bought his present farm, which comprises one hundred and thirty-five acres of land, neatly fenced into fields of convenient size, amply supplied with buildings of a good class, and everything about the place in good order, betokening excellent management.

In 1857 Mr. Ellsworth and Miss Maria Holton were united in marriage. Mrs. Ellsworth is, like her husband, a native of Vermont, and she is a daughter of Wesson and Hepsabeth (Durin) Holton. Her pleasant wedded life with our subject has brought them two sons, Earl W., who died at the age of six years and Edmund H. He married Miss Carrie Wagner, and they have two children, Angie Leona and Gladys.

Mr. Ellsworth has honorably discharged the

duties of citizenship, and in politics has been an unflinching supporter of the Republican party from its very beginning. He is held in genuine consideration by the entire community, as in his career he has shown himself to be a straightforward, right-thinking man, always ready to do another a kindness and to extend his help and sympathy to all in trouble.

Mrs. Ellsworth tells of the time during her younger days when she, together with the youngsters of the neighborhood, used to attend singing school with a wagon and ox-team.



**D**ANIEL J. WETHERBEE, one of the prominent and influential citizens of Lee County, who after having followed a commercial career for many years is now practically living a retired life on his farm on section 18, Naehusa Township, dates his residence in the county from 1854. Being both widely and favorably known we feel assured his sketch will prove of interest to many of our readers.

Mr. Wetherbee was born in Northfield, Vt., in 1826, and is of English and Welsh lineage. His paternal grandfather, Daniel Wetherbee, was also a native of the Green Mountain State, and comes of an old New England family of Colonial days, whose members were prominent figures during the early history of our country. In the Revolutionary War he aided the Colonies in throwing off the yoke of British tyranny. It was in Reading, Vt., that he lived for many years and died at an advanced age. His son, Rev. Josiah Wetherbee, father of our subject, was reared on the old homestead farm near Reading, and acquired a good practical education. He became a prominent Free-will Baptist and for many years engaged in preaching in Vermont and New Hampshire. In his latter years he came to Illinois and died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Shultz, of this county, in February, 1884, when past the age of ninety-one years. Up to the last he retained his physical and mental faculties almost unimpaired. A man of superior intelligence, he kept himself well in-

formed and ever took an active interest in public affairs. He was a warm friend to all moral and educational interests and in early days was a staunch Abolitionist, when it almost cost a man his life to declare himself an opponent of slavery. Neither fear nor favor could make him swerve from his principles and his steadfastness of purpose won him the high regard of all. His wife, whose maiden name was Abigail Jones, was born in Reading, Vt., of Welsh descent and died in the old Granite State in the summer of 1854, at the age of seventy years. She too, was a life-long member of the Free-will Baptist Church, and a lady of many excellencies of character. The only daughter of the family, Maria, wife of J. H. Shultz, died in Naehusa Township. A brother of our subject, Dr. I. J. Wetherbee, is President of the Dental College, of Boston, Mass., and has a large practice in that city, where he stands at the head of his profession.

Daniel J. Wetherbee, in New Hampshire, married Sarah A. Gilman, a second cousin of Gen. Cass. For a second wife, he chose Mrs. Angeline McDonald, *nee* Zehring, their union being celebrated in Ohio. The lady was born in Germantown, that State, and is a daughter of John and Anna (Snavelly) Zehring, natives of the Buckeye State and Pennsylvania, respectively. They were married in Ohio, and Mr. Zehring became a merchant of Germantown, where he did business for some years. He died at an advanced age in Jersey City, N. J., and his widow is now living in Middletown, Ohio, at the age of seventy years. He was a great worker in the Sunday-school and lived an honorable, upright life, being a Universalist in religious belief. His wife is a member of the Methodist Church, and is a lady of prominence in the community where she makes her home.

It was in 1853, that Mr. Wetherbee came to Illinois and after spending a winter in Elgin and one summer in Princeton, he located in Grand Detour. He there engaged as a commercial traveler with L. Andrews, proprietor of the plow works at that place, with whom he remained for eleven years, traveling extensively over the Northwest. He afterward became connected with the Moline Plow Company, of Moline, Ill. with which he re-

mained for more than eighteen years, having under his control a great many of the States both West and South. During that period his headquarters were in Moline. More than thirty years of his life have been passed as a commercial traveler and probably no other salesman has traversed so great an amount of territory in a given time. He sold more plows than any man in the trade and did many hundred thousand dollars worth of business for his employers, whose confidence he shared in a remarkable degree. It is said that he sold plows enough for the Moline Plow Company to bridge the Atlantic. At length, as he was becoming well advanced in life, he resigned his position, severed his connection with his employers and retired to private life.

Mr. Wetherbee and his estimable wife now reside on his farm in Nachusa Township, which comprises nearly three hundred acres of land. He spends his time in looking after the interests of his property. A commodious and substantial residence is surrounded by beautiful shade trees and it seems as though nature had made this a resort for one who wished to live retired amid the enjoyments of a country life. In politics, Mr. Wetherbee is a staunch Republican. Himself and wife are held in the highest regard by all who know them and move in the best circles of society.



**H**ENRY W. REMMERS is a farmer and stock-raiser living on section 36, Nelson Township, where he has developed a very fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres of land that is exceedingly fertile, is provided with well-built farm buildings that are complete in their arrangements, and the place is fully stocked with cattle, horses, and swine of the best grades.

Like many another good citizen of this country, our subject is of foreign birth. He claims the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, in the northern part of Germany, as the land of his nativity, and he was there born, November 16, 1832, on the same little farm which had been in the family for some generations, and had been the birthplace of his father, Mamme

Remmers, and also of his grandfather, Henry W. Remmers. The latter, with his wife, who was an Oldenburg lady, died in middle life. Both were staunch Lutherans in religion.

The father of our subject carried on farming on a small scale on the old family homestead, and was doing well at his calling when death terminated his busy life at the early age of forty years. He had married Margaretta Onken, who was also a native of Oldenburg, and she too died at the age of forty years, on the farm where her entire wedded life was passed. Both she and her husband were true to the faith of their fathers, and were members of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject is one of four children, all of whom are now living in this country. He grew to a stalwart youth amid the tranquil scenes where he had first opened his eyes to the light of day, and obtained a sound education in the good schools of his native province. As soon as he was old enough, he entered the German army, in accordance with the customs of his country, and for two years did duty as a soldier. He heard much of the United States of America, which possessed a great attraction for him, as he reflected that here was a land where he could more surely make his way to an independent competency than in the old country, and in the spring of 1866 he emigrated to these shores, sailing from the port of Bremerhaven, in the steamship "Veser." He landed in New York City, whence he came to Dixon, and during the ensuing four years was variously employed in Lee County. At the end of that time he went to Missouri, and for five or six years thereafter was engaged in farming on a small farm in Nodaway County, that State. Returning then to Lee County, he has ever since been identified with its farming interests, purchasing his present farm in Nelson Township, in 1876, and, as we have seen, he has been much prospered. He was a comparatively poor man when he first came here from the Fatherland, but has accumulated a goodly amount of property, and is well fortified against poverty.

Mr. Remmers was fortunate in his selection of a wife in the person of Miss Anna Bremer, to whom he was married in Harmon Township. Two children complete their pleasant household: Mamie



A. and William H. Mrs. Remmers is a native of the same German province as her husband, and was born January 13, 1847, one of the six children of Edoe and Etta (Ahmels) Bremer, of whom four are living. When she was six years old, her parents came to the United States and settled on a farm in Sugar Grove, Palmyra Township, this county, and later removed to Harmon Township, where the father did good pioneer work in the improvement of a farm. He was an excellent farmer, and when he died at the age of sixty-six years, his township lost one of its most worthy citizens. His wife, who is nearly three-score years of age, makes her home with her children. She is a consistent Christian and a Lutheran in religion.

Mr. Remmers is a man of sturdy, stable character, who is perfectly able to think and act for himself, and carries his independence into his politics, exercising his right as a free American citizen to support whichever party he pleases and to vote for those candidates he deems best fitted for office. His reputation is of the best, and none know him but to esteem him. In his religious belief he adheres to the faith of his fathers, and both he and his wife are active members of the Lutheran Church.



**L**EMUEL BOURNE. It is interesting to trace the ancestry of this gentleman, who is engaged in business at Amboy as a grocer, back to its first representatives in America. The first member of the family to seek a home in the United States was Richard Bourne, who in 1640 emigrated from Devonshire, England, to Massachusetts, where he settled in Sandwich (now Bourne), Barnstable County. His descendants at the present date are residing in Boston and that place which is now called Bourne in honor of the various members of the family who have resided there and contributed to its progress.

Benjamin Bourne, father of our subject, was a large farmer and land-owner, his possessions amounting to some three thousand acres. He frequently held public offices, being Justice of the Peace many years and also serving efficiently as a

member of the Legislature during several terms. At the close of an honorable and upright life, devoted to the discharge of public duties and private affairs, he passed quietly away at the age of seventy-nine years. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Benjamin, was a physician and surgeon, who enjoyed a lucrative practice in Sandwich, and, as the surrounding country was sparsely settled, his practice extended over a large territory.

Unto Benjamin Bourne and his wife Lucinda were born ten children. Our subject, who was the youngest, was born in Sandwich, Mass., January 21, 1830. He passed his boyhood upon a farm, and at the age of fifteen years, went to Westbrook, Me., where he attended school. Later he was a student in a college in Oxford County, the same State, and, after completing his college course, engaged in teaching during one winter in the old Bay State. From there he proceeded to New York, and was engaged as clerk in Albany for Uri Burt, who at that date owned the largest brewery in the United States. After serving in that capacity for one year, he went to Springfield, Mass., and took charge of a wholesale house for Mr. Burt, for two years. He then removed to Maine, where for a short time he was engaged in mercantile pursuits.

Thence in 1855 Mr. Bourne removed to Amboy and became the first station agent for the Illinois Central Railroad at this place, being thus employed for eight years. Then, in partnership with J. S. Briggs, he was engaged in the drug and grocery business for about three years, and withdrew from the firm to purchase an interest in a dry-goods and grocery business, under the firm name of Hawks & Bourne. At the expiration of seven years, the senior member of the firm sold his interest to our subject, who has since continued sole proprietor. For several years he was the proprietor and owner of two stores, a grocery and a dry-goods establishment, but he now conducts the former alone.

The marriage of Mr. Bourne took place in April 1858, when Miss Anna M., daughter of David C. Smith, became his wife. Mrs. Bourne was born in Alabama, in 1843, and of her union with our subject six children have been born, namely: Franklin S., who is with the Union Pacific Railroad at Denver, Col.; Anna L., who is at home; Frederick C.,

book-keeper for his father; Alice A., Helen A. and Lemuel H., all of whom still remain under the parental roof and are prominent among the young people of the community. The family finds a religious home in the Episcopal Church and contributes liberally to charitable enterprises.

In his social relations Mr. Bourne is a member of the Masonic fraternity and his political affiliations bring him into the Republican party, to the principles of which he firmly adheres. His fellow-citizens have honored him with several offices of a local nature and he has contributed greatly to the development of the city. Besides his property in Lee County, he is the owner of a fine farm in Iowa, which yields him a good income. In his business enterprises he has been very successful, and although he came here with limited means, he has become well-to-do. His establishment is large and his trade extensive, as a result of the superior quality of his stock, the fairness of his transactions and the reliability of his dealings.



**M**RS. CATHERINE SCHOTT, residing on section 18, Bradford Township, is a most estimable woman, who, with her husband, now deceased, came to this county some forty years ago and has witnessed and aided in its progress and development. Her maiden name was Catherine Weber, and she was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, October 13, 1835. In 1851 she came with her parents to America. They settled in LaSalle County, this State. Here Mrs. Schott lived until she was married in 1853 to John Schott, who was born in Germany, August 2, 1817. The young couple settled in Bradford Township, where Mr. Schott died December 27, 1878. He was an honest and industrious man, who by his own exertions had accumulated a comfortable property of two hundred and sixty-seven acres of land, on which he erected an excellent set of buildings, and carried on agricultural pursuits. Eleven children were born to our subject and his wife, of

whom seven lived to maturity, as follows: Anton, Lizzie, Catherine, John, Philip, Mary, Ludwina.

Mrs. Schott, who is a most estimable woman, has reared her family with great care and they are well repaying her love and devotion. She is now enjoying the comforts of a pleasant home, which she assisted her husband in providing by her economy and industry in the early days of their wedded life.



**W**ILLIAM L. SHEAP, one of the young farmers of Lee County, residing on section 10, China Township, was born in Montour County, Pa., September 28, 1862. His parents were William R. and Harriet E. (Brink) Sheap, natives of Pennsylvania, the former being born in Montour County. The father grew to manhood in his native State, and then came to Lee County. He worked as a farm laborer for awhile, but when his father died he returned to Pennsylvania, bought the old homestead and carried on his occupation as a farmer prosperously, until death terminated his useful life, December 25, 1866. His worthy wife survived him until February 29, 1876, when she too passed away, having spent her last years in Carroll County, Ill. They had two children, one son and a daughter, the latter of whom died in childhood.

Our subject was but four years old when he was bereft of a father's care, and he then came to Illinois and lived with his grandfather, Isaiah Brink in this county, spending a part of the time with his step-father, Joseph Turnbaugh, in Carroll County, until he grew to manhood. He was married in China Township, January 1, 1884, to Miss Nellie I. Nichols. Two children have blessed their union: Hattie A. and Ethel V. Mrs. Sheap is a native of Lee County, born November 17, 1863, in China Township, coming of pioneer stock, and a daughter of the late Andrew J. Nichols, who was a well-known farmer of this vicinity for many years.

Andrew Nichols was born in Niagara County, N. Y., June 23, 1826. When he was eighteen

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*Chas D Hart*

years old he came to this county with his parents, John and Maritta (Leach) Nichols, who settled west of Franklin Grove Township, and there passed their remaining years. Andrew made his home with them until he married and established a home of his own in China Township in 1852. He was exceedingly industrious, and worked to such good purpose that he transformed his land on section 10 into a rich and well-tilled farm, comprising one hundred and seventeen acres, on which he erected ample buildings, and everything about the place gave evidence of careful and thrifty management. On the old homestead, where for nearly thirty-six years the most important part of his life had been well spent, he died June 21, 1888, leaving behind him a good record as a most excellent man, a good citizen and a kind husband, father and neighbor.

Mr. Nichols was married twice. His first marriage, which was solemnized in February, 1852, in China Township, was with Miss Mary Ann Miller, who was probably born in New York. She died March 15, 1867. Mr. Nichols was afterward married to Nancy Wilson, who died in China Township, July 14, 1881. There were no children by the second marriage. These five children were born of the wedded life of Andrew J. and Mary Ann Nichols: Ida E.; Frankie D., who died when three years old; Flora N., the wife of George Stultz; Nellie I., the wife of William L. Sheap, our subject; and Ruby A., the wife of Willis Riegle.



**C**HARLES D. HART. Happy is the man who has lived a long life that has been characterized by uprightness of purpose, integrity of principle and whose high mental and moral standing is gratefully recognized by his fellow-men. Such a man is Charles D. Hart, and this book would fail in its purpose of recording lives that have been useful and worthy of note were it to omit mention of this successful career. Lee County proudly claims him as one of her best and most enterprising citizens, and he is the fortunate possessor of a fine estate on section 20, Bradford

Township. By a proper rotation of crops the land has been brought to a high degree of cultivation, while various buildings have been erected which best subserve the purposes of an agriculturist.

During the early part of this century there resided in Massachusetts a worthy couple whose names were Holloway L. and Mary (Carter) Hart. They were natives of Franklin County, that State, and became the parents of three children—Charles D., Henry B. and Mary M. The only daughter became the wife of Horace Roberts and died in New York City, February 3, 1866. After the death of his first wife, which occurred May 10, 1835, the father of our subject was a second time married, March 16, 1836, forming a matrimonial alliance with Eliza L. Root. They became the parents of one child—Sarah E., who died when twenty-one years old. Holloway Hart passed his entire life in the old Bay State and finally passed to his rest in Greenfield.

Born in Shelburne, Franklin County, Mass., January 12, 1831, Mr. Hart remained in his native place until ten years of age. He then removed to Greenfield, Mass., where he grew to man's estate and engaged in the cutlery works of J. Russell for five years. He later went to Conway, same State, and after working there for a twelvemonth returned to Greenfield, where he remained until 1855. Having resolved to see something of the West, he came to Lee County in the spring of the above named year, and was joined by his wife a few months later. He began life for himself by purchasing a tract of one hundred and sixty acres on section 20, from the Illinois Central Railroad Company, and at once set about improving the same.

When Mr. Hart came to this State it was not his intention to locate here, as he had only obtained a leave of absence from his employers in order to visit the Western country. He, however, no sooner became acquainted with this section than he decided it was the place for him, and sending for his family established his permanent residence in this county. That his energy and untiring industry have been rewarded is evident, when we state that he is now the owner of an estate consisting of seven hundred and twenty acres. It has been ac-

accumulated entirely by the exercise of his good judgment and the economy and frugality which characterized his wife as a helpmate in the truest sense of that word. His farm is now exceedingly productive and under most admirable cultivation and the passer-by can not help but recognize that it is in the possession of a gentleman who thoroughly understands his business.

The gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch, and whose portrait is presented on the accompanying page, was married in Franklin County, Mass., May 1, 1853, at which date Miss Lucy R. Jenkins became his wife. Mrs. Hart was born in Franklin County, July 4, 1835, and was a capable lady and well fitted to be the companion and helpmate of her husband. A family of four children have been granted to our subject and his amiable wife. Ella A. died in Franklin County, Mass., when an infant of three months; Charles J. was the second in order of birth; George E. also died in infancy; and Henry S. married Miss Kate Albrecht. On February 12, 1867, Mrs. Lucy R. Hart passed from earth in Bradford Township.

On July 11, 1867, Mr. Hart was again married, the lady of his choice being Miss Catherine S. Wright, a native of Massachusetts, having been born in Greenfield, March 27, 1847. To them have been born a family of five children, viz: William H., Frank S., Mary C., Mabel M. and Lucy A.

Our subject has been elected to many positions of trust and responsibility, and in every office has performed the duties pertaining thereto in a most satisfactory and conscientious manner. He was particularly interested in educational affairs and for twenty years was a member of the School Board, and during that period was instrumental in bringing about many reforms in the school system, which is now one of the best in the township. He was elected Justice of the Peace early in the '60s, holding the office for a long term of years, although not continuously. Mr. Hart takes an active part in politics and the Republican party counts him as among its most active and influential workers. In religious matters he is liberal in his views. He has been a Mason since 1868, and is identified with Franklin Grove Lodge, No. 268.

Few residents of Lee County are better known

and none more highly respected than Mr. Hart and his excellent wife, who are esteemed personally for their many worthy traits of character. He is numbered among the wealthy agriculturists of the county, and contributes liberally of his means to the promotion of public enterprises as well as the relief of the needy.



**A**LBERT M. CARPENTER is an intelligent and progressive member of the farming community of Lee County, and his farm, with its fertile fields that are under a high state of cultivation, and its neat, roomy and conveniently arranged buildings, pleasantly located on section 24, China Township, is one of the most attractive and desirable in the locality. In Essex County, now Union County, N. J., is the birthplace of our subject, and he was born April 11, 1843. Aaron Carpenter was his father, and he was also a native of Union County, as was his wife, Mary Wade. The early part of their wedded life was spent in that New Jersey county, but they subsequently went to Morrow County, Ohio, whence they removed a short distance across the line into Delaware County, the same State, where Mr. Carpenter died while yet in life's prime, leaving two children: Albert M. and Mary, the latter of whom is now the widow of Harrison Doty.

He of whom we write was in his fifth year when his parents removed to Ohio, where he grew to man's estate. He lived at home until he was twenty-three years old, and then paid his first visit to Lee County. He stayed here a year, and at the end of that time returned to Ohio to claim his promised bride, Miss Melissa Johnson, who was born and reared in Morrow County, that State, her birth occurring in February, 1845. The ceremony that made the happy young couple one was performed in her native county February 16, 1867. One son has blessed their union, Wilbert M.

After marriage Mr. Carpenter came back to Illinois, bringing with him his wife, and they spent the next nine years in Ogle County. In 1876 they came to China Township, of which they have

ever since been residents, on their home on a choice farm on section 24, China Township. Mr. Carpenter has worked with characteristic energy to improve his farm, which contains one hundred and twenty acres of excellent farming land, and is in fine condition, everything about the place being neat and orderly, and giving conclusive evidence of a skillful hand and bright mind guiding and directing affairs.

Mr. Carpenter is a man of much force and decision of character, is clear sighted and sagacious in his judgments, and his neighbors find him a wise and safe counselor. He is a prominent figure in the political and public life of the community, and in the various responsible offices that he has held he has always worked for the good of the township. He has held the office of Township Assessor for two terms; he has been Highway Commissioner for twelve years, and School Director and Trustee. In politics he is a Republican, and is an earnest advocate of his party.



**E**DWARD E. FISCHER. Forty years ago Edward Fischer, then a youth of nineteen years, left the German Fatherland to found a home for himself on American soil. He selected the great Prairie State as the scene of his future abode and life work, and in due time purchased land on sections 32 and 33, South Dixon Township, which under his care has become one of the best improved and most desirable farms in the locality, its buildings of a substantial order, its rich pastures affording sustenance for many cattle and horses of fine breeds, and its highly tilled fields yielding abundant harvests.

Mr. Fischer was born December 18, 1831, in Middle Hausen, near Erbert, Saxe-Weimar, coming of good German stock, a son of Johan D. Fischer, and a grandson of John G. Fischer, who were also natives of Middle Hausen. His grandfather was a small farmer, who lived and died in his native Province, his death occurring at the age of eighty years. He married a German lady of Saxon birth, who was also a life-long resident of the same place

as her husband. Both were active members of the Lutheran Church.

John D. Fischer enlisted in early manhood to serve under Napoleon, and was with that great leader in many an engagement, acting as a signaler and body-guard to the General, and he was also a skillful musician. At one time he was captured by the enemy, and made fast to his horse for safe keeping. But he managed to escape to the timber where he cut himself loose from the horse with a small penknife, and made good his escape back to his regiment. He afterward took part in the famous battle of Waterloo, and though often in the thick of the fight, got off without a wound. He subsequently returned to his home, took unto himself a wife, and settled down to a quiet life, following the profession of a musician for several years in the place of his birth, and acquiring considerable local fame for his talent in instrumental music. The latter part of his life he devoted to farming, and died February 9, 1869, at a ripe old age, being nearly eighty years old. To the last he retained much of the strength and vigor of his early days, and his death was caused by his fall from a pear tree. His first wife, mother of our subject, died in 1847, when a little past middle age. She was a native of the same province as himself, coming of a good German family, and her maiden name was Sophia E. Frenzel. Her parents, Christopher and Maria (Lange) Frenzel, lived and died in Saxe-Weimar. They were prominent members of the Lutheran Church, as were John Fischer and both of his wives. His second wife was Sophia J. Ellinger, who was born, reared and died in Middle Hausen, she being about fifty years old at the time of her death.

Our subject is the youngest but two of the seven children born to his mother, of whom six are yet living. His sister Augusta, wife of William Amme, died in Boone, Iowa, when quite full of years. His brother Henry married Minnie Barth, and is a farmer in Wittenbeck, S. Dak.; Bernhard H. married Elizabeth Claassen, now deceased, and is a resident of Green Mountain, Iowa; Doratha M. married Henry Holzhaus, and they live at the old home in Germany; August W., a farmer in Boone, Iowa, married Johanna Kuppe; Julius J., a farmer

near Yankton, S. Dak., married Harriet Albright.

Edward Fischer had the benefit of the excellent school system of his native country, and was well prepared as regarded his education to start out in life on his own account when he bade farewell to his friends and the beloved scenes of his birthplace to sail away to the New World, embarking at Hamburg, August 12, 1850, on the "Progressive," of New York, and landing in that city some two months later. He made his way to Sterling in this State, arriving there November 12, and soon found employment. He worked out by the month in Whiteside County, and also rented land until he came to this county, and by diligence and wise economy he laid by enough money to enable him to become independent, and in 1861 he purchased the land in South Dixon Township, that he has since developed into his present choice farm, all the improvements being the work of his own hand, so to speak. His farm comprises two hundred and forty acres of highly cultivated, well drained and neatly fenced land, upon which he has erected a fine residence and other suitable buildings, and has set out beautiful shade trees, which have grown to a good size, and add greatly to the attractiveness of his place. He is thrifty, wide-awake and progressive in his farming methods, and raises none but the most approved breeds of horses, cattle and swine, for which he always finds a ready market at good prices.

During his residence in Whiteside County, our subject sought in marriage the hand of Miss Friederike K. Dittmann, and they were wedded October 25, 1857. Their domestic life is one of true felicity, and to them have been born the following children: Caroline, who died when a child; Rosetta E., wife of Louis Levan, a farmer of Marion Township; Eldena H., a farmer of South Dixon Township, who married Miss Emma Duis; William F., who lives with his parents; Henry A., a resident of South Dixon, who married Miss Minnie Drake; David J., Mary S. D., and Kate C., the latter three at home with their parents. The children are all well-educated, the family is one of the leading families of South Dixon, and all its members belong to the Lutheran Church. Mrs. Fischer was born at Bressow, near Berlin, Germany, September

23, 1833, and came to this country when a young woman in 1854, making her home in Sterling, this State, for some years after that. Her parents were Michael and Catherine Dittmann, who were born, lived and died in Prussia when old people. They were staunch members of the Lutheran Church. Mrs. Fischer and her sister, Mrs. Christina Strassburg, who makes her home with her, are all of the family in the United States. They have two brothers, William and Christian, living in Prussia.

Our subject has made his influence felt in this home of his adoption not only as a wise and skillful farmer, but as an intelligent citizen, who has a good practical knowledge of the laws and political issues of the country, and is one of the leading local Democrats. He is the present Assessor of South Dixon Township, which important office he has held twelve years, administering its duties with sagacity and discretion, and he has also been Highway Commissioner. Although he is sincerely attached to this country, and is intensely loyal to the Government, he still retains his natural affection for his native land, as a true man should, and takes pleasure in revisiting his old home. Twice he has recrossed the waters to Germany, once in 1874, and again in the winter of 1890-91 he spent three months there.



**D**R. JOEL BACON MERRIMAN, one of the old settlers of South Dixon Township, where he lives in retirement with his son, Walter, is a wealthy and distinguished citizen of Lee County, who has been long and intimately associated with its rise and progress, as a public-spirited citizen who has assisted in its government, and been a promoter of many plans for its improvement; and as an enlightened and enterprising farmer and stock-raiser, who has redeemed many hundred acres of land from its natural condition, and has developed one of the finest and best equipped farms in this section of the State, making it a beautiful and attractive home. And his possessions are by no means confined to Illinois, as he has a large landed property in Iowa,



and has been active in the agricultural development of that Commonwealth.

Dr. Merriman is of New England birth and training, and numbers among his ancestors some of the Colonial settlers of the good old State of Connecticut, where he had his birth in Hartford County, May 2, 1814. The Merrimans originated in England, being of the sturdy old Anglo-Saxon stock.

Nathaniel Merriman was born in 1614, in England, and settled at New Haven, Conn., in 1639, and died in 1695, aged eighty years. John, son of Nathaniel, was born 1659. Rev. John Merriman, son of John, born 1691. John Merriman, son of Rev. John Merriman, born 1728. Chauncey Merriman, son of John. Anson Merriman, son of Chauncey, born October 21, 1786, died September 2, 1853. Joel Bacon Merriman, son of Anson Merriman, born May 2, 1814. Walter B. Merriman, son of Joel Bacon Merriman, born November 5, 1859; and the first to come to this country was Nathaniel Merriman.

The father of our subject was Anson Merriman. He received an education in his native country, and grew to be a bright, brainy man of much versatility. He was in turn a farmer, manufacturer and an inventor of positive genius, and more than local repute, but like many another in that line, he did not reap the reward his talents merited. He invented the first bolt machine, for the manufacture of that article, now in such universal use, and after he got it started some one else took it up and made the fortune that ought to have been his. He made the first barrel of cement ever manufactured in this country, and again was cheated out of wealth that seemed almost in his grasp, and others immediately began its manufacture. He always remained a resident of Hartford County, and when he died at the age of sixty-six, he was greatly missed, as he was well and favorably known by a large circle of acquaintances, among whom he had many old and tried friends. He was a man of honor, upright in his walk, a gentleman in the truest sense of the word, and no one ever breathed aught against his fair name. He took part in politics, and was a splendid champion of various reform movements current in his day, embracing a principle for the sake of the right, and never

flinching in its defence. He was one of the early Abolitionists, and was also a sturdy advocate of temperance. He was broad-minded and liberal in his religious views, being an earnest and thoughtful Christian. When a young man, he was prominent in the Baptist Church, of which he was a Deacon for some years, but later in life, he found himself more in sympathy with the Unitarians, joining a Unitarian Church, and was connected with it until his death.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Jerusha Bacon, and she, too, was born and reared in Hartford County, coming of one of the first families of Connecticut. Her parents were natives of that State, and were prominent members of the farming community of Hartford County, and there they died when old people, Mr. Bacon rounding out nearly four-score years. He was a man of marked force, and was decidedly in favor of all things that tended to the elevation of the community, whether spiritually or materially. He and his wife were moral and upright, and Christians in the truest sense. The mother of our subject was a noble woman, of many virtues, and her death occurred at the birth of her sixth child, when she was in the full bloom of womanhood, being only thirty-two years of age, which was a sad loss to her household and many friends.

Dr. Merriman is the second child born to his parents, and the only other surviving members of the family are his sisters, Mrs. Wallace Judd, of Dixon, and Mrs. Chester Claffin, of Berkshire County, Mass. He was carefully trained in the pleasant New England home of his birth, principles of right living being early instilled into his mind, and his scholarly tastes were developed by a liberal education. He decided in his youth to be a physician, and was well grounded in the studies of his chosen profession in the Medical Department at Yale College, from which he was graduated in 1837. He at once established himself in practice in Berkshire County, Mass. He rose rapidly in his calling, but after ten years of steady service, his health began to fail, and he removed to Long Island, hoping that the invigorating air of the sea shore would work a cure. He lived there some six years, but the demands of a constantly grow-

ing practice so wore upon his physical powers, that he determined to abandon his profession altogether, and seek a new mode of life on the broad, breezy prairies of the West to regain his wonted vigor.

Selecting Illinois as the scene of his future home, the Doctor came hither in 1856, and began his new life as a farmer on a quarter of a section of unbroken land in Lee County, of which he has ever since been a resident. He entered actively upon the improvement of his first purchase, to which he immediately added one hundred and sixty acres more of wild land, which he had put under the plow at once, and soon after that bought another tract of one hundred acres, and has made many other investments in real estate. For many years he kept up an active business as a farmer, giving careful supervision to his large farming and stock interests, and he has owned and improved the most of seven hundred and twenty acres of land in this vicinity, besides many hundred acres elsewhere. He has erected large and finely fitted up farm buildings on his homestead, including a handsome and well-appointed residence, which, with its pleasant surroundings, is an ornament to the neighborhood. The Doctor has owned and partly improved eleven hundred acres of land in Hamilton County, Iowa, which he sold for a large sum of money. In Plymouth County, Iowa, he has an extensive and valuable stock and grain farm, embracing an entire section and a half of land, which is highly cultivated and well improved, amply provided with buildings, including a large and small farm house, good barns, etc.

Our subject was first married during his residence in Berkshire County, Mass., to Miss Eliza Curtis, a native of that county. She bore him one child, Grace. She is now the wife of E. W. Curtis, of Chicago, and they have three children: Howard, Irving and Margaret. The Doctor's marriage, which took place after his removal to this county, was with Miss Elizabeth Smith, who was born and reared on Long Island, N. Y. She died when about twenty-three years of age, leaving a son, Walter Bacon, who is now one of the leading young farmers of South Dixon Township. He married Miss Mattie W. Lee, who was born in Penn-

sylvania, and came to Illinois when she was a young lady. They have three children: Vena, Guy H. and Grace. The Doctor chose for his third wife Angelina Judd, with whom he lived happily for more than a third of a century, when she closed her eyes in death September 2, 1891, aged seventy-four years.

When he came here the Doctor desired to lay aside his profession altogether, but he was not allowed to do so wholly, as his reputation as a skilled physieian had preceeded him and he had many calls, but the demands of his business would not permit him to praetice very extensively. He is a gentleman of ripe culture and wide experience, whose knowledge of men and affairs is extensive, and his mind, penetrating wit, calm, evenly balanced kind and business acumen, gave him from the first a prominent place among the leading men of Lee County, with whose best interests his name is so closely identified. In him, South Dixon Township has one of its most honored citizens, who is widely known, not only here, but elsewhere, through his business connections and social relations. He has mingled in the public life of his community, has been a member of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, and has held the office of Justice of the Peace two terms. In his political views, he is in full sympathy with the Republican party.



**J**ACOB HARDEN, a wealthy, retired farmer, living on one of his farms on section 23, Nelson Township, has been long and honorably identified with the men of Lee County, who have been instrumental in developing the resources of this part of Illinois. The birthplace of our subject is in Somerset County, Pa., near the Mason and Dixon line, and there he was born February 2, 1822. His father, George Harden, was also a native of Pennsylvania, and he in turn was a son of Isaae Harden, of Pennsylvania birth, whose father, David Harden, is thought to have been born in England, but the most of his life was passed in this country, his death occurring in the

Keystone State when he was an old man. His son Isaac grew up in the State of his nativity, and was variously engaged as a farmer, miner of coal, and a distiller, running a distillery in the early days of the settlement of Somerset County, of which he was a pioneer. He died there in Northampton Township, at the age of eighty-one, falling dead on the road from the effects of a stroke of paralysis. He was a man whose many good traits made him greatly respected by his neighbors and others. He was twice married. His first marriage was with a Miss Neymeyer, a Pennsylvania lady, of English descent. She died in the prime of life when her son George, the father of our subject, was a young man. Isaac Harden married for his second wife Catherine Beal, of Somerset County, and she died there at the age of sixty years and more, a few years after the death of her husband.

George Harden was one of a family of four sons and three daughters born to his mother. One of the sons was a soldier in the War of 1812, and all of the children are now deceased. The father of our subject was reared to the life of a farmer on his father's farm, and carried on his occupation both in Pennsylvania and Maryland, his last years as well as his first being spent in the former State, where he died in the town of Wellersburgh, Somerset County, at the venerable age of eighty-six years. He was always a Democrat in politics, as was his father before him, and he was a Lutheran in religion. He held a Lieutenantcy in the Pennsylvania State Militia, and was a familiar figure in the famous home musters of his time. He was married to Miss Hester Uhl in the county of Somerset, where she was born and reared, her early home being near the Mason and Dixon line. She was less than three-score years of age when she died in her native county, and left behind her the blessed memory of a good woman, a kind wife and loving mother. She was a Lutheran. Her parents, Jacob and Mary (Swartz) Uhl, were natives of Pennsylvania, and came of Holland ancestry. Their entire lives were passed in Somerset County, where her father was engaged as a farmer, miller and tavern-keeper until his death at the age of sixty, his wife dying when seventy years old. They were prominent members of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject is one of nine children, three sons and six daughters, one of the latter dying young, and now he and his sister, Mrs. Mary Troutman, a widow living in Grundy County, Iowa, at an advanced age, are the only survivors of that large family. Mr. Harden was twelve years old when his parents took up their residence in Allegany County, Md., where he attained his majority, and continued to live until 1851, when he returned to his native State and county and resided there some three years prior to coming to this State in April, 1854. He obtained a quarter of a section of wild land from the Government, which by downright hard labor he has transformed into one of the fine farms for which Nelson Township is justly noted. It is highly cultivated and improved, is amply supplied with good farm buildings, modern machinery, etc. Besides his homestead on section 23, Mr. Harden owns eighty acres of valuable land on section 24 of the same township, which is also well improved. He has accumulated his property by his untiring industry, directed by shrewd judgment, good powers of calculation, and excellent business tact. Not only have his services been of value as an intelligent farmer, but he has played an important part in the public life of this section. His neighbors, recognizing his ability and the rectitude of his character, have pushed him to the front as an office-holder, and he has held several responsible positions in the township, besides representing it as a member of the Lee County Board of Supervisors. His fellow-citizens have always found him wise in council, a discreet and safe counsellor, and they know that they can trust him to the uttermost. In his politics he is a Democrat. Religiously, he and his wife and children are Lutherans.

Mr. Harden was married in the county of his birth to Miss Catherine Cook, and for forty-five years they have shared life's joys and sorrows. Mrs. Harden is a noble woman, whose warm, motherly heart goes out in sympathy to any in her community who are in grief or are suffering, and she is much beloved. Somerset County, Pa., is also her native county, and December 20, 1825, is the date of her birth. She was reared and educated and married in the place of her nativity, and

is a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Harden) Cook, who were natives of the same county as herself, and were of German and English ancestry respectively, her mother being born of New England parents. They lived and died on a farm when full of years, and were well-to-do people. Mr. Cook was for some years a contractor and had a contract on the National Turnpike. He was a large land-owner, and a successful farmer. Mrs. Harden is the youngest daughter in a family of seven sons and three daughters, of whom six are yet living. Her marriage with our subject has been blessed to them by the birth of four sons and three daughters, of whom the eldest and youngest daughters, Martha and Josie, are dead. The others are Dennis C., of whom see biography; Malinda, wife of William Troutman, a farmer of York County, Neb.; D. G., a merchant of Utica, Seward County, Neb., who married Miss Minnie Schulze; Emanuel J., a banker, at Stratton, Hitchcock County, Neb, who married Martha Geer; and Jesse S., a bank cashier at Wauneta Falls, Neb.



**H**IRAM UHL, who is now living in retirement in the village of Naehusa in the enjoyment of a comfortable fortune, may be considered one of the pioneer farmers and stock-raisers of Lee County, although not among its earliest settlers, as his valuable farm of two hundred acres in South Dixon Township was developed by him from its original wildness, and its improvements, which are all first-class, are the work of his own hands.

Mr. Uhl is a native of the township of Hampton, Somerset County, Pa., his birth occurring there September 21, 1828. His father, Daniel Uhl, was also born in that county, and was in turn a son of Jacob Uhl, who was a German and came to America with two brothers some time during the last century, he and one of his brothers settling in Pennsylvania, and the other one locating in New York. Jacob Uhl was trained to the life of a farmer and some time after marriage removed with his wife and children to Maryland, where he lived

until his death in Allegany County, many years later, at the advanced age of ninety years. His wife was also very old when she died in that State. They were staunch Lutherans in religion. They reared a large family of children, nine sons and three daughters, all of whom married, and the most of whom lived to be very aged. Daniel Uhl, who was the fifth child of the family, died in Allegany County, Md., in 1849, at the age of fifty-six, he being the youngest of his brothers and sisters then living. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Long, survived him. Somerset County was likewise her birthplace, and she was descended from an old Pennsylvania family. After the death of her husband she came with her son, of whom we write, to Illinois to pass her remaining years and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Harden, in Nelson Township, in 1866, at the age of seventy-two. Both she and her husband were conscientious members of the Lutheran Church as long as they lived.

Our subject is one of a large family, several of whom are yet living. He came to settle among the pioneers of Lee County in 1852, coming from Maryland, where he had lived since he was nine years old. He purchased his farm in South Dixon Township after his arrival here and worked hard to put it into its present condition. In 1889 he rented it, and has since lived retired in the village of Naehusa. His services as a shrewd, clear-headed, sharp-sighted farmer have been valuable to his adopted township, and he has also done his duty as a public-spirited citizen in helping his fellow-townsmen in the management of public affairs, having held the various local offices with due regard for the highest interests of the community. In his politics he is a thorough Democrat, and his party has no more staunch supporter in this section than he. Religiously, both he and his wife are active members of the Lutheran Church, and have been for many years.

Mr. Uhl was first married in Allegany County, Md., to Miss Maggie Wilhelm, who was born and reared in that county. She came to Lee County with her husband and died here in 1858 when in life's prime, leaving four children: Mary R., wife of P. J. Suthers, a farmer in Page County, Neb.;

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*Jacob Sennett*

Ella M., wife of Virgil Buchanan, a farmer in Oregon; William T. and Elizabeth, who died young. Mr. Uhl was a second time married in Cumberland, Md., Miss Nancy J. Hughes, of that city, becoming his wife. She was well educated in the schools of that place and there met her husband. Her parents were Joseph and Mary Hughes, who were life-long residents of Cumberland, dying there when very old, he being eighty-six and she eighty-two when they passed away. Nearly all their lives they had been members of the Lutheran Church. Four daughters have blessed the present marriage of Mr. Uhl, as follows: Ida M., wife of Chauncey F. Hart, who rents Mr. Uhl's homestead; Bertha A., Eva A., and Grace G., the three latter living at home with their parents.



**J**ACOB SENNEFF, a retired farmer, living at Eldena, is one of the heroic veteran soldiers of the war who fought so long and well to put down the rebellion, risking life and all that they held dear that the glorious stars and stripes might float proudly over an undivided country. Although much disabled by the fortunes of war, he returned to Lee County at its close and in after years won for himself an honorable place among the most thrifty and industrious members of the farming community of South Dixon Township.

The portrait of Mr. Senneff accompanies this biographical outline. He was born in Fayette County, Pa., July 11, 1836, and is a son of William and Phebe (Barnett) Senneff, who were also Pennsylvanians by birth, and died on a farm in their native State, the mother passing away in 1842, before she had scarcely attained the meridian of life. Her parents were Germans, who emigrated to this country and died in Pennsylvania. William Senneff came to Illinois in 1874, and died in Carroll County in 1876 when past eighty years old. He had been a third time married and had out-lived his last wife a few years. They were all members of the Evangelical Association.

Jacob Senneff grew to maturity in his native

county, and in 1854 left his old home to cope with the hardships to be encountered in a new country that had not long been settled, Lee County being his destination. He was here when the war broke out, and filled with a patriotic desire to serve his country in her hour of need, he enlisted in Company D, Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry, that was organized in September, 1861, Col. Kirk and Capt. Pratt being his commanders, both of whom are dead.

The regiment was attached to the Army of the Cumberland, and in the dreadful years that followed saw a great deal of hard service, in all of which our subject gallantly and uncomplainingly bore his part. He was with his comrades at Shiloh, and marched with Gen. Sherman from Atlanta to the sea, doing his share of the fighting in the numerous encounters with the enemy. Occasionally privations and sufferings that he had to undergo proved too much for him, and he would have to lie in the hospital for a time, but it was not until Sherman's last engagement with the Confederates at Bentonville, N. C., March 19, 1865, that he was wounded, that battle being almost fatal to him, for while in the thickest of the fight his right arm was shot off, the left arm was broken and the hand disabled. This ended his career as a soldier, but as the war was so near its close he was well content, as he had done his duty nobly. He was honorably discharged in July, 1865. A grateful Government grants him a pension of \$72 a month for what he did and endured in its behalf.

Since he left the army, Mr. Senneff has lived in Carroll, and this county, taking up his residence in South Dixon Township, in 1874. He owns eighty acres of good land in this part of Illinois, and has sufficient means to permit of his living in retirement. He and Miss Sarah Fritz were happily married in this county and they have four children to bless their declining years, namely: Mary A., wife of E. M. June, of Eldena; Harvey, who married Miss Mary V. Hefley, and lives in North Dixon City; Ellen A., wife of George W. Mossholder, of South Dixon Township; and Susan V. at home with her parents.

Mrs. Senneff was born in Somerset County, Pa., and came to Illinois with her parents, John and

(Mowrer) Fritz, in 1854. The family settled in South Dixon Township, and there the father improved a good farm, which was his home until his death at the ripe old age of eighty years. His wife, who has attained the venerable age of ninety-three years, now lives with her daughter, Mrs. Herman Linderman.

Mr. Sennoff possesses true manliness of character, and is warm of heart and of a genial disposition. In his political views he votes, as he fought, with the Republican party. He and his wife are earnest Christians and members of the Evangelical Association.



**C**HARLES H. KEELER publishes the *Evening Star*, having been engaged in this business since March 28, 1891. A daily and weekly issue is published, and the success which has rewarded the new enterprise foretells its future prosperity. The paper already has an extended circulation which it well merits, for it is a bright, newsy sheet, that fulfills all the requirements of a modern newspaper.

Mr. Keeler, a native of Towanda, Pa., was born on the 20th of March, 1841, and in his native State the days of his boyhood and youth were passed. He there learned the printers' trade which he has made his life work, and was afterwards connected with the Sullivan County *Democrat*, of La Porte, Pa., and the *Herald*, of Wellsboro, Pa. His career as an editor and publisher extends over more than a quarter of a century, and sixteen years of that time he was connected with the Tioga County *Record*, published at Owego, N. Y. That is one of the leading papers of Tioga County, and under the management of Mr. Keeler acquired its excellent reputation.

Mr. Keeler spent six months in Reno City, Oklahoma, and will ever be remembered by the citizens of that section as the man who prevented the low element of the town from running an election in the absence of the Mayor and all of the Aldermen, himself excepted. Seeing that the roughs were taking matters into their own hands,

he applied to Col. Wade, then in command at Ft. Reno, three miles away, who called out the United States troops and routed the would-be officers of the city. On the return of the Mayor, a regular call was made by him for a new election, and the Mayor, upon whom they had special designs, was re-elected, and the Aldermen, who were from among the best citizens, were elected.

In Owego, N. Y., Mr. Keeler led to the marriage altar Miss Minnie J. Biles, who was born in Wyalusing, Pa. The days of her maidenhood were spent in the Keystone State, where she acquired a good education. She is a lady genial in manner, kindly in disposition and has won many friends during her residence in Dixon. She holds membership with the Presbyterian Church, but Mr. Keeler adheres to the faith of the Episcopal Church. Just before coming to this city he had spent about five years in the West, in Sumner County, Kan., and in Oklahoma, where he was located at the opening up of that Territory on the 22d of April, 1890, witnessing the race for lands and lots in Oklahoma, and joining a town company therein. On coming to Dixon, he formed a partnership with G. E. Bishop, and the Star Printing Company was organized, with Mr. Bishop as general superintendent and Mr. Keeler as editor and business manager. Both gentlemen are practical printers and capable and enterprising business men. In connection with the issue of this paper, they established a job office by the merging together of their two job printing offices, and now employ twelve hands. The paper is strictly independent in politics, and is devoted to the publication of local and general news of interest to its readers. On the 24th of December, 1891, Mr. Keeler bought out the interest of Mr. Bishop, and now carries on the business alone. For some years Mr. Keeler has not been identified with any political party. Socially, he is a member of Friendship Lodge, No. 7, A. F. & A. M., of Dixon, and is Past Sachem of the Improved Order of Red Men, by virtue of having served as Chief of Records for five consecutive years. For nearly seven years he has been a member of Branch 256, of the Iron Hall, in Owego, N. Y. A valued citizen of the community, Mr. Keeler ever gives his support to the enter-



prises calculated to prove of public benefit and uses his influence for their furtherance. His fidelity to public trusts is shown by the incident related concerning his experience in Reno City, of which he was one of the first Aldermen. While in that city there were seven hundred and twenty houses erected in ninety days.



**J**ELLE DUIS is one of our most capable and successful farmers, and has extensive farming and stock interests in two different townships in this county, those of South Dixon and Marion, making his home on section 33 of the first-named township. He is a native of the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, born in the month of September, 1834, into the household of John and Emma Duis, who were also Hanoverians by birth and ancestry, their respective families being represented in that kingdom for many generations, and belonging to the farm laboring class. John Duis was seventy years old when he died in his native kingdom, and his wife was eighty-four years of age when she passed away from the scenes of earth. They were religious people and were members of the Lutheran Church. They were the parents of seven children, our subject being the fourth in order of birth, and three of their sons fought in the German army as regular soldiers, and they also took part in the Rebellion of 1848.

He of whom we write obtained a very good education in the schools of his native town, and until he was twenty-two years old he remained in the Fatherland. At that age he went forth from home out into the world to fight life's battles on a foreign soil, having resolved to settle in the United States of America, where he was convinced he would be more prospered than in his own land. April 16, 1857, was the date of his departure from Bremerhaven on a ship bound for Baltimore, Md., at which port he disembarked six weeks later. He came thence to Peoria, in this State, and a few months later made his appearance in this county, arriving at Dixon July 14, 1857, with but five

cents in his pocket with which he began his new life in a strange land, among a strange people. He was of good heart, however, and made capital of his sturdy physique, his fine muscle and intelligent capacity for labor. He was first employed as a workman on the Northwestern Railway, and at the end of four or five years he turned his attention to farming, beginning as a renter. After some years he was able to buy land, and made his first purchase in South Dixon Township, which was a tract on section 29, entirely devoid of improvements. He worked hard and economized where economy was needed, and at the same time spent money judiciously in developing his property, and in that way made a fortune. He has a choice farm of two hundred and forty acres on sections 28 and 33, South Dixon Township, which was for the most part unbroken when it came into his possession, but is now nearly all under the plow, and a fine set of farm buildings adds greatly to the value of the place. He has recently erected one of the largest and most conveniently arranged barns in this part of the county, its dimensions being 50x112 feet, with a basement in which seventy-five head of stock can be easily accommodated. Besides this farm, Mr. Duis owns one hundred and twenty acres of good land in Marion Township.

Four years after his arrival in Lee County, our subject took upon himself the cares and responsibilities of married life, having induced Miss Catherine Ortgiesen to share them with him, their union taking place in South Dixon Township. Mrs. Duis is also a native of Hanover, Germany, born in that country in 1833. She was educated in the German schools and had blossomed into womanhood when, in 1857, she came to this country with her father, George Ortgiesen, and other members of the family, who made settlement in South Dixon Township, and here the father and mother died in after years. For the parental history, see biography of George Ortgiesen. Mr. Duis is one of eleven children, of whom six are living, and all are in this country. She is the mother of ten children, of whom three died young. The seven surviving are Emma, wife of Albert Fisher, a farmer in South Dixon Township; George, an attorney in Missouri; Mary, at home with her parents; Tena, wife of De-

lancy Southwell, of Honey Creek Township; Maggie, a seamstress, residing at Dixon; John and Charles at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Duis are members of the Lutheran Church, contributing generously to its means of support, and standing high in its councils. They live simple unpretentious lives, giving freely of their abundance when appealed to for help, and the people all around them hold them in cordial esteem. Mr. Duis has a warm regard for his adopted country, and, as concerns its politics, takes his stand with the Democrats.



JACOB MARTIN was born in Sandwich, N. H., December 29, 1806, and died at his home in Gap Grove, Palmyra Township, August 29, 1881. He was a well-known and highly-respected citizen of this community, a history of which would be incomplete were this sketch omitted. Mr. Martin was descended from an old New Hampshire family of prominence in Sandwich, where his father, Jacob Martin, lived and died. In all local interests of Strafford County, he took an active part and himself and wife were untiring workers in the temperance cause. Her maiden name was Mary Tyler, and she was alike well and favorably known in Sandwich, N. H., and in this county, where she came with her family after the death of her husband. She departed this life when more than eighty years of age and her remains were interred in the cemetery of Gap Grove. This worthy couple had a large family, but none are now living.

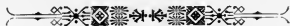
Jacob Martin spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his native town, leaving New Hampshire in 1836, when, with his mother, he came to Illinois. From that time he made Lee County the scene of his labors. He purchased Government land in what is now Gap Grove, and from the wild prairie developed a farm which has since been the home of his family and is now in part owned by his widow. He was first married in this county to Margaret Curtis, a native of White Creek, Washington County, N. Y., born September 10,

1813. When quite young she was left an orphan. Liberal educational advantages were afforded her and for some years before her marriage she engaged in teaching in Lee County, being employed as a teacher of French and German in the High School of Dixon. An intelligent and cultured mind and a natural refinement of manner made her a leader in the best social circles, and won her many warm friends who sincerely mourned her death. She passed away while in the prime of life, dying of dropsy, and five children were left to mourn the loss of a mother. William was burned to death when three years old by his clothes catching fire; Emma died of croup when five months old; Helen is living with Mrs. Martin; Addie Josephine is the wife of Judge Alfonso Morgan, County Judge, residing in Oregon, Mo.; and Howard, who wedded Miss Ida Cowen, of Nebraska, is a resident farmer of Palmyra Township.

Mr. Martin was again married, his second union being with Belle F. Drynan, who was born in County Renfrew, Province of Ontario, Canada, in 1839. Her father, William Drynan, was a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, who, having pursued a collegiate course of study in his native city, crossed the Atlantic when twenty-one years of age. He secured Government land in the Province of Ontario, where he met and married Elizabeth McMurchie, who was born in the North of Ireland, and came to America with her parents during childhood. By the united efforts of husband and wife they acquired a handsome property, but in the prime of life Mr. Drynan was called to his final rest, leaving his widow with six children. She was afterward again married, becoming the wife of the Rev. William G. Johnstone, a Scotchman by birth, who graduated from the Edinburg College and could fluently speak eight different languages. He was a Congregational minister. In 1853, with his wife and step-children, he came to Illinois, locating at Gap Grove, and preached in Lee and Whiteside Counties until his death, which occurred at the age of three-score years. His wife survived him some time, and died of dropsy at Gap Grove, December 23, 1890, when seventy-six years of age. She had always enjoyed remarkable health until a short time before her death, when she had an attack of

la grippe which terminated her life. In religious views she was a member of the Congregational Church. The five children of her first marriage yet living are: George, who wedded Kate Burrus and owns and operates the homestead in the Province of Ontario; Sarah, widow of Fletcher Hutton, whose sketch appears elsewhere; Mrs. Martin, wife of our subject; Robert J., Postmaster of Gap Grove and a farmer of Palmyra Township, who married Rachel Delph, of Lancaster County, Pa.; and Mary B., wife of George A. Seymour, of Dwight, Ill.

Mr. Martin possessed the business qualities essential to success and by his industry and enterprise left his family in comfortable circumstances at his death. He was a Republican in politics and took a warm interest in the growth and success of that party. His widow is still living on the old homestead. She is a member of the Congregational Church and a lady of many excellences of character. In the family were six children, namely: Lillian A., who formerly engaged in school teaching, is now the wife of Samuel Hurlman, a farmer of Gap Grove; Retta is at home; Elizabeth, who for six years was a stenographer, is now the wife of Frank Beckwith, a hardware merchant of Kansas City, Mo.; Frank L., who married Hettie Geer, of Sterling, is a resident farmer of Palmyra Township; Charles L. wedded Miss Rose Baker, and is now living in Gap Grove; and Eugene is at home.



**P**ROF. E. C. SMITH, principal of the North Division High School of Dixon, is one of the oldest educators in years of service in Illinois and has a reputation as an instructor among the best in the State. He is now living near the city in a pleasant country home, where he owns a good farm of one hundred acres. A native of Essex County, N. Y., he was born in 1829, and is a son of Lieut. Almeron Smith. The paternal grandfather, Maj. Nathan Smith, was a native of Manchester, Vt., and belonged to one of the highly respected New England families. His people were of Welsh and Irish extraction. Amid

the hills of his native State he was reared to manhood and became one of the Green Mountain Boys of Revolutionary fame. He served as a commissioned officer in the War for Independence, and it was at his home that Ethan Allen formed his plans for the capture of Ticonderoga, in which the Major participated. He spent his last days in Shoreham, Vt., dying at an advanced age. He and his wife, who was a Vermont lady, were both active workers in the Baptist Church.

Lieut. Smith, father of our subject, was a native of the Empire State and won his title in the War of 1812. He married Lois Larrabee, a native of Vermont, who with her family removed to Essex County, N. Y., while her husband was fighting the British in the War of 1812. That was the home of Lieut. and Mrs. Smith for some years, but later they went to Washington County, N. Y., and later came to Illinois, locating in Savannah, where the Lieutenant died at the age of seventy-one years. His widow passed away three years later, dying at the home of Mrs. Dr. Kendrick, of Waukesha, Wis., when in her seventieth year. They had long been members of the Baptist Church, and Mr. Smith served as Deacon for long years. He was quite a prominent citizen in the communities where he resided, and for twenty-eight years served in public offices in Essex County, N. Y. In 1833 he represented his district in the State Legislature, being elected to the office by the Whig party. In the Smith family were seven children, but with the exception of our subject only one is now living—the Rev. Dr. Justin A. Smith, who resides at Morgan Park, and is the editor of the *Standard*, of Chicago, the leading Baptist paper of the West. He is an eminent preacher of that church and well known in its circles.

Prof. Smith was reared under the parental roof and at the age of seventeen taught his first school. In the village of Granville, Washington County, N. Y., where his education had been chiefly acquired, he taught for two years and then came to the West. His first teaching in Illinois was on the Fox River, at Geneva, in a little log school-house of the most primitive style of times. Subsequently he had been employed for three years

as principal of the Rock Seminary ere he came to Dixon in 1859. He heard the first class in the old Dixon Collegiate Institute, which has been non-existing for many years, and in 1862 became a teacher in the public schools. With the South Side schools he was connected from that time until 1886, when he became principal of the North Side School, which position he still occupies. He has grown in favor from year to year since he came to Dixon and has won laurels of which he may well be proud. Prof. Gastman, of Decatur, Ill., and Prof. Howland, late Superintendent of the public schools of Chicago, are the only two men in the State that have filled educational chairs in their respective cities as long as Prof. Smith has been connected with the schools of Dixon.

The Professor has been twice married. He wedded Miss Elizabeth A. Mason, of Granville, N. Y., where their union was celebrated, and where the lady had followed teaching. After residing in the West for several years she died in Dixon, in the faith of the Baptist Church, leaving two children—Dr. H. O., a homeopathic physician now engaged in practice in Shakopee, Minn., married Ada Mencham, a native of Vermont; and Edward, who operates his father's farm. His wife was formerly Miss Ada Russ, of Philadelphia, Pa. In Dixon Mr. Smith was again married, his second union being with Miss Saraphina Gardner, daughter of Dr. Charles and Mary (Pierce) Gardner. Her father, a prominent physician, graduated from Dr. Thomas' Botanical College, and for many years resided in Lee Center, having an extensive practice throughout this community. He died near Chamberlain, S. Dak., well advanced in years. His wife, who was a native of Rhode Island, died near Dixon some years previous. Both were members of the Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Smith, wife of our subject, has spent her entire life in Lee County, where she was born. She is a lady of intelligence and culture, and many of her articles written for different magazines possess much merit. She belongs to the Episcopal Church and takes great interest in its work. Mr. Smith has been a Deacon in the Baptist Church for many years, and with the exception of four years has

been Superintendent of the Sunday-school in Dixon since 1852. He has represented it in the different conventions of the church and was chairman of the committee that called the first State Sunday School Convention of Illinois. The call was made in 1868, and the convention organized in Dixon the following year. In politics, the Professor is a Republican.

Unto Prof. Smith and his wife have been born three children—Kenneth, Percy and Anna. The eldest is fitting himself to enter the new Baptist University, now building in Chicago. It is said that there is a work suited to each individual, and if he engage in that labor success will crown his efforts. Accepting this theory as true, we would say that Prof. Smith found that work to which he was peculiarly adapted. He seems to possess special talent for the work in which he is engaged, and success has indeed been with him.



REV. WILLIAM H. CLATWORTHY, an honored minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who has practically retired from his profession, and now devotes himself to farming and stock-raising, has a pleasant home in Harmon Township, and is numbered among the most respected citizens of Lee County. He was born in Cornwall, England, April 4, 1839, one of the eleven children of John and Jane (Jefford) Clatworthy, seven of whom grew to maturity, and of those, two came to the United States: our subject and his sister Martha, now Mrs. Wixom, of Harmon. The father was a civil and mining engineer, and was employed in the mines of England. Both he and his wife were earnest members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the father being leader of the choir.

Our subject worked in silver, iron and copper mines in his native country in early life. He received careful religious instruction from his parents, and at the age of seventeen became a member of the church. He manifested a great interest in the church, and was soon recognized as

one of its most active and efficient workers. Wishing to consecrate himself more entirely to the cause of religion, he studied theology, fitted himself for the ministry, and at the age of twenty-four, entered upon the duties of his sacred calling. He preached the gospel on circuits in Devonshire and Cornwall until 1869, when he left England and came to the United States, landing at New York, October 2. He was accompanied hither by his family, and making their way directly to Chicago, they buried a little daughter there who had sickened and died after arriving in this country. From Chicago the family proceeded to Libertyville, Lake County, where Mr. Clatworthy worked as a farm-hand during the season of 1870. In the fall of that year, he resumed his ministerial duties, and was assigned to the church at Syeamore. A year later, he took charge of the work at Indian Creek and Ophir, where societies of his faith had been established, and he preached very acceptably to the people of those places for six years. He then went to Harmon, and for six years filled the pulpit at that place.

While he was actively engaged in the ministry, Mr. Clatworthy purchased one hundred and sixty acres of his present farm in 1879, removed to it and devoted his leisure to tilling the soil. He has made many improvements, and has greatly increased the attractiveness and value of the place since it came into his possession by planting many beautiful shade trees, some of which have attained a diameter of from twelve to fifteen inches. He has a neat and substantial house, and necessary farm buildings, and has his farm well stocked with cattle and horses of good grades. In the fall of 1885, he went from his old pastorate at Harmon to Lyndon, and for two years had charge of the church in that village. He then retired from active work in the ministry to his farm, and has since been exclusively engaged in its management, occasionally filling the pulpit in different parts of the vicinity.

The Rev. Mr. Clatworthy was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth A. Crocker, in Devonshire, England, in 1863. She is a native of that English shire, born March 26, 1839, and a daughter of Richard and Mary (Decker) Crocker. She had

two brothers who came to the United States: William, a farmer in Webster County, Iowa; and John, who died in Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Clatworthy have been greatly blessed in their marriage by the birth of ten children, of whom seven are living. Their son, William H., is a Presbyterian minister in Hastings, Neb.; their daughter Mary is the wife of Charles Woodburn, of Sterling, Ill., who is reporter of the Circuit Court; Emily is the wife of David T. Hill, of Harmon; and Alfred, Carrie, Rosena and Ernest G. are at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Clatworthy are very pleasant, intelligent people, whom it is a pleasure to meet, and they are very highly thought of by the people among whom they have made their home. A man of true piety and deep religious convictions, a Christian in word and deed, Mr. Clatworthy has not only done good work in the church, but he has thrown the weight of his influence on the side of morality and right living at all times, and has made the community better for his residing in it. He has never sought public office, but has taken a sincere interest in the politics of his adopted country, and is a sound Republican.



**R**ALPH PAUL KETTLEY, a representative farmer and resident of Willow Creek Township, was born in Denbighshire, Wales, May 1, 1828. His father, John Kettley, was a native of Staffordshire, England, and there grew to manhood and married, but after the death of his first wife, he removed to Wales, and spent the rest of his life in Denbighshire. The maiden name of his second wife, mother of our subject, was Ann Paul. She was born in Wales and spent her entire life in the land of her birth. Her father, Ralph Paul, who was a sailor, was also a native of Wales, and ended his days in that country.

Our subject and his brother Edward were the only members of the family that came to America. The latter is engaged in the boot and shoe business in Compton, this county. Ralph Kettley was reared among his native hills, and his parents being

in limited circumstances, he was early thrown on his own resources. At the age of sixteen, he was apprenticed to learn the trade of boot and shoe maker, and after serving one year, did journey-work. In 1846 he went to Liverpool, and was employed at his trade there until 1849. Ambitious to better his condition, on the 28th of August, that year, he took an important step in life, which has undoubtedly led him to his present prosperity. That was the date of his setting sail for the *New World* from Liverpool in the ship "*Guy Mannering*." He landed at New York twenty-eight days later, and proceeded directly to Chicago, which at that time was a comparatively small town, with no indications in its swampy environments of its present size and importance as one of the great metropolitan cities of the world, and Northern Illinois was but sparsely settled. There were no railways in the State, and all communication with the interior was either by private conveyance, stage or canal.

When Mr. Kettley arrived in this country, his entire wealth consisted of about the sum of \$200 in cash, but he was well endowed otherwise with the energy, perseverance and capacity for hard work that serve a man better than money oftentimes. He sought and found employment at his trade in Chicago, where he remained until 1852, when he went to Peoria and was engaged in making shoes in that city the following three years. His next move was to this county, where he made a new departure by turning farmer. He bought a tract of Government land in Wyoming Township, upon which there were no improvements whatever, so that he did not settle upon it, but rented an improved farm, and shortly after sold the land that he had entered. He continued farming as a renter a few years, and then bought the farm he now owns and occupies, that contains one hundred and sixty acres of arable land on sections 19 and 30, of Willow Creek Township. He has the entire tract under a high state of cultivation, has planted fruit and shade trees, and erected a neat set of frame buildings, the improvements comparing favorably with any in the county.

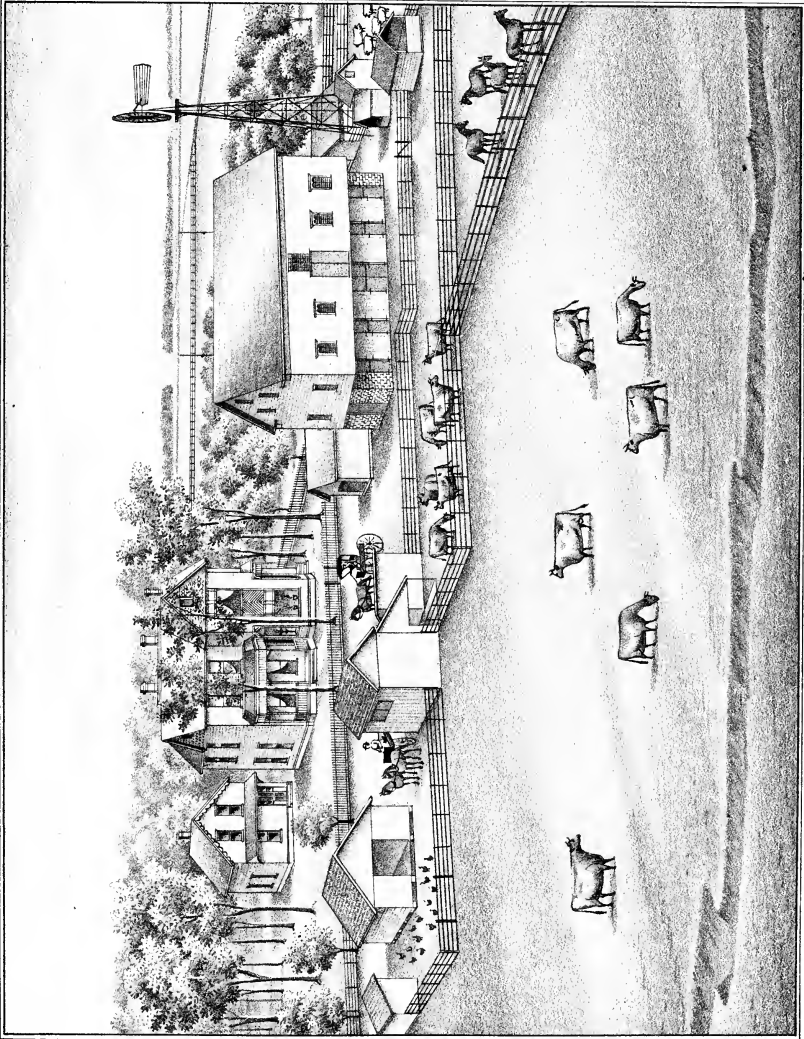
In 1851 Mr. Kettley was married to Eliza Beder, a native of England, in whom he has a faithful

wife, who looks carefully after the well-being of her household. They have seven children living: William, John, Thomas, Lizzie, Julia, Hattie and Mary.



**N**ICHOLAS MOSSHOLDER, who is a veteran of the late war, with an honorable record for bravery and devotion to the cause of his country won in some of the hardest, fought battles of the rebellion, is a very successful farmer, one of the foremost in his line of business in South Dixon Township, where he has a beautiful farm and a very attractive home on sections 17 and 20. He is a son of the late Jacob Mossholder, who was a prominent pioneer of this section, beginning his life here on a slightly improved farm of two hundred and forty acres, on which stood a sod stable and board shanty. He made a good home and died here in 1876 a rich man, having acquired a large property. For a further account of him see biography of William H. Mossholder.

Our subject is the second son and child of the family of eight children born unto his parents—five sons and three daughters. The survivors of the family are himself, his brother William, Mrs. Catherine Heekman and Mrs. Eva Allen, all of whom are living on farms in this township. He was born in Somerset County, Pa., August 16, 1837, and was nineteen years of age when the family came to this county in 1856. He has since been a resident of this township, and an interested witness of almost its entire growth from a tract of wild prairie. He has occupied his present farm twenty-two years, and it has been his property for fifteen years. The one hundred and thirty-eight acres included in the farm are under the best of cultivation, and many additional improvements have been made since it has been in his possession. He has recently erected a handsome set of farm buildings; his residence, a view of which is presented on another page, is of a beautiful and modern style of architecture, and his new barn is a substantial and roomy structure, 36x60 feet in dimensions. Able management, thrift and unwonted



RESIDENCE OF NICHOLAS MOSSHOLDER, SEC. 19, SOUTH DIXON TR. LEE CO. ILL.

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skill in carrying on farming operations are manifest on every hand, and have given our subject a fine reputation as an agriculturist. He has otherwise been of benefit to his community as a man of exemplary habits and true Christian principles, who has been influential in promoting the religious and social interests in the township in his capacity as a consistent member of the Evangelical Church. His political views are in consonance with the doctrines of the Republican party.

Mr. Mossholder served long and well in the army during the most trying years of the Rebellion, enlisting August 9, 1862, in Company A, Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry, and with his regiment joined the Army of the Cumberland. His company and regiment fought desperately at the battle of Perryville, Ky., and lost heavily in their encounter with the enemy. The next engagement in which he and his comrades participated was at Stone River; then followed Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge; after that, Buzzard's Roost, and while in the heat of the contest on that field; Mr. Mossholder was shot through the right thigh. While recovering from that wound he was compelled to lie in the hospital at Nashville, Tenn., three months, and was subsequently detailed to duty in that institution for the space of six months. By that time the war was over, and he received his discharge June 12, 1865, and returning from the South to his home in this county, has ever since been engaged in tilling the soil, raising stock, etc.

Our subject was first married in this township to Miss Isabella Evens, adopted daughter of William E. Ketchum, by whom she was reared in New York, her native State, and with whom she came to this township, in the latter years of her girlhood. she died in July, 1876, when only twenty-eight years old, leaving behind her an unspotted name and a record as a true Christian, who had been a valued member of the Evangelical Association. She was the mother of four children, of whom two are dead, Emma J., and Bertha A., the former dying at the age of twelve years, and the latter when a small child of eighteen months. William J., who was well educated in the public schools, and married Hattie Rhodes affords his father valu-

able assistance in managing his farm; Mary F., a very bright young lady, is at home with her father. Mr. Mossholder was a second time married in this township, Miss Hattie E. Young becoming his wife. She was born in Somerset County, Pa., in 1852, and was the daughter of Peter and Lueinda (Mar-teen) Young, who were also natives of Pennsylvania. They came from that State to this in 1865, and settled on a farm in Nelson Township, where Mr. Young died in 1872 at the age of fifty-six years. His widow, who was born in 1828, is still living on the old homestead, and in spite of her years is active and capable, and retains her mental faculties in all their pristine vigor. She has been a member of the Lutheran Church all her days, and her husband was also a member of that church. Mrs. Mossholder lived with her parents until her marriage, and was well trained in household duties. Her death in 1879, when she was but twenty-eight years old, was a sad blow to her family, as she had ever been an affectionate daughter, and was a good wife and tender mother. She was greatly missed in the Lutheran Church, of which she was a devoted member. She left two children, Jemima Grace, and Charles H., both of whom are with their father.



**W**ILLIAM GROVE is a veteran of the late war who has been a member of the farming community of Lee County ever since he left the army, and has done as good service in the interests of agriculture and in the improvement of the farm that he now owns and occupies in Willow Creek Township. He was born in Frederick County, Md., September 15, 1834, and is a son of William Grove, who was also a native of Maryland. His father, Jacob Grove, is supposed to have been of English birth, and to have emigrated to America in his early manhood, and ever after to have lived in Maryland until death closed his mortal career.

William Grove was reared and married in his native State, Cornelia Clay becoming his wife. She

was also of Maryland birth, and was a daughter of John Clay, who was a nephew of Henry Clay. Before the introduction of railways, Mr. Grove was employed in teaming between different points in Maryland and Pennsylvania, driving a six-horse team and transporting produce, merchandise, etc. In 1837 he became a pioneer settler of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, where he carried on his old business for a time, and was then engaged in a foundry during the remainder of his residence there. In 1847 he removed to Seneca County and leased a tract of timber land nine miles from Tiffin. He built on the land, cleared several acres and put them under cultivation. A few years later he went to Fulton County, and, after renting land there for a time, bought a farm upon which he dwelt until 1865, when he sold it in order to spend his declining years in this county, where he died at a ripe age. He was a brave soldier in the War of 1812. His wife preceded him in death many years, dying during their residence in Mt. Vernon, in 1844. They reared ten children to lives of usefulness.

The subject of this sketch was very young when he commenced to assist his father in clearing land and tilling the soil, and he continued thus helping him until 1863. In the month of December, that year, he threw aside his work to take part in the war, and on many a hard-fought battlefield displayed true soldierly valor and won a good record for faithful performance of duty, wherever placed. He went to the front as a member of Company II, One Hundredth Ohio Infantry, and remained with his regiment until after the close of the Rebellion. He took part in the battles of Missionary Ridge and Chickamauga, was with Sherman in his march to Atlanta, and fought in the various engagements with the enemy on the way and in the siege and capture of that city, and was with his regiment in the battles of Franklin and Nashville. He was honorably discharged from the service in July, 1865.

Returning to his old home in Ohio after the war, in the same year, Mr. Grove came to this county and bought a farm in Willow Creek Township. Three years later he sold that place, and bought his present farm in the same township, and

is conducting his agricultural operations very profitably. His land is exceedingly fertile, is under admirable tillage, and is supplied with all the necessary buildings and machinery. In the management of his farm, he shows himself to be a competent farmer, with a good understanding of the best methods for prosecuting his calling, and he stands well in his community as a fair and honest dealer and a most worthy citizen.

Mr. Grove has by no means been without the help of a good wife, as he was married in 1861 to Miss Amanda Gee, a native of Seneca County, Ohio, and she has done her share of the work in the making of their home. They have nine children, whom they have named Emma, Cornelia, Nora, Ada, Ella, George, John, Nellie and Clyde.



**A**RTHUR P. WASSON. In the dual occupations of farmer and engineer, Mr. Wasson finds a good opportunity for the exercise of his fine physical powers and sound common sense. Since October, 1887, he has been employed as engineer of the Illinois Central Railroad and in connection therewith has superintended not only his farm of one hundred and eighty acres, but more than two hundred acres in addition. As the reader may imagine, his life is a busy one and contains few leisure hours. He resides on section 15, Amboy Township, and although he has been a railroad man during the greater part of his active life, he has yet found time to control his farming operations and maintain first-class improvements on his place.

Among the early settlers of this county were the parents of our subject, Lorenzo D., and Aurelia H. (Gaylord) Wasson, natives of New York. About 1837 they located in Amboy Township, when the country around was almost in its primeval condition and scarcely a furrow had been turned. With the development of the township they were closely identified and contributed largely to its growth, becoming well known as brave pioneers and generous and hospitable people. The mother, who still lives, has long survived Mr.

Wasson who died in July, 1857. They had a family of three children, one son and two daughters, to whom they gave as good advantages as the sparsely settled country would permit.

After the death of Lorenzo D. Wasson, the father of our subject, his mother was again married, becoming the wife of Judge Alonzo Kinyon. Their five living children are: Winnie L., Alonzo G., Sheridan G., Ivy A., and Ransom. Judge Kinyon died in Plankinton, Dak., July 16, 1891. He was a man who held important public offices and was widely known and universally respected for his high abilities and unflinching integrity. At one time he was a leading attorney of Amboy and represented his district in the Legislature for two terms in succession. He was also Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and eminent for the justice of his decisions and his knowledge of the law.

The oldest in the family is the subject of this biographical notice, and was born in Amboy Township, May 3, 1849. He grew to manhood and has passed the greater portion of his life in his native place. For several years he was a resident of Fond du Lac, Wis., but returned to his native State, convinced that for a home there was no place like Lee County. He was married in his early manhood, February 22, 1862, in Amboy Township, to Miss Elizabeth M., daughter of James and Clara (Kinyon) Sprague. Mr. Sprague, who was a native of Vermont, and his wife, who was born in New York, spent the first years of their wedded life in the Empire State, whence they removed to Boone County, Ill., and from there to Lee County, in 1861.

Mr. Sprague spent the remaining years of his life in this county where he died in October, 1878. His wife had passed away many years before his demise, her death occurring in Clinton, Wis., in the latter part of the '60s. Mrs. Wasson, who was the youngest among three children, was born in Boone County, Ill., July 23, 1847, and accompanied her parents to Lee County in her girlhood. Of her union with Mr. Wasson, seven children have been born, namely: Oddy A., Lorenzo D., Arthur G., Winn S., Paul G., Ivy A., and Luetta M. Mr. Wasson operates about four hundred acres, of which he owns one hundred, and this work, in con-

nection with his duties as engineer, allows him little opportunity for social recreation.

When he was about nineteen years old Mr. Sprague entered the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad as fireman and continued in that position until about 1872, when he became conductor on the Chicago & Rock Falls Railroad (now Chicago, Burlington & Quincy), his run being between Amboy and Sterling. After one year in that connection he became an employe of the Western Minnesota Railway Company (now the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul) and continued with them as engineer for one year. He then settled on a farm near Amboy and there resided until the fall of 1873, when he removed to Fond du Lac, Wis., and was employed as engineer, conductor and assistant superintendent of the Fond du Lac, Amboy & Peoria, now operated by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company.

Mr. Wasson was in Fond du Lac about three years, and afterward held the position of engineer on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad about two years. He then returned to Amboy and engaged in farming until October, 1887, when he accepted the position of engineer on the Illinois Central Railroad. For several years he has occupied this place and performs his duties with unusual capability and great efficiency. He enjoys the highest respect of his fellow-citizens, and is a man of probity and honor.



**J**OHN TROUTII, a retired farmer now living with his son-in-law, Daniel Schuck, in Palmyra Township, came to Lee County in 1858, and during the years which have since come and gone has made his home in this township. He first improved a good farm on section 18, and some years later, in 1869, he purchased land on sections 17 and 20, a fine property which is still in his possession. It is highly improved with good buildings, most of which were erected by him. In all his business undertakings he has been quite successful, and the prosperity which has come to him as the just reward of his

labors, now enables him to spend his declining years in retirement from all care.

Mr. Trough is of German birth. He was born in Rheinpfalz, Bavaria, August 25, 1819, and there his father, John G. Trough, was also born, and followed farming until 1832, when, with his older son, he crossed the Atlantic, landing in New Orleans, where he died very suddenly of Asiatic cholera, which was then epidemic. The son went north to Philadelphia, where he died soon afterwards of the same disease. Mr. Trough was a member of the Lutheran Church and at the time of his death was about forty years of age. Mrs. Trough, whose maiden name was Margaret Sundall, was born in the Fatherland in 1793, and never left that country, her death occurring in her native province in January, 1880. She was never again married after her husband's death, but remained true to his memory. She reared her children and saw them all well started out in life.

Our subject is now the only surviving member of a family of three sons and two daughters. In his youth he learned the trade of a tailor, which he followed in his native land and has worked in that line to some extent in this country. In Germany he wedded Miss Mary E. Getts, who was born July 18, 1818, and was reared in the same province as her husband. Their home was brightened by the presence of five children, after which they crossed the briny deep to America in 1858, in a sailing vessel, which weighed anchor at Bremen and reached New York after a voyage of forty days. Continuing their journey by land they at length arrived in Dixon, Ill. Mr. Trough then had but \$16 in his pocket. Determination and enterprise, however, stood him instead of capital and with the assistance of his faithful wife he began earning a livelihood and worked his way upward to a position of affluence. When he had saved a small sum of money, he purchased land and began farming on his own account, carrying on his operations until he found himself the owner of a fine farm and possessed of a handsome property.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Trough were born seven children; George W., who works in a milk factory, married Louisa Teal, who is now deceased; John married Cecilia Ebner and resides in Dixon; Jacob

married Susa Hess and is a resident farmer of Palmyra Township; Anna M., is the wife of Daniel Sehuck, a representative farmer, who owns a good home on section 26, Palmyra Township; Carrie is the wife of Manuel Hess, an agriculturist of Whiteside County; and Fred lives with his brother, George W.

In 1887 Mr. Trough was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 13th of June. She was a true and faithful wife and mother, who ever had the interests of her family at heart and was a consistent member of the Lutheran Church. Our subject also belongs to the Lutheran Church in Prairieville, and to its support has contributed liberally. In politics, he is a Republican and is well informed concerning the issues of the day. In the enjoyment of a well-earned rest, he expects to spend the remainder of his life in the county of his adoption, where he is so widely and favorably known.

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**M**ATHEW J. SHIPPERT is a general farmer and stock-raiser who is carrying on his operations with marked success on sections 19 and 20, Nachusa Township, where he has a farm whose improvements are modern and substantial, and its one hundred and forty-two acres are under a high state of cultivation. He is a German by birth, born in Wurtemberg, May 3, 1843, but much of his life has been passed in the United States, as he was only eleven years old when he came here, and he is as true in his allegiance to this Government as if he were native and to the manor born. He is the third child and second son of Frederick and Louisa (Slippf) Shippert, natives of Wurtemberg, and of pure German ancestry.

After marriage and the birth of the most of their children, Frederick Shippert and his wife emigrated to this country in 1854, going first to London, England, where they embarked on a ship bound for New York, and after landing in that city they proceeded to Luzerne County, Pa. There the father died in 1860 at middle age, his birth having taken

place February 19, 1813. His widow afterward came to Illinois, and now makes her home with her son John, in South Dixon Township. She was born January 16, 1814, but is still quite active and retains her mental faculties well. She was reared in the Lutheran faith, and all her life has been a member of a church of that denomination, as was her husband also.

The first ten years of his life in this country our subject spent in Pennsylvania, and the education commenced in the German schools was completed in the schools of Luzerne County. In 1864 he came to Illinois when he was just entering upon manhood, and since that time has founded a home in Lee County. For a few years he was engaged at Amboy and Dixon in the harness making trade, which he learned in the latter city and at Sterling. He subsequently abandoned that to try his hand at farming, in which he has met with good success. In 1872 he purchased his present farm in Naehusa Township, and has wrought a great change in its appearance since he took possession of it. Everything about the place is in good order, the buildings are roomy and well built, and an ample supply of the best kinds of farming machinery facilitates the labors of carrying on the farm properly. The place is well adapted to general farming, and our subject has it stocked with cattle, horses and swine of the breeds that the farmers of this vicinity have learned to be the most profitable to raise for general purposes.

After coming to this county, Mr. Shippert fell in with a charming young school teacher, whose prepossessing appearance and sensible manner so impressed him that he sought her hand in marriage. She did not say him nay, and for several years has been the presiding genius of his home, to him a true wife, and to their children a tender mother. A son Warren A., and a daughter, Ada M., complete their household, the son helping his father in the management of the farm.

Mrs. Shippert was Mary D. Heimbaugh in her maiden days, and she was born in Luzerne County, Pa., March 31, 1847. She was only a year old when she was brought to this county by her parents, Elias and Irena (Hollister) Heimbaugh, who were also natives of Luzerne County, being of

German and New England descent, although the parents were likewise born in Pennsylvania. They were among the pioneers of this county, and were among the first to make settlement in what is now Nachusa Township, where they opened up a new farm. The father died on his homestead, October 6, 1874, at the age of fifty-two years, and his community was deprived of a highly prized citizen, whose character for morality, truthfulness and all that goes to make a good man, was high; he was a worthy member of the Evangelical Association, to which his good wife still belongs. She is living at a venerable age with her daughter, Mrs. Shippert. Our subject's wife grew up under good home influences with her parents, and, being a bright and apt scholar, obtained such an education in the common schools that she was early fitted to enter the profession of a teacher, and taught in this township for some years prior to her marriage. She and her husband are members in high standing of the Evangelical Association in South Dixon, and by simple, unpretentious lives show the value of their Christianity. They are hospitable and entertaining in their home life, and their neighbors know well where to look for help and sympathy in time of trouble. Mr. Shippert is a Republican in politics, and is one of the best citizens of his adopted township.



**E**C. JOHNSON, a retired farmer and nurseryman who now resides on West First Street in Dixon, where he has made his home since 1878, claims New York as the State of his nativity. Chemung County was the place of his birth and May 5, 1840, the date. He was there reared and educated and for many years made his home in that locality. His parental grandfather, Ezekiel Johnson, was one of the early settlers of Chemung County. In an early day he there located and in the midst of the forest hewed out a farm, upon which he spent the remainder of his days, living to be almost one hundred years old. He had been twice married and by his first

wife had eleven children, all of whom were reared to manhood and womanhood, were married and had families of their own, residing in a locality familiarly known as Johnson's Hollow. Of this family two are yet living—Mrs. Pricilla Prosenous and Mrs. Richard Prosenous both residents of Chemung County, N. Y. The father of our subject was the eldest of the family. He, too, was born in the Empire State, and was only four years of age when his father located in Chemung County, where the days of his boyhood and youth were passed. In fact, his entire life was spent in Johnson's Hollow, where he passed away at the age of sixty-five years. Like the other members of the family he made farming his life occupation and in the pursuit of that business won a handsome competence. In Tompkins County, N. Y., David Johnson married Miss Hannah Bangs, a native of that county who died after the birth of their only child, our subject. David Johnson again married and by his second wife, whose maiden name was Caroline Rodgers, reared a family. She is also now deceased.

Under the parental roof E. C. Johnson was reared to manhood, his days being passed in the usual routine of farm labor. In the public schools of the neighborhood he acquired his education and not until he came to the West did he leave his native county. For a number of years he engaged in the nursery business, following the same at Al-mora and Horsehead at the same time. Desiring to come West he severed his business connections in the Empire State and as before stated, took up his residence in Dixon in 1878, succeeding to the nursery business of E. C. Smith, which had been established by Joseph Little whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. For ten years he devoted his energies to that line of trade and furnished employment to several traveling salesmen. He made his business a signal success and at the end of that decade retired from the nursery business and has since been dealing in western lands.

In Chemung County, N. Y., Mr. Johnson was nited in marriage to Miss Sarah McKinney, who was born in Belvidere, Ill., and reared in Beaver Dam, N. Y. She was the only child of William and Salina M. (Holmes) McKinney, who with their fam-

ily came to Michigan in 1869, settling in Cass County, where the father departed this life in 1888, at the age of seventy-three years. By trade he was a carpenter and builder. His wife, who still survives him, makes her home with Mrs. Johnson and although now seventy-two years of age is still hale and hearty. Although she has resided in Dixon but a few years she has already won a host of friends, in whose esteem she ranks high.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been born six children, but they have lost three—Bangs, Herbert and Jennie, all of whom died in childhood. Dana C., Verna J. and Deja B. are yet at home. The mother is a member of the Methodist Church and in political faith Mr. Johnson is a Republican. They are both widely and favorably known in this locality and their circle of friends is indeed an extensive one.



**E**DMUND B. CLARK, who has been identified with the industrial interests of Dixon for the last twenty years as a house and sign painter, and is carrying on a lucrative business in his line, is a native of the State of Vermont, and was born in the pretty town of Chelsea, August 20, 1830. His father, William C. Clark, was born in the town of Barre, Mass., and was the son of Edmund Clark, who is thought to have been of English birth and antecedents. In the early part of his life, probably during the latter part of the eighteenth century, he came to this country, and at first located in Massachusetts. He subsequently removed to Vermont and engaged in the mercantile business at Eden, Lamoille County, but his last days were passed in the town of Cambridge.

William C. Clark went from his native State to settle among the green hills of Vermont, and established himself as a merchant at Chelsea. From there he went to the town of Eden, whence he removed in 1846 to Albany, N. Y., and was employed in the mercantile business in that city for a time. His next move was to Manchester, N. H., in 1848 or 1849, and after that he was en-

gaged as a traveling salesman, representing a Boston house part of the time, and he made that his home until his untimely death in 1859. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Hibbard, and she was a native of Brookfield, Vt., a daughter of Oliver and Abigail Hibbard. She spent her last days with her children in Havre de Grace and Philadelphia, dying in the latter city in January, 1868. She reared these five children: Edmund B., Oliver H., Daniel W., William L. and Martha.

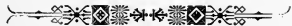
He of whom we write obtained a good education in his youth, attending a part of each year until he was seventeen years old. He then commenced learning the trade of a cabinet-maker at Hyde Park, Vt., serving an apprenticeship of a year and a half in that place, and then he went to Nashua to serve the rest of his time. In 1846 he went to Albany, N. Y., and for six months was a clerk in a general store. After that he acted in the same capacity in New York City for a few months, but was obliged to resign his position on account of ill-health. Returning to Albany, he remained there until 1848, and then went back to New York to learn the trade of window-shade painting, and was thus employed nearly a year, and then finished learning the trade at Albany. We next hear of him at Derby Line, Vt., busily working at his trade. Six months later he went to Manchester, N. H., to carry on his calling.

In the spring of 1850, Mr. Clark took up his residence in the city of Boston, and, forming a partnership with A. C. Sturtevant, engaged in the manufacture of window shades for some time. Three years from the time he went to Boston he returned to Manchester, and was there a few months prior to going to Lowell, Mass., where he opened a shop and carried on his occupation in that city a year. At the expiration of that time he sold his business, and for a year was engaged in the manufacture of window shades at Manchester, doing custom work. After that he traveled a few months with Dr. Boyington, a noted lecturer on geology.

When he left the Doctor, Mr. Clark returned once again to Manchester, and was a resident of that city until 1857, and then Philadelphia was his abiding place for awhile, and subsequently a

year was spent in the quaint town of Lancaster, Pa. Back again then to Manchester, and there he lived until the close of the war. In that year he went to New York City once more for a few months, and then made his way to Baltimore, Md., where he engaged in the manufacture of window shades for a short time. Six months later we find him at Havre de Grace, in the same State, and there he was engaged in ornamental painting and fresecoing for some years. In 1869 he left the South, and, coming to Dixon, began life here as a sign painter. So well did he prosper in that that he was encouraged to locate in this city permanently, and in 1871 he opened an office, and has ever since devoted himself to house and sign painting, etc., and has all the business that he can attend to, as he has many patrons who appreciate his neat and artistic work.

Mr. Clark was first married in 1854, to Miss Laura Smith, a native of Maine. She died in Manchester, N. H., in 1855, after a brief wedded life. Our subject was married to his present wife in 1857, and they have made for themselves a home that is cozy, comfortable and pleasant. Mrs. Clark was formerly Frances A. Osgood, and is a native of New Hampshire. Our subject possesses many traits of character that make him a desirable citizen, a good neighbor and sincere friend, and a kind husband. His interest in politics is centered in the Democratic party, of which he is a firm supporter.



**H**ENRY C. SCHMUCKER is well known in Lee and adjoining counties for the prominent part he has taken in raising the standard of the stock bred in this section of Illinois, he having made a specialty of Morgan horses and Short-horn cattle; and his perfectly appointed stock farm on section 22, Nelson Township, with its attractive modern improvements, compares with the best model farms of the State. Our subject was born in Somerset County, Pa., August 8, 1840, a son of Jacob Schmucker, who was a native of the same county as himself, his

birthplace being in Somerset Township, on a farm which was being developed from the wilderness by his father, Christian Schmucker, who had come to that place from Eastern Pennsylvania in the early days of its settlement, and there died at the venerable age of eighty-five years. He had married a Miss Casebeer, who was of the Pennsylvania Dutch stock, and she too died on the old homestead. She was a Lutheran in her religion, while her husband belonged to the Mennonite Church.

Jacob Schmucker was trained to the life of a farmer amid the primitive surroundings of the pioneer home into which he had been born. In due time he was married in his native township to Miss Catherine Kring, who was also born and reared in Somerset County, and was a daughter of George Kring, who lived and died on a farm in that part of Pennsylvania when an old man. He and his wife were true to the religion of their ancestors which had been promulgated by the great reformer, Martin Luther, and they were devoted members of the church of that faith for many years. In 1882 Jacob Schmucker and family came to Illinois, and he obtained a farm in Franklin Grove, which was his home the remainder of his life, his worthy career being closed by death at the age of sixty-six. His wife survived him only four years, and then she too died at the age of sixty-eight. They were true Christians of high moral character, and were earnest members of the Albright Church.

Henry C. Schmucker, to whom these lines principally refer, is the second of thirteen children, of whom five sons are yet living. One son, George, was a private in the Union Army during the war, and fell while bravely fighting in one of those battles around Chattanooga, Tenn., thus sacrificing his life on the altar of his country. Our subject came to this county in 1865, in the full flush of manly vigor, and well fitted, both physically and mentally, for the hard work that lay before him in carrying out his ambition to win an honorable place among the foremost farmers of that region. During the first few years of his residence here, he lived on rented farms in Franklin Grove, and, so well did he do, he was enabled to purchase the land comprising his present farm on section 22, Nelson Township, in 1871. From that time it has been

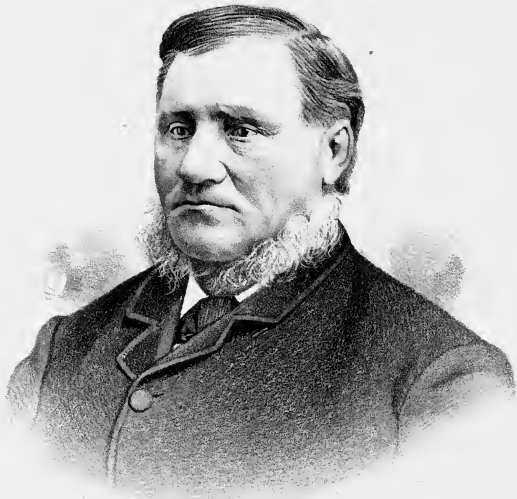
his home, and he has made all the improvements that have so increased its value since it came into his possession. The substantial buildings that he has erected are among the finest farm buildings in the county. Eight years ago he built a handsome modern residence, and seven years ago he put up a large barn, that is a model of its kind in its arrangements, etc. His farm includes a quarter of a section of land, that is exceedingly fertile, and has been brought under a high state of cultivation. It is admirably adapted in all respects to stock raising purposes, and Mr. Schmucker has paid great attention to that line of business, and his fine Morgan horses and Short-horned cattle are not surpassed by any other herds of similar breeds in this part of the State. At the head of the valuable stud of horses is the famous Morgan stallion, "Morgan General," who possesses in a marked degree the intelligence, spirit, build, speedy action, and other good points that distinguish his good race, and he is a great favorite hereabouts.

Our subject and Miss Christeanna Walter celebrated their marriage March 22, 1863, near the place of his birth in Somerset County, Pa., which was also the native county of the bride, who is a daughter of Jacob M. and Elizabeth (Ankney) Walter. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and settled among the pioneers of Somerset County, where Mr. Walter had a grist and saw mill, and developed a good farm. He was very well-to-do in his day. Both he and his wife were members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. and Mrs. Schmucker have had three children, two of whom are deceased. George, a promising youth died at the age of sixteen. Their son Frank is a clerk for Brown Bros. at Dixon, and their daughter, Ella M., who was the wife of William Horten, of Dixon, died at her residence in Dixon on the 12th of September, 1891, leaving one child, Christie, a bright little girl who is being reared by our subject.

Mr. Schmucker is looked up to by his fellow-citizens as a man of strong sense and clear brain, whose judgment in all matters pertaining to his line of business is to be depended upon. He has been Road Commissioner, and no man in the township is more ready to give substantial encouragement to all feasible plans for public improvement



THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



Patrick Eismberg,

than he. In politics, he is no uncertain follower of the Republican party, but he gives it his hearty support. He and his wife stand high in the membership of the Albright Church, and enter earnestly into its good work of elevating the religious status of the community.



**P**ETER EISENBERG. The citizens of Illinois who have come from Germany have almost invariably brought with them such traits and habits of life as have rendered them of value in their new home. Their industry and frugality and their rugged perseverance have helped them to achieve such a degree of success as enhances the prosperity of their neighbors. Such an one we find in the gentleman whose portrait is presented on the opposite page and whose name stands at the head of this brief sketch. His beautiful home is located on section 22, Bradford Township, and is one of the most attractive in the county.

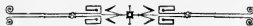
Our subject was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, March 22, 1831, and is the son of Asmon and Christine (Sebrar) Eisenberg, who came to the New World in 1852 and made this township their abiding-place until their death. They had become the parents of a family of four children, one son and three daughters. Our subject was the youngest member of the family and accompanied his parents to America. He remained under the parental roof and contributed to the support of the family until his marriage, July 1, 1855, at which date Miss Catherine Anna Jane Bower became his wife, their marriage taking place in Bradford Township. Mrs. Eisenberg was a native of Bavaria, Germany, where her birth occurred in April, 1832.

Mr. and Mrs. Eisenberg have been blest with a family of eleven children, namely: Bertha, Christine, George, John G., William T., Henry W., Adam, Minnie, Mary, Emma M. and Charley. Bertha died in infancy; Christine is the wife of John Vauple; George married Mary Fasau; John

G. married Lizzie Gresse; Henry W. married Katie Sindlinger; Adam married Mary Burnham.

Our subject has been the incumbent of numerous township offices and the duties of every position which it has been his to fill, have been carried out in the most satisfactory and conscientious manner. He has held the office of Overseer of Highways and while in that position did efficient service to the traveling public, and was also on the School Board as Director. Politically he casts his vote and influence with the Republican party, whose platform embodies his principles regarding our Government. He is always found willing and ready to do what he can for the furtherance of beneficial measures in his community. Mr. and Mrs. Eisenberg are members in good standing of the Evangelical Church.

That Mr. Eisenberg is one of the most prominent farmers in Lee County will be readily seen when we mention that he is the owner of eight hundred acres of beautiful land, most of which lies in Bradford Township. His enterprise and intelligence enables him to cultivate his property so as to bring about the best results and in every department of his work as an agriculturist he is meeting with the success which his busy life so well deserves. His family moved in the best circle of society in the county and he does not hesitate to give credit to his excellent wife for her share in thus aiding him to his present standing among the wealthy land-owners of Lee County.



**J**OHN H. McWETHY. The McWethy family comes of good old Scotch ancestry, the subject of this notice being of the fourth generation in this country. His grandfather was Silas McWethy, who was born in this country of Scotch parents, in Wyoming County, N. Y., where he was reared to farm pursuits. After all his family were reared and his wife had died, he went to Michigan and there died at the age of three-score years and ten. He was the father of six sons and one daughter.

The father of our subject, Henry McWethy, was

the fourth child of his father's family. He was born in Wyoming County, N. Y., and was reared on the farm, learning everything that will make a good tiller of the soil. He was married in his native county to Miss Olive Hale, who was born and reared in Canandagua County, N. Y., and a daughter of Vermont parents. Her father settled in Wyoming County at an early day and there spent his last years, as did his wife. He was a soldier in the War of 1812. After Henry McWethy and his wife were married, they began to farm in Wyoming County and there all their children were born, reared and educated. He and his wife both lived to pass three-score years and were active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, having lived the most of their life in Wyoming County. The father was formerly a Democrat but later became a Republican and died in that party.

John H. McWethy is the fifth child in order of birth in his father's family, there being ten children—four sons and six daughters. He first saw the light in Warsaw Township, Wyoming County, N. Y., March 2, 1836. He was brought up as a farmer's boy and received his rudimentary education in the common schools. He was married in Lester Township, Livingston County, N. Y., to Miss Hattie E. Sheldon. Mrs. McWethy was born in Massachusetts, May 7, 1831, and, when twenty-one years old, located in Livingston County with her parents, Catlin A. and Eunice (Fargo) Sheldon, they having come from Berkshire County, Mass. The father and mother came to this county with their daughter, Mrs. McWethy, in 1861, and with her resided until their death which occurred at the ages of seventy-eight and seventy-three years respectively. They were members of the Congregational Church before coming to Lee County, at which time they united with the Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. McWethy is the elder of two children born to her parents, her brother Samuel now being a farmer in Ida Grove, Ida County, Iowa. He married Roxie Bingham, of New York State. Mrs. McWethy was educated in her native county in Massachusetts and is an intelligent and well-informed woman and is a true wife and a loving mother. This couple have had born to them three children:

Charles E. is working in a shoe factory at Dixon; George P. married Miss Mary Ayers and resides on a farm in this township, and William C., who assists his father on the farm. The parents of this family are consistent and conscientious members of the Presbyterian Church, in which they are held in the highest respect. Mr. McWethy is a staunch Republican in his political views and cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. This gentleman owns a good estate of one hundred and three broad and fertile acres, situated on section 1, Palmyra Township, which he has under excellent cultivation and where he has lived since 1864.



**FERNANDO H. CHAFFEE**, a capitalist, now living in retirement from business at Paw Paw, has a place in the history of the rise and progress of Lee County as one of its men of action and clear-sighted enterprise, who, while accumulating wealth for themselves, have materially assisted in raising the financial status of this section of the State.

Mr. Chaffee is of sterling New England ancestry, and in that part of the country he first saw the light, November 21, 1827 in the pretty town of Athens, among the hills of Windham County, Vt. His father, Eber Chaffee, was also a native of Windham County, of which his father, who was born in New England in 1769, was a pioneer. He was a shoemaker and a farmer, and carried on both occupations. He owned a farm in Athens, which he occupied many years, and he died in his adopted State in 1857, at a venerable age. The maiden name of his wife was Elizabeth Stickney. She was born in New England, May 3, 1777, the daughter of a Revolutionary soldier, and she died in July, 1860.

The father of our subject learned the trade of a tanner, and followed it among his native hills a few years. In 1840 he emigrated from his New England home to the Prairie State, accompanied by his wife and children, traveling with a team across the Green Mountains to Troy, N. Y., from there by the Erie Canal to Buffalo, and thence by

the lakes to Chicago, which they found to be a flourishing village, founded in the swamps, with a population of some five or six thousand souls. From the future metropolis of the West, the family proceeded with teams to the present site of Compton, in Kane County. At that time all the land in that section of the State was owned by the Government, the surveys not being completed. Mr. Chaffee bought a squatter's claim to a tract of land, paying him for the improvements, which consisted of a double log house and a few acres of the land broken ready for cultivation. After taking possession of the log house, the father entered actively upon the task before him of reclaiming his land from the wilderness, and experienced the hardships and privations that usually fall to the lot of pioneers in a newly, settled country, where deer and other kinds of wild game betokened that civilization had not made much progress in that region, as was further attested by the absence of railways and the distance of markets, he and his fellow-pioneers having to go all the way to Chicago with their teams when they wished to dispose of their grain and obtain family supplies. He was a resident of that county until his demise, which closed an honorable career as a citizen and a pioneer farmer of Northern Illinois. His faithful companion also died on the home farm. She bore the maiden name of Annie Davis, was a native of Vermont, and a daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Richmond) Davis, who were natives of New England.

Fernando H. Chaffee, the subject of this biographical review, was a lad of thirteen years when he accompanied his parents in their emigration from the hills of his native State to the prairies of this, and he remembers well the incidents of the pioneer life under whose influences he attained a strong, self-sufficient manhood. He is one of the oldest settlers of Northern Illinois, now residing in Lee County. Before he came here, he had begun his education in the public schools of Vermont, and after coming here, he was a pupil in the pioneer schools of Kane County, that were held in rude log houses, that had seats made of slabs, which were supported by wooden pins, and they had no desks in front. He commenced early in his boyhood to make himself useful in doing

such farm work as he could, and he made his home with his parents until 1852. Like many another, he then tried his fortunes in California, starting with others in the month of April, with teams, crossing the Mississippi at Lyons and the Missouri at Council Bluffs, and from there traveling over a desolate region of uninhabited plains and lofty mountains, the Mormons at Salt Lake City being about the only settlers in all that vast expanse of country between the Missouri River and California. Buffaloes, deer, elk, and other wild animals were encountered in large numbers, and Indians were occasionally seen. Arriving in the Golden State in August, Mr. Chaffee engaged in mining the greater part of the ensuing four years, with reasonably good results, and, satisfied with his gains, in 1856 he returned home.

The next two years after he came back from the Pacific Coast, Mr. Chaffee resided in Compton, whence he came to Lee County in 1858, and settled on a tract of land in Wyoming Township, which he had entered from the Government before going to California. He erected suitable buildings, improved the land, planted fruit, shade and ornamental trees, thus adding to the attractiveness of the place, and lived there until 1883. In that year, he again went to California, taking his family with him this time, but his life was saddened while there, as sickness came, and two of his children went on that silent journey whence no traveler returns. So, after a brief sojourn in that State, the remaining members of the family came back to Lee County, and our subject has since lived retired, engaging in no active business, but spending his time in looking after his private interests, which are extensive. He owns four hundred and eighty-four acres of choice farming land in Wyoming Township, eighty acres in Kansas, and one hundred acres in Southern California.

Mr. Chaffee was a second time married July 15, 1858, to Miss Delia Barber, in whom he has a devoted wife, who has lessened for him the sorrows of life and added to its joys. Mrs. Chaffee was born near Montreal, Canada, in September, 1837. Her father, Labira Barber, was a native of Vermont, but in the early part of his life he settled in Canada, and was there married to Anna Nichols,

who was likewise a native of Vermont. Her father was a Scotchman, who had first located in Vermont after coming to America, but had subsequently removed to Canada. Some time after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Barber went to New York, and after a residence there of seven years, came to Illinois in 1847. From that time until death claimed them, they made their home on a farm that he purchased at Compton, in Kane County, both living to a ripe old age, he dying in May, 1883, and she preceding him to the life beyond in 1880.

Mr. and Mrs. Chaffee have had ten children, of whom these five are living: Edmund, Elmer S., Wilbur T., Ella M. and Minnie A. Our subject and his wife are firm believers in the value of a liberal education and besides giving their children a careful training in the home, have given them the advantages of the best schools, and the four younger children are students of Lake Forest Seminary. Edmund, who has a rare talent for music, went to Europe after completing his course at Aurora Seminary, and for three years he has devoted himself to the study of his beloved art under the instruction of the most competent masters of Germany. Mr. Chaffee has one daughter, Abbie F., by a former marriage, who is now the wife of William H. Faber and resides in Wyoming Township, Lee County, Ill.



**B**ERNHARD DUFFY, deceased, was for many years a leading agriculturist of Palmyra Township, and when called to his final rest his death was deeply mourned by many friends. A native of the Emerald Isle, he was born in County Monaghan, April 25, 1832. He lost his father, John Duffy, when only seven years of age. The death of Mr. Duffy, Sr., occurred while in the prime of life and resulted from injuries received by causing his horse to jump a picket fence. He was a farmer and followed that occupation in pursuit of fortune. His wife, whose maiden name was Ellen Lenon, died when Bernhard was eighteen years of age. Both she and her husband were members of the Catholic Church.

Our subject, with his brother Patrick, who is now living in the South, and his sister Bridget, now Mrs. Engel, of Clinton, Ill., came to this country together soon after the death of the mother. From Dundalk they went to Liverpool and thence sailed to New York. From that city Mr. Duffy came to Dixon. The year 1851 witnessed his arrival and the commencement of his life in the West. As he was in very limited circumstances, he began to work at farm labor which he continued until he had saved a sufficient sum to purchase land and begin farming for himself. He further completed his arrangements for a home by his union with Miss Mary Williams, celebrated in Dixon in 1878. The lady was born in Bilston, Staffordshire, England, in 1862, and is a daughter of William and Mary (McCuen) Williams. Her father was born in London in 1823, and in Staffordshire wedded Miss McCuen, a native of Ireland, who was reared and educated in England. After the birth of their two children the parents came with their family to the United States in 1868, locating first in Massachusetts. Subsequently they removed to Pennsylvania, and some years later came to Dixon, Ill., Mr. Williams purchasing a farm near that city where he and his wife spent the remainder of their days. Her death occurred October 3, 1884, and about two years later, on the 22d of July, 1888, the husband was called to his final rest. Both were consistent Catholics and were well and favorably known throughout this community. Their three children are yet living, namely: Mrs. Duffy, of this sketch; Agnes, who is employed as a saleslady in the store of Stearns Brothers, of Dixon; and William, who also makes his home in that city.

After his marriage, Mr. Duffy resumed his farm labors and the land which he purchased he placed under a high state of cultivation, also placed many improvements upon it which greatly enhanced its value and its attractive appearance. The farm, which comprises one hundred acres, is still the property of Mrs. Duffy, under whose management it is operated. She is a capable business woman, energetic and industrious, and her property yields her a good return. The home of this worthy couple was blessed with two children, sons, John and Edward, who are still with their mother.

On the 1st of July, 1890, Mr. Duffy met with an accident which resulted in his death. He was thrown from a load of hay by the fork failing to act aright, and falling to the floor was partially paralyzed. The accident resulted in complete paralysis and he died thirty-six hours later. His family lost a faithful husband and father, the Catholic Church a consistent member and active worker, and the county a public-spirited and valued citizen who always bore his part in public affairs and took an active interest in everything pertaining to the welfare and upbuilding of the community. Mrs. Duffy has recently built a beautiful home on Peoria Avenue in Dixon, where she now resides with her two sons. She is a member of the Catholic Church and has many warm friends throughout this community.



**D**ANIEL REICHARD has a farm of two hundred acres of land of surpassing fertility on section 13, Palmyra Township, which was a tract of wild prairie when it came into his possession nearly forty years ago. He had come to the county in that year, and though he found it not far advanced from a state of nature, his quick eye perceived its immense possibilities, and foreseeing that it would one day be a veritable paradise for farmers, he determined to avail himself of its many advantages, and make a home in this beautiful locality. Accordingly, he selected his land, which he has since turned into a highly productive farm, and being a carpenter of much native skill, he has placed upon it improvements that rank with the best in the township, his farm buildings being of a neat style of architecture, commodious in dimensions, and well built.

Mr. Reichard was born in Upper Mt. Bethel Township, Northampton County, Pa., April 9, 1829. His father, Samuel Reichard, was also a native of the Keystone State, born in Bucks County, as was his father, whose name was Philip Reichard. The latter was probably of German parentage. He was a farmer and a mechanic, and was engaged at both all his life. He died in Northampton County

at the age of fifty-two years. His wife, Mary Eichland, was a native of the same county as himself, and came of similar stock. Her death occurred in Northampton County when she was eighty years old. Both she and her husband were staunch Lutherans in religion. Samuel Reichard was but a child when his parents removed from his native county to Northampton County, where he was reared to the life of a farmer, and spent the remainder of his life in the township in which his father had settled when it was new, his death occurring in 1852, at the age of fifty-two years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Catherine Weidman, was born, reared and married in that county, coming of German and French ancestry. She is yet living in her native township, and though she is very old, having been born in the early part of this century, 1801, she is yet active and capable, doing her own work at the age of ninety-one years. She has led a consistent Christian life, and is a member of the German Reformed Church, to which her husband belonged while living.

Our subject is one of eight children, five sons and three daughters, all of whom, but one, growing to maturity, and five of them are still living. He is the only one of the family that resides in Illinois. He remained with his parents until he attained his majority, and in the meantime learned the trade of a carpenter, which he found very useful in his pioneer life in this county, although he practically abandoned that calling after he came here, pursuing it chiefly for his own convenience in making his improvements, much of the work on his buildings being done by his own hands. He came here in 1853, and only labored as a carpenter and mechanic until he secured his land and turned his energies to farming. He has made his mark here as a sagacious, wide-awake farmer, and has gained the full esteem of his fellow-townsmen, among whom he has lived in peace and amity for more than three decades. He takes a lively interest in politics, and in him the Democrats have a staunch advocate.

Mr. Reichard was married to Miss Elizabeth J. Kresler, whom he had known from childhood. Upper Mt. Bethel was also her native place, and there

she was born in October, 1831. She grew there to womanhood and lived on the old homestead until her marriage. Her mother, Susan (Emery) Kresler, is still living there, and though very aged is still energetic and able to do a great deal. She is a member of the Lutheran Church, as was her husband, Charles Kresler. He was a life-long resident of Northampton County, which is also her native county, and he was past sixty years old when he died.

Mr. and Mrs. Reichard are the parents of nine children, of whom one died in infancy. The others are: Susan F., wife of Albertus Miller, a farmer near Cherokee, Iowa; Job lives at home and assists his father in running the farm; Libby, wife of William Seavey, a farmer in Pine Creek Township, Ogle County; Samuel, at home with his parents; Sarah, wife of C. B. Wise, of Woosung; William W., a carpenter; Mary and Edith are at home; and Katie, wife of J. A. Kitz, of Andrew, Iowa.



**A**BRAMHAM J. HORNER is actively engaged in farming and stock-raising in South Dixon Township, where he has a good farm of one hundred and forty-four acres, advantageously situated on the Chicago Road, three and one-half miles from the city of Dixon, and lying partly on section 14, upon which are the neat and roomy farm buildings, and the remainder on section 11.

Mr. Horner was born in Somerset County, Pa., April 9, 1839, a son of John Horner, and a grandson of John Horner, Sr., both of whom were natives of Somerset County, the latter being of German parentage, his father and mother having come to America sometime during the last century, and were among the early settlers of Somerset County, where they died when very old. John Horner, Sr., died in his native county at an advanced age, having passed his entire life there as a farmer. He was married twice, and his fourteen children were all the result of his first union. He, both of his wives and his children were all members of the German Baptist Church. The father of our sub-

ject was the eldest of the seven sons and seven daughters born to his parents, all of whom but two, who are living in Pennsylvania, are now deceased. He was but forty-four years old when he died in the town where he was born. He was a man of considerable ability, whom his fellow-citizens looked up to, and he was very active in local politics and public life, having held nearly all the township offices. A Whig in early manhood, on the formation of the Republican party he fell into its ranks, and was one of its most earnest supporters until his untimely death. He was a great worker in the German Baptist Church. He was married in his native county, to Mary Beachley, who was born in Pennsylvania, as were her parents, and was of German descent. She too passed away while yet in the prime of life, dying one year before her husband, at the age of forty-one years. Nearly all her life she was a consistent member of the German Baptist Church.

He of whom we write was the second of a family of seven children, of whom five are yet living. He spent his boyhood amid the scenes of his birth, and was a young man when the late war broke out. Six different times when the Government required additional troops and ordered a draft, his name was among the list of those eligible for soldiers, but it was not drawn at all. He was seventeen years old when he first came to this State, but he did not settle here permanently. He came to Lee County in 1865, and has since made his home here. He purchased his homestead in 1880, and has much increased its value by his mode of cultivation, and by the excellent improvements that he is constantly adding. He raises a good class of stock, and is prospering in all his undertakings, as he deserves to do, as he is a worker, is careful in the management of his affairs, is judicious in his expenditures, and keeps his credit good by prompt payments. He stands well in the community as a fair-minded, open-hearted man, who is accommodating and friendly in his relations with his neighbors, and is a good husband and indulgent father in private life. He seems to have inherited his father's political views, and to have transmitted them to his eldest son, as both are consistent Republicans, as was John Horner before them.



When Mr. Horner came to Illinois, he left behind him a young girl who had born and reared near his old home, and to whom he had become attached as they grew up together, and in due time he returned to his native State to claim the fulfillment of her promise to become his wife. Her name was Elizabeth Lint, and she was a daughter of near neighbors of his father's Peter and Elizabeth (Filson) Lint. Her parents were natives of the Keystone State, whence they came to Lee County, after their children were born and had grown up. Mrs. Lint died at Dixon some years ago when past sixty-four years old. Peter Lint is now living in South Dixon Township, and is more than seventy years old. He is a member of the German Baptist Church, as was his last wife, he having been twice married. Mrs. Horner lived with her parents until her marriage. She is the mother of ten children, of whom these three are deceased: an infant; Cyrus, who was killed at the age of six years and three months, by a pile of lumber falling on him; and Emma, who was but two months old when she died. The surviving children are: Minerva, wife of Charles Byron, a farmer in South Dixon Township; Franklin, at home, assisting his father in the management of the farm; Ida, Lillie, Hattie, Charles II. and Sadie M., all of whom are at home with their parents. Mrs. Horner and her children are active working members of the Lutheran Church.



**S**AMUEL H. PATTERSON has won a high reputation as a skillful and wide-awake farmer since he came to this county in the opening years of manhood. He is conducting a good business in raising and feeding stock and in tilling the soil, the farm that he owns and operates being pleasantly situated on section 14, South Dixon Township. Our subject claims Pennsylvania as his native State, his birthplace in Adams County, and the date of his birth April 17, 1855. He was reared to the life of a farmer, not far from the tragic scenes of the battle of Gettysburg. He was twenty-one years old when he

came to Lee County in 1876, and for eight years thereafter he was diligently engaged in farming in Nachusa Township, coming from there to this township at a later period. He purchased his farm in this locality in the fall of 1889 and moved onto it in the spring of 1890. One hundred and forty-five acres of excellent farming land constitute the entire area of the farm, whose pastures and fields are very fertile, and a neat and well-built set of farm buildings adorns the place. Our subject raises graded stock, and also buys and feeds other stock to a considerable extent. He is doing finely from a financial point of view, as he has a good capacity for business, never neglects a favorable opportunity to make money legitimately, gives his affairs close attention and maintains sound credit in regard to paying his bills. He is open-minded and free-hearted, manly and upright, and is popular among his associates. His political creed is that of the Republican party, of which he is an ardent advocate.

Our subject is a son of George Patterson, whose sad fate forms one of the touching and heart-rending stories of the war. He was a native of Adams County, Pa. When only five years old, he lost his father and was reared by his mother whose maiden name was Upley, she being of German birth and antecedents. She survived her husband many years and died near Gettysburg, in 1864, at the age of seventy-two years. She was a truly good and pious woman, and both she and her husband were members of the Lutheran Church. George Patterson was one of four children born to his mother. His father had two children by a former marriage. He lived with his mother in his native county all through his youth, and was reared to the life of a farmer. He was trained to industrious habits, and in early manhood had sufficient means to marry, his chosen wife being Miss Julia Pitzer, who was likewise a native of Adams County, and came of German stock, although her parents were Pennsylvanians by birth. After their marriage, George Patterson and his bride began life together on a small farm not far from the historical battle-ground of Gettysburg. They were living there when the war broke out, and Mr. Patterson watched its course with patriotic interest. He had

arranged his affairs and placed himself in a position to join the Union Army, when one of the most terrible battles of the Rebellion, if not of all history, was fought near his home. On one of those awful days when the contest between the Yankees and their Southern foes was raging, Mr. Patterson, while looking after his father-in-law's property, got too near the rebel lines and was captured, a nephew, about twenty years of age, who accompanied him, also being taken. He was sent as a prisoner of war to the South, and for a time was confined to Salisbury, whence he was transferred to Libby, and for twenty-two months he suffered all the horrors of life in rebel prisons. He was finally released, and returning home nearly starved and more dead than alive, he had the anguish to find that his beloved wife, being unable to get a word from him and believing him to be dead, had sunk under the weight of her grief and died of a broken heart one month after his capture. She was then in the prime of life, and left five children motherless, the youngest being only seven months old. Our subject is the oldest but one of the three sons and two daughters thus sadly bereft, and he is the only one that makes his home in the State of Illinois. The others are living and are married and well settled in life.

Starvation, exposure and disease while a prisoner, and the severe strain to which he was subjected in his anxiety for the welfare of his loved ones, so impaired Mr. Patterson's health, that he never recovered his former vigor, and he died ere he had attained the meridian of life, his death occurring in the fall of 1871, at the age of forty-two years, four months and thirteen days.

Samuel Patterson, our subject, was married in Nachusa Township to Miss Mary E. Spangler, who is a native of the same Pennsylvania county where he had his birth, and she, too, was born near the historic town of Gettysburg, first opening her eyes to the light of the world June 5, 1857. She was a young woman when she came from her native place to Nachusa Township, in 1872, with her parents, John and Susan (Herbst) Spangler. They are now deceased, having died in the home that they established in the afore-mentioned township, Mr. Spangler departing this life in 1889, at

the age of seventy-two, and his wife dying in 1887 at the age of sixty-four. They were natives respectively of Adams and York Counties, Pa., marrying in the former county and living there until they came to Illinois. They were of German ancestry and were members of the Lutheran Church, as were also George Patterson and his wife. Mr. Spangler was a Democrat, and Mr. Patterson a true Republican. The wife of our subject is one of six children, of whom but one other is now living, her brother, Jacob A., a farmer of Nachusa Township, who is married and well fixed in life. Mr. and Mrs. Patterson have been blessed in their marriage by these four children: Emma S., John C., Charles H. and Clara E.

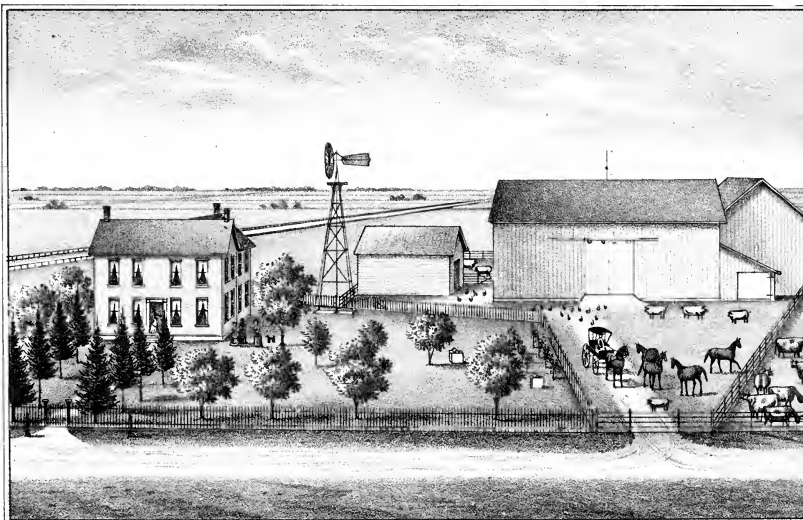


**T**IMOTHY A. BUTLER, a successful farmer residing on section 6, Palmyra Township, is numbered among the pioneer settlers of the county of 1838. He is a native of Long Island and was born March 2, 1814. The family is of Scotch origin, but the father, John Butler, was born in the North of Ireland, his parents spending their last days on the Emerald Isle. They were members of the Presbyterian Church and John Butler was reared in that faith.

When a young lad and accompanied by his brother William, still younger than himself, John Butler started for America, leaving parents and home, to seek a country in which liberty prevailed. The two brothers settled on Long Island and turned their attention to agricultural pursuits. John Butler was there married to Miss Nancy Abbott, who was born and reared on Long Island, where her parents lived and died. The children of the Butler family also opened their eyes to the light of day there and in 1831 accompanied their parents to Delaware County, N. Y., where, amidst the hills, they were reared. Several years later both parents passed away, the father at the age of sixty-four years, while the mother reached the allotted age of three-score years and ten. They were both members of the Christian



RES. OF GARDNER W. THOMPSON, SEC. 26., ALTO TP., LEE CO., ILL.



RESIDENCE OF T. A. BUTLER SEC. 6., PALMYRA TP., LEE CO., ILL.



Church, and in politics Mr. Butler was a supporter of Democratic principles.

With one exception our subject is the youngest in a family of four sons and one daughter. The latter grew to womanhood, was married and at her death left a family of children. The eldest son, Stephen Wright, after long years spent in the ministry of the Christian Church, is now living a retired life near Binghamton, Greene County, N.Y.; Charles, also a Christian minister, is now living retired in the Empire State; Timothy A. is the next younger; and William, also a preacher of the Christian Church, is a resident of Greene County, N. Y.

The days of his boyhood and youth Timothy Butler passed largely on Long Island and in Delaware County, and since 1838 he has been a citizen of Lee County, Ill. After arriving at years of maturity he led to the marriage altar Miss Roxanna Stewart, who was born in this county, December 15, 1834, and is a daughter of Benjamin and Marjorie (Morgan) Stewart, both of whom were natives of the Empire State. They came to Illinois when young and were married in Sangamon County, whence they removed to Lee County, becoming pioneer settlers of Palmyra Township. Locating on Government land at Gap Grove, Mr. Stewart developed a farm. His wife died while on a visit in Sangamon County, and he passed away in Southern Missouri in 1881, having attained the allotted age of three-score years and ten. They were both members of the Baptist Church and Mr. Stewart exercised his right of franchise in the behalf of the Republican party. In their family were five daughters and one son. Mrs. Butler was quite young when she lost her mother, and was reared in Palmyra Township where she has made her home since her marriage.

Of this union have been born seven children, but two died in early childhood. Lillian is now the wife of Anson Brauer, a resident farmer of Sterling Township, Whiteside County, Perditta is the wife of John Small, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Palmyra Township; Otho J. married Sarah Goushart and is living in Poweshiek, Iowa; Catherine and Nona are still at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Butler began their domestic life

upon the farm which is still their home and upon which the husband has resided since 1839. It comprises one hundred and thirty-six acres of arable land that yields a golden tribute to his care and cultivation, and in addition to this he also has another hundred acres elsewhere in the township. In politics he is a staunch advocate of the principles of Democracy. In the truest sense of the word he is a self-made man, for it is entirely by his own efforts that he has achieved his success in life. He is now numbered among the substantial farmers of the community and is recognized as a valued citizen who is both public spirited and progressive.

In connection with this biographical notice may be found a view of the comfortable residence of Mr. Butler.



**G**ARDNER W. THOMPSON. This prominent citizen, whose well-managed farm is pleasantly located in Alto Township, is a native of Pennsylvania. He was born July 11, 1841, in that part of Pittston now included in Jenkins Township, Luzerne County. His father, Isaac Thompson, who is distinguished as being the oldest man now living in Lee County, was born on the same farm that was the birthplace of the son, the date of his birth being November 18, 1796.

The grandfather of our subject, James Thompson, was born in county Antrim, Ireland, and in turn was a son of one John Thompson, a native of Scotland, whence he removed to Ireland and from that country came to America in Colonial times. He located fourteen miles from Philadelphia, the place of his residence now probably being included in the city or its suburbs, and there he spent the remainder of his days. The maiden name of his wife was Margaret Richey. She was a native of Scotland, like her husband, and passed the latter part of her life in Pennsylvania. They were both members of the Presbyterian Church, and always remained true to the faith of their ancestors.

The grandfather of our subject came to America with his parents when he was four years old, and fought bravely for the country of his adoption during the Revolution. He lived in Berks County

a short time after the war, and then removed to Luzerne County and was one of the pioneers of Pittston Township. He purchased a tract of timber land, cleared a farm, and resided there until his demise at a ripe age. The maiden name of his wife was Susanna Skelton. She was born eighteen miles from Philadelphia and was a daughter of William and Jane Skelton, natives of Wales, who came to America prior to the Revolution, and located near Philadelphia among people of their own faith, they being members of the Society of Friends. The grandmother of our subject died on the home farm.

Isaac Thompson, the father of our subject, was reared amid the primitive surroundings of the pioneer home of his parents in his native county. In his early days there were no railways or canals, and Easton, sixty miles from his home, was the nearest market and depot for supplies. The people lived principally, or entirely, off the products of their farms. Mr. Thompson relates that in 1823 he went with a team to move a family to a distant town, and on his return brought back a load of salt, for which he paid six cents a bushel. At that time there were but two houses on the present site of Syracuse, the great salt centre. In his young manhood anthracite coal was first discovered, and Judge Fell, of Wilkes Barre, was the first to experiment with it and demonstrate its usefulness for fuel. The father of our subject inherited the old homestead and lived thereon until 1858, when he sold it, and the ensuing five years made his home in Abington, Lackawanna County. Returning at the end of that time to Pittston Village, he bought property there, and resided in that locality until 1866. In that year he came to Lee County and has lived here continuously since. He has attained the venerable age of ninety-five years, and his long life, which approaches so nearly the century mark, has been useful and honorable, his record being that of an upright man. He is a welcome inmate of the home of his son, from whom he has never been separated, and his declining years are surrounded by every comfort that filial care can bestow.

June 18, 1818, Mr. Thompson was married to Maria Wilcox, who was born in Dutchess County,

N. Y., and was a daughter of Isaac and Nancy (Newcomb) Wilcox. This beloved companion and cherished wife, who walked by his side for nearly sixty-seven years, died in April, 1885. In her early married life she did all her cooking by the fireplace, and her children were clad in homespun that was the product of her own hands, as she was an adept in carding, spinning and weaving. She was the mother of fifteen children, of whom thirteen grew to manhood and womanhood, namely: Matilda, Jane, Almond, Alva, Crandall, David, Ezekiel, Isaac, Henry, George Elizabeth, Rhoda and Gardner, and of these eight are now living. The father of our subject has in all, living and dead, over fifty grandchildren, twenty-two great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren, who are twins.

Gardner W. Thompson, of this sketch, was reared and educated in Pennsylvania, and lived there until 1864, since which time he has been a continuous resident of Lee County. He has always lived with his parents or they with him. He occupies an assured place among the thrifty, capable farmers and stock-raisers of Alto Township, and the farm that he now owns and makes his home was entered from the Government by his brother, Alva. It is situated on section 36, and contains one hundred and sixty acres of land, under admirable tillage, and supplied with a good class of modern improvements. On another page of this volume appears a view of the commodious residence and other farm buildings.

In 1873, Mr. Thompson and Miss Mary E. Howell were united in marriage. Mrs. Thompson was born near Paw Paw, and is a daughter of William and Sarah (Rogers) Howell. Her pleasant wedded life with our subject has brought them one son, Frank Gardner. Our subject has an active, well-balanced mind, is gifted with rare common sense, and possesses in a full degree other traits of character which win confidence. His fellow-citizens, placing great reliance upon his judgment and ability to manage affairs to the best advantage, early called him to public life, and for fifteen consecutive years he represented Alto Township on the County Board of Supervisors. Politically he has always been identified with the Republican party.

**C**HARLES L. HATCH, who is a native of Lee County, is now one of its prominent farmers and stock-raisers. He has a large and well-conducted farm in Sublette Township, including the old homestead where he was born December 12, 1848. His paternal ancestry were New England people, and his great-grandfather was for many years a resident of Hartford, Conn. His mother's family was also of New England stock, and his maternal grandfather was one of the first settlers of Cavendish, Vt.

Sherman L. Hatch, who is now living in retirement from active business in the home of his son, our subject, was one of the early settlers of this region, acquired wealth while aiding in the development of the agricultural resources of the county, and is entitled to a high place among the pioneers who laid the solid foundation of its present prosperity. He was born in Cavendish, Vt., July 25, 1807, a son of Sherman and Caroline (Lovell) Hatch, of the same place. He grew to manhood amid the pleasant scenes of that Vermont town, and joining the State Militia, was Captain of his company. At the age of thirty, he resolved to see what the West had to offer him, and he made his way to Chicago, thence to Milwaukee, and from there to Janesville, Wis. He there embarked in a boat with seven others, and made a voyage down the Rock River, stopping at Rockford, Dixon and Prophetstown. The little party remained over night in Iowa, opposite the mouth of the Rock River, and the next day Mr. Hatch returned up the river to Dixon, where he arrived in June. From there he went to the home of Charles F. Ingals, who had settled at Lee Centre, and on his way he stopped at the dwelling of Mr. Whittaker, which was the only house that he saw after leaving Dixon. After a short stay with Mr. Ingals, Mr. Hatch proceeded to Sublette Township, and here on section 7 he found an abandoned claim that suited him, and completing the unfinished log cabin that stood on it, he lived in it until his return to his native State in the fall of the year.

The following spring of 1838, Mr. Hatch was married to Miss Lucy Brown, a native of Chester, Vt. Returning to his new home in the West with his bride, he found his claim occupied. He ap-

pealed to the Squatters' Tribunal, and they decided that he should pay the usurper \$150 in consideration of the improvements he had made, or the gentleman should pay him \$125 and retain possession of the premises. Mr. Hatch chose to pay the \$150, and regained his humble home. The cabin was primitive in its construction, with a floor of earth. In 1839 Mr. Hatch laid a floor of split rails, covered with cornstalks. He claimed two hundred and forty acres of land, but not being able to collect money that he had loaned, he could not pay for that amount when it came into the market, and so had to content himself with eighty acres for a time. In 1846 he built a frame house on his place, and in 1852 erected a commodious brick house and a large barn, the lumber for the latter building being brought from Chicago. He met with more than ordinary success in his operations, making a goodly fortune, and besides becoming the possessor of five hundred and sixty acres of land had much personal property. In 1890 he generously divided the same among his four children, giving our subject four hundred acres of the homestead, and the others land and money of like value. His declining years are passing serenely in the home of his son, of which he is a welcome member, and where he is surrounded by every comfort that can make his life pleasant.

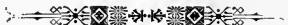
The mother of our subject died in November 1876, leaving four children, of whom this is the record: Harriet L. was born in December, 1839, and is now the wife of Francis Gardner, of Sublette; Caroline Louise, born December, 1840, married James Garrett, of Ashton; Julia A., born December, 1845, married Joseph W. Latta, of Dixon; and Charles L., is our subject.

He of whom this biography is written was given excellent educational advantages in his youth, laying the foundation of his education in the schools at Sublette, and afterward pursuing a good course of study in the academy at Lee Center. After leaving school he taught two winters, but his attention has been mostly given to farming and stock-raising, in which he is eminently successful. His father gave him a valuable property, but a part of his wealth is of his own accumulation, and his landed possessions amount to six hundred

and eighty acres. His improvements are of the best and his estate is in a fine condition. His well-cared-for stock is of high breeds, and commands a ready market whenever offered for sale. Mr. Hatch is a cool calculator, is cautious in his dealings when prudence is required, and at the same time is quick to take advantage of all legitimate means of making money, and is one of the solid men of his township. In politics he cleaves to the Republican party. He has been Road Commissioner and School Director, and, whether as an office-holder or private citizen, has always done what he could for the benefit of the community. Religiously he is of the Congregational faith, and is generous in his support of the church.

Mr. Hatch was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Barse in 1874. Mrs. Hatch is a native of Detroit, Mich., and a daughter of William and Maria Louise Barse. The following is a record of the four children born to her and our subject: Lucy M. was born in April, 1875; Hayes L., in May, 1877; Kittie L., in March, 1885; and Charles S. in July, 1887.

June 20, 1890 our subject's place was visited by a cyclone, which destroyed all outbuildings, etc., causing a damage of \$5,000.



**J**OHN B. WILLMAN has been exceedingly prospered in the pursuit of his calling as a farmer, and is now the fortunate owner of two choice farms, the one upon which he makes his home lying in Willow Creek Township, and the other in Viola Township. Mr. Williams was born in the province of Lorraine when it formed a part of France, his birth occurring December 17, 1839. His father, who bore the same name as himself, was also a native of that province, as far as known, and was a son of one Humphrey Willman, who was born in the same locality, and is supposed to have spent his entire life there as a farmer. The father of our subject learned the trade of a brick and stone mason, and continued to follow it in his native France throughout his life. He married Nancy Antoine, a native of the same

place as himself, and three children were born to them:— Nancy, Mary and John B. After the death of the father, the mother came to this country and spent the most of her remaining years with our subject. She died at Seneca, La Salle County, at a venerable age.

He of whom we write was the only son of his parents, and he was early deprived of a father's care. He was four and a half years old when he came to America with his mother in 1844, and has no distinct recollection of other than his adopted country. His mother was a pioneer of La Salle County, settling not far from the present site of the town of Sandwich, where she bought thirty-three acres of land. That section, and in fact all of Northern Illinois, was but little settled at that time, and the greater part of the land was owned by the Government, and has since been sold for \$1.25 an acre. A few years later, Mrs. Willman bought land near Ottawa, and John assisted in doing the farm work, he having begun early in life to gain experience in that line. In 1853 the family crossed the plains and mountains to California, in the hope to better their fortunes, starting from La Salle County and making the entire journey with ox teams. At that time there were but very few white settlers between the Missouri River and the Pacific Coast except the Mormons at Salt Lake, while deer, elk and buffaloes were encountered in large numbers. After six months' traveling the weary little party arrived at Sacramento, and there our subject found employment in a hotel for eleven months. At the end of that time he went to the mines and tried his luck at digging gold, at which he was engaged with varying success until 1858. Tiring of the rough frontier life, he came back to Illinois by the way of the Isthmus. The following year he returned to California, and was busily engaged in mining for a year and a half. Returning to this State, he came to Lee County and invested in the farm in Willow Creek Township upon which he resides. It contains one hundred and fifty and one-half acres of fruitful land, which is under the best cultivation, and is amply provided with buildings of a good class and modern farm machinery. His farm in Viola Township comprises eighty acres of



fine land, and is in all respects a well-ordered place.

Mr. Willman has had considerable experience in various ways and has profited by it, and is justly regarded as one of our progressive farmers, who has a clear understanding of his business, and knows how to carry it on so as to reap the best results. He and his amiable wife are highly regarded by their neighbors and others in their community. They entered upon their wedded life May 6, 1864, and to them have been born these seven children: Amerriba E., wife of James Yocum, David, Ella, John, Emma, Lucetta and Bessie. Mrs. Willman is a member of the United Brethren Church, and is a woman of true Christian character.

Mrs. Willman bore the name of Miss Matilda Norton prior to her marriage, and was born near London, Province of Ontario, Can. Her father, David Norton, was also a Canadian by birth. His father is thought to have been born in Vermont, removing from there to Canada during some period of his early manhood and settling at Westminster, where he resided until his death. He married Sarah Mudge, who died at Westminster. Mrs. Willman's father grew up in Canada and resided there until 1859, when he removed to St. Clair County, Mich. He lived there until 1862, and then coming to Illinois, he located at Ross Grove, De Kalb County. In 1873 he went back to Michigan, and was a resident of Traverse City until 1886, but after the death of his wife in that place, he returned to Ross Grove, and has since lived with his children. The maiden name of Mrs. Willman's mother was Rachael Manning. She was born nine miles from the city of Toronto, Can., and was a daughter of Jacob and Betsey (Palen) Manning.



**J**AMES B. CHARTERS, ex-Postmaster at Dixon, is one of its foremost citizens, who for many years has been thoroughly identified with the best interests of city and county, contributing to the success of various enterprises that have materially heightened their

prosperity, and taking a prominent part in the administration of public affairs as an incumbent of various important civic offices.

Our subject was born in the city of Belfast, Ireland, July 11, 1831. His father, Alexander Charters, was also a native of that city, and was born July 7, 1800. His father, who bore the same name as himself, was a native of Ireland, and came of one of the old Scotch families that colonized the northern part of that country. He was a merchant and was engaged in business at Belfast for many years, spending his entire life on his native isle.

The father of our subject came to America at the age of seventeen, and entered upon a successful business career as a clerk in New York City, and later as a member of the firm of J. & A. Charters, manufacturers and importers of linen. He made several trips across the ocean to Ireland in the interests of business, and on one such occasion was made memorable by his marriage in his native city to Miss Ellen Boomer, who was a daughter of one of the old families of that city, which was also her birthplace. Her father, James Boomer, was likewise a native of Belfast, and he started the first manufactory in that place, which he at first devoted to the manufacture of cotton cloth, but subsequently changed into a linen factory. He continued a resident of Belfast until death closed his life, and deprived his city of a citizen who had rendered valuable service in promoting its industrial growth.

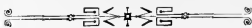
Mr. Charters continued in business in New York until the panic of 1837 threatened to ruin all the manufacturing and mercantile interests of the country, and he found it advisable to wind up his affairs in that city if he would preserve his money and his business integrity, and in the spring of 1838 he came to the Rock River country to begin life anew in "fresh fields and pastures new," far from the rush and turmoil of the great metropolis. He entered a tract of Government land, finely located three miles from the present site of Dixon, and in the course of time built up one of the most beautiful homes in Illinois, which was known far and wide as "Hazelwood," and was famous for its unbounded hospitality. Its genial host, familiarly

known as the "Governor," was a typical Irish gentleman, frank, generous-hearted and open-handed, always courteous and considerate in his treatment of others, and he understood the art of entertaining to perfection. He had an extensive acquaintance and held a warm place in the hearts of all about him.

James B. Charters, of this biographical review, was but an infant when his mother died, and he was reared by his maternal grandparents, who cared for him tenderly. He received his early education in the schools of Belfast, and at the age of seventeen entered Trinity College, in Dublin, one of the most noted institutions of learning in Great Britain, from which he was graduated in the Class of '53. Ambitious to fit himself for the legal profession, he then went to London and studied law in the Inner Temple. Immediately after completing his studies, he came to America to join his father at Hazelwood, and at once commenced the practice of law. From that time to this he has made his home in this county, and has won a high place among the men of decisive character, learning and business acumen who have played so important a part in the rise and progress of this section of the State. He has been interested in various enterprises, and has given much time to affairs of public moment, as his fellow-citizens have frequently induced him to accept some responsible office. He has served as Mayor of Dixon, and in 1877 was elected County Judge. In 1887 he was appointed Postmaster at Dixon, and the fact that he has retained the position three years since the change of administration attests not only his popularity, but is sufficient evidence that the office is managed in a systematic, business-like manner, everything connected with it being kept in good order, and it is a source of gratulation to the people of this city that one so able and trustworthy should have charge of this important Federal office. In politics, Mr. Charters has always been a staunch champion of the policy of the Democratic party. Socially, he belongs to the following organizations: Friendship Lodge, No. 7, A. F. & A. M.; Naehusa Chapter, No. 56, R. A. M.; and Dixon Commandery, No. 21, K. T.

Mr. Charters has been twice married. He was

married the first time in 1853 to Miss Fanny J. Charters, a daughter of Samuel and Jane (Cregier) Charters. Their wedded life of thirty years was brought to a close by her death in 1883. Our subject was united in marriage to his present wife, formerly Miss Blanche Soule, July 9, 1885.



**M**OSES D. HUBBARD has the distinction of being the oldest living citizen that was born and now resides in Palmyra Township. His home is on sections 33 and 34, where he has a fine farm embracing one hundred and forty acres. It has been his place of residence since the 21st of April, 1865, and in the years that have since followed he has met with excellent success in his business dealings.

The birth of Mr. Hubbard occurred on the old homestead at Gap Grove, November 18, 1837, and he is the only child of Oliver A. and Eliza (Martin) Hubbard. His father was born in New Hampshire in 1804, and after his marriage emigrated Westward. With the early settlers of Lee County, Ill. he eas this lot, locating at Gap Grove in Palmyra Township, where he purchased a claim and later entered land. For a short time only did he enjoy his new home, his death occurring in 1840. Some eight years later Mrs. Hubbard became the wife of W. W. Tilton, one of the pioneer settlers of Lee County, and he now resides at Gap Grove, where although he is now seventy-five years of age, he follows farming. Mrs. Tilton died the 11th of January, 1892 in her eighty-second year. She was a member of the Congregational Church. By her second marriage she had two children—Mrs. Hortense Gilbert, now deceased; and Frank who operates the farm.

Our subject has spent almost his entire life in this community. His primary education, acquired in the common schools, was supplemented by a course of study in Hopkinton, N. H. At the first call for troops to put down the Rebellion he enlisted on May 24th, 1861, as a member of Company B, Thirteenth Illinois Infantry, the first volunteer regiment that was sworn into the United States ser-

vicer. Its Colonel was John B. Wyman, and the first commander of Company B, was Capt. D. R. Bushnell, who was killed at the battle of Ringgold, his successor being Capt. George B. Brown, now of Sterling, Ill. The regiment was organized at Dixon and assigned to the Fifteenth Army Corps of the Army of the West. For nearly a year it was quartered in Rolla, Mo., and did some important service in that locality. The troops participated in the battle at Wilson's Creek, later met the enemy at Lookout Mountain and at Ringgold, where Col. Wyman fell. Again they were under fire at Chattanooga and Vicksburg and in other engagements. During a considerable portion of the time Mr. Hubbard was on detached duty and was in active service for about twenty-one months. During the first year he had an attack of measles, which resulted in the loss of his voice for about eighteen months. This prevented his re-enlistment after the expiration of his first term but nevertheless he remained with his regiment for some time longer. He was a faithful soldier ever found at his post of duty and received an honorable discharge, on account of physical disability.

Since his return to the North Mr. Hubbard has given his attention to the cultivation of his farm and by his industrious and enterprising efforts has become one of the well-to-do citizens of the community. He was first married in his native township to Miss Blanche A. Coe, who was born in Palmyra Township, April 1, 1852, and was a daughter of Henry A. and Elmina (Moon) Coe. Her father was a native of the Empire State, and became one of the early settlers of Palmyra Township, where he spent an active and useful life as a farmer. His wife passed away some years previous to his death. The death of Mrs. Hubbard occurred July 15, 1884. She was a faithful and loving wife and mother, a kind neighbor and at her death many friends mourned her loss. She left six children; Nona, now the wife of Frank Ryder, of Ashland, Wis.; Alonzo, Bert, Olive, Clinton and Edna.

Mr. Hubbard has since been again married, his second union being with Miss Julia Brauer, who was born in Nelson Township in 1864. Her father, Louis Brauer, a native of Germany, left the Fatherland for America when a young man and took up

his residence in Lee County, Ill., where he married Louisa Toel. Their domestic life began on a farm, where Mr. Brauer made his home until his death in 1872. His widow yet resides in Palmyra Township. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard are well known throughout this community and by their many friends are held in high esteem. He is a Democrat in politics and socially is a Mason, belonging to Friendship Lodge, No. 7, A. F. & A. M.; Naclusa Chapter, No. 56, R. A. M.; and Dixon Commandery, No. 21, K. T., all of Dixon. He also holds membership with Post No. 221, G. A. R. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend and his children were provided with good advantages in that direction. He takes a commendable interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community in which he has so long made his home and with whose history he has been prominently identified for many years. Genial by nature and kindly in disposition he easily wins friends and his hospitable home is ever open for their reception.



**A**LFRED S. DIMICK, a real-estate dealer, money loaner and insurance agent of Dixon, has been engaged in business in this city since 1860. He is ranked among the leading business men of the community, and one of the public-spirited and progressive citizens of Lee County. For more than six years he has carried on operations in his present line, having embarked in the business in 1885. The same success which attended him in other directions has again followed his foot-steps, and among the substantial men of Dixon is numbered Albert Dimick.

The Dimick family is of English origin and was established in America during early Colonial days. Lot and Jonathan Dimick, the great-grandfather and grandfather, spent their entire lives in Mansfield, Conn., their birthplace, and followed the occupation of farming. The latter married Alexis Storrs, a native of Mansfield, who came of an old New England family, and died in her native town at an advanced age. The father of our subject,

Jabez S. Dimick, was born in Mansfield, Conn., and when a young man, emigrated to Massachusetts, where he acquired a knowledge of cloth finishing and pressing and also did fancy dyeing. He was overseer for many years in those departments of factories, and did his last work in that line in Leicester. In 1867 he came with his wife to Dixon, and spent his last days in the home of his son, where he died in 1873, at the age of seventy-three years. He was a good citizen and a man of noble character. Under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church he was reared, but afterward became a Methodist and was a devoted member and liberal supporter of that church until his death. In Worcester, Mass., he had married Miss Betsy G. Dunbar, who came of a long-lived family of Scotch origin, that in an early day was founded in Worcester. She is yet living at the age of eighty-seven years, her home being with our subject. Her life has been that of a consistent Christian, and she is beloved by all who know her.

The maternal grandfather of Mr. Dimick, Ebenezer Dunbar, was born in Leicester, Mass., where he spent his entire life, and died at the advanced age of one hundred years and seven months. Sickness or disease had never undermined his constitution or broken down his health, but the flame of life grew fainter and fainter, and at last flickered and went out. He married Polly Golden, a native of Worcester County, and a daughter of Col. Golden, of Revolutionary fame. Her father was for many years a prominent citizen of the county, and a Deacon in the Baptist Church, as was also Ebenezer Dunbar. The father of the latter, Abner Dunbar, was one of the early settlers of Worcester County, Mass., where he died an old man. He was also one of the heroes of the Revolution, and married a niece of Gen. Warren, who won his title in the same war.

We now take up the personal history of our subject, who was born in Leicester, Mass., in 1825. His education was acquired in the common schools and at Leicester Academy, and when twenty-two years of age he left home to begin life for himself. Going to Wilkes Barre, Pa., in 1847, he spent ten years at that place in the boot and shoe trade, and in 1857 came to Lee County, Ill., where for three

years he engaged in business as a farmer and coal dealer. In 1860 he opened a boot and shoe store, and after four years built a business block on First Street, near the corner of Hennepin Avenue, which he occupied until 1885. He worked up an excellent trade and also did a fine jobbing business for some years. The latter business, however, proved disastrous. By the courteous treatment of his customers, and fair and honest dealing he secured a liberal patronage which he well merited. Not wishing to live in idleness, when he sold out his shoe store in 1885, he embarked in his present line as real-estate dealer and loan and insurance agent. His son is now associated with him as partner, the latter having his headquarters in Cedar County, Neb., while our subject controls affairs in this community.

Ere leaving the East, Mr. Dimick was married in Wilkes Barre, Pa., to Miss Emma M. Levering, a native of the Keystone State, and a daughter of Dr. Abraham Levering, who was born in France and came to America with his parents when quite young. Having been carefully reared and highly educated, he became an eminent physician, and for many years was known as a great cancer specialist. He had an extensive and lucrative practice in Monroe County, Pa., where he also served as County Treasurer for five terms, and where for the last twenty years of his life he served as Associate Judge, filling the office with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents, as was attested by his continued re-election. He died of paralysis at the age of seventy years. He was a refined polished gentleman who won the respect of all and in religious belief was a Moravian. He wedded Miss Mary Rogers, an intelligent and cultured lady of Pennsylvania and a daughter of Dr. Rogers, who was long one of the most prominent physicians of Northampton County, Pa. He was the preceptor of Dr. Gross, the well-known physician of Philadelphia, and Dr. Levering also studied under his direction for some years.

Mrs. Dimick, the wife of our subject, was afforded excellent educational advantages, and is a lady of fine attainments and many virtues. By her marriage have been born six children: Mary E., wife of H. C. Burrows, who is Superintendent of the





*Daniel Smith*

iron works of Lancaster, Pa., and a son of the late Thomas H. Burrows, ex-Secretary of State of Pennsylvania, under Gov. Ritner; Eugene L., who engaged in the real-estate and insurance business in Hartington, Cedar County, Neb., married Georgia Herrick, niece of the late Col. Henry Noble, of Dixon; Harry C. is a commercial agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, and resides in Pittsburg, Pa.; Fred D., who wedded Ada Walp, of Meadville, Pa., now deceased, is time keeper and telegraph operator for the Pullman Car Company of Pullman, Ill.; and Nettie and Della are at home.

Mr. Dimick is a Republican in politics, and his wife is a member of the Presbyterian Church. No family is held in higher regard, and their rank in social circles is among the best. Our subject has long been connected with the business interests of Dixon, where he has won prosperity by industry, enterprise and the exercise of correct business principles, and has a host of friends throughout this community.



**D**ANIEL SMITH. Doubtless to the majority of our readers this name is a familiar one and the portrait presented on the opposite page perpetuates for coming generations the features of a highly respected citizen of Dixon, who passed from the busy scenes of earthly toil April 18, 1888. The Province of Ontario, Canada, was his native home, and October 28, 1844, the date of his birth. When only two years of age, he removed to Michigan with his parents, Almanzo and Temperance Smith, the family locating on a farm about ten miles from Flint.

There the father and mother died when well advanced in years. Amid the wild scenes of pioneer life their son, Daniel, was reared to manhood and was early inured to the hard labors of the farm. His educational advantages were only those afforded by the common schools of the new country, but he acquired a good fund of knowledge for himself by reading, experience and observation.

When a young man, he came to Dixon and from that time until his death was identified with the best interests of the city.

It was here that Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Adelaide Mead, one of Dixon's daughters, and an intelligent lady, possessed of excellent business and executive ability, which is shown by her management of the property left her by her husband. Her parents, Heman and Jane (Dodge) Mead, were natives of Canada, and there resided until after their marriage, when they came to Lee County, Ill., residing upon a farm until after all of the children but one were born. Subsequently, Mr. Mead sold that property and came to Dixon, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, both being called to their final rest when about sixty years of age. They were prominent members and active workers in the Methodist Church and the poor and needy found in them a friend. In politics, Mr. Mead was first a Whig and afterward a Republican. He was highly esteemed as a valued citizen and his death proved a great loss to the community. Several children of the family are yet living, among the number being Mrs. Sherwood Dixon.

For many years Mr. Smith engaged in business as a liveryman and also bought and sold horses. For about twelve years his brother, Charles, who is also now deceased, was associated with him and the firm built up a most excellent trade. Mr. Smith purchased the property and carried on what was known as the Nachusa Horse Barn for some time. He gave his entire time and attention to his business and by courteous treatment of his customers and fair and honest dealing secured a liberal patronage. He was an excellent judge of horses and in his purchase and sales added not a little to his income. At his death, he left a comfortable property to his widow, which thus relieves her from the necessity of earning her own livelihood.

In politics, Mr. Smith was a Republican but never sought or desired public office. He led a quiet, unassuming life, faithfully discharging the duties of citizenship and devoting his energies exclusively to his business. The excellencies of his character won him the esteem of his friends, who were not few in number. At his death, he left

a widow and one son—Fred E., a young man, now twenty-one years of age, who is employed by the Grand Detour Plow Company, of Dixon. He was educated in the city schools and possesses many excellent traits of character, being accounted one of the promising young men of the community.



**J**OSIAH P. DANA, deceased, was for many years numbered among the leading business men of Dixon and it is but meet that he should be represented in this work among the honored pioneers and best citizens of the county. He was born on the site of the State Capitol of New York, on the 11th of January, 1819, and came of an old and highly respected New England family. In direct line the ancestry is traced back to three brothers of the name of Dana—John, Joseph and Daniel—who left their home in England, their native land, and crossed the Atlantic with some of the Pilgrim Fathers. They located in Massachusetts and Vermont and the descendants are now numerous. The grandfather and great-grandfather of our subject, both of whom bore the name of Daniel Dana, were natives of Massachusetts, and served as soldiers in the Revolutionary War, participating in the battle of Bunker Hill. Merchandising was their business for many years, and they were both prominent men in the community where they made their home. The family has been one devoted to commerce, most of its sons being dry-goods merchants.

The father of our subject, John Wood Dana, was born in Warwick, Mass., in 1788, and there married Sophia Pomroy, a native of the Bay State. They removed to New York where the father engaged in merchandising until his death. His wife died in New York City at an advanced age. Both were members of the Presbyterian Church.

As Josiah Dana lost his father when nine years of age, he went to live with his uncle, Daniel Dana, by whom he was carefully reared and educated. There he found a home until twenty-two years of age, when he came Westward to try his fortune.

For a time he resided in Chicago. He also spent many years as a lumber merchant and miller on the shores of Lake Michigan, and afterwards located in Portage, Wis., where he engaged in merchandising. During his residence in that city he was joined in wedlock with Miss Winfred Nixon, a native of Staffordshire, England, where her parents, Enoch and Ann (Kidd) Nixon, were also born and spent their childhood. After their marriage Mr. Nixon in company with his brother John, engaged in the manufacture of fine crockery-ware in Staffordshire, England, for many years. At length, accompanied by his wife and six children, he crossed the briny deep to America, sailing from Liverpool to New Orleans, where he arrived after a voyage of seven weeks. He went up the Mississippi River to Montrose, Iowa, where he spent the winter, and the following spring removed to Wisconsin, purchasing a large farm near Portage. In the hope of benefiting his impaired health, he had determined to engage in agricultural pursuits, but his death occurred a few years later from the bursting of a blood-vessel. This was in 1855, and he was about forty-four years of age. A man of good business ability he had made of his life a success. His wife still survives him and is now seventy-eight years of age. With the Methodist Church she holds membership, her husband having also belonged to it.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Dana were born four children, but two are now deceased: Charles D., who died in childhood; and Minnie F., who was killed in the bridge disaster in Dixon, May 4, 1873, when seven years of age. Kittie M., an accomplished young lady, graduated from the Dixon schools and the Northwestern Normal. Fred, who completes the family, is still at home.

From Portage, Wis., Mr. Dana came to Dixon in 1865 and established business as a general merchant. Having inherited the business ability of his ancestors, he worked up an excellent trade, and the liberal patronage which rewarded his efforts brought him a handsome competence. In commercial circles and by those with whom business relations brought him into contact he was held in high esteem and was recognized as one of the progressive and public-spirited citizens of the community.



He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and in politics was a stanch Democrat. At his home in West Dixon, he passed away January 20, 1889, respected by all who knew him. His widow is still living with her children in this city, where she has made her home since 1865. She was a faithful companion and helpmate to her husband and since his death has managed the estate which he left her. Under the auspices of the Episcopal Church she was reared but holds membership with no society. She is a lady of many excellencies of character and herself and children have a high social standing.



**T**HERON CUMINS, capitalist, and President of the Grand Detour Plow Co., is at the head of one of the largest and most important manufacturing interests of Lee County, located at Dixon. To his tireless and watchful care in the management of affairs, to his remarkable executive talent and unbounding enterprise is due in a great measure the upbuilding of this immense business since he became identified with it twenty-eight years ago, and infused into it new life.

Theron Cumins is a descendant of sturdy New England ancestry, and the town of Tunbridge, Orange County, Vt., is the place of his birth. His father, Joseph Cumins, was likewise a native of the Green Mountain State, and was engaged in mercantile pursuits in different places in that Commonwealth until 1840, when he removed to Ohio, going with teams across the mountains to Whitehall, then by the way of the Champlain and Erie canals to Buffalo, and from there across Lake Erie to Fairport, Ohio. He gave his attention to his old business in Geauga County some years, and then he and his wife came to Illinois and made their home with their sons at Grand Detour until they died. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Hannah Converse, and she was also a native of Vermont.

Our subject was educated in the public schools, and at the age of fifteen became a clerk in his father's store. In 1842 he paid his first visit to

Illinois, coming by the most expeditious route at that time, which was by the way of the Great Lakes to Chicago, and from there he journeyed by stage to Grand Detour, a village on the Rock River, which was then one of the most flourishing manufacturing towns in all Illinois, while Dixon was but an insignificant hamlet. Our subject was but a lad then, and his only capital lay in his energy, ambition, and excellent capacity for steady and well-performed labor. Thus circumstanced, he accepted a situation as clerk in a general store, and acted in that capacity in that town for three years. At the end of that time he went back to Ohio, and the ensuing four years was a clerk at Newark. Returning to Grand Detour after that, he formed a partnership with his brother Solon, and for two years was engaged with him in the mercantile business. We next hear of him at Bueyrus, Ohio, as a contractor for the construction of a part of the Ohio and Indiana Railway, which was then being built, and which is now known as the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway, and there he laid the foundation of his present fortune.

Mr. Cumins continued in business as a contractor two years, and then came once again to Illinois, and once more entered into business at Grand Detour, forming a partnership with Leonard Andrus, who was engaged in the manufacture of plows at that place. The establishment of which Major Andrus was the head had been founded at Grand Detour, a little town beautifully located on the banks of Rock River, six miles from Dixon, by himself, in conjunction with John Deere, who afterwards founded the celebrated manufactory of plows at Moline, with whose highest interests his own were identified until death deprived that city of its most loved and honored citizen in May, 1886, at the venerable age of eighty-two years. After Mr. Deere withdrew from the firm, the Major conducted the business by himself for seven or eight years, and he then admitted Col. Amos Bosworth into partnership, Col. Bosworth afterwards took part in the Civil War as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry, and gave up his life for his country in March, 1862.

The prosperity of the firm received a serious check by the burning of the factory in October,

1857. Up to that time the business had been steadily growing and increasing its facilities, and, nothing daunted by disaster, the firm built a new and larger factory on the ruins of the old one. In August, 1863, Maj. Andrus invited the co-operation of our subject in conducting the business, and they became partners under the firm name of Andrus & Cumins, continuing together until the death of the Major in February, 1867. He was a man of high character, of honorable principles, and his death was a loss to the community. When our subject became a member of the firm, his partner was in poor health, and the management of the concern devolved principally upon Mr. Cumins, and he proved fully equal to the occasion, carrying on the business with a steady hand, looking carefully after every detail of manufacture, and keeping up with the times in the introduction of new methods and modern machinery. After the death of his partner he was alone until June, 1869, when the late Col. H. T. Noble, who is represented elsewhere in this volume, bought an interest in the business, which was thereafter conducted under the firm name of T. Cumins and Co., until Mr. Dodge was admitted into partnership in June, 1874, and the style was changed to Cumins, Noble & Dodge. In June, 1879, the business, which had assumed large proportions, was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois as the Grand Detour Plow Company, Theron Cumins, Henry T. Noble, Orris B. Dodge, and Charles H. Noble being the incorporators.

In 1869 it had been found advisable to move the works to Dixon to take advantage of its railway facilities, and thus save the cost of transportation from Grand Detour to that point. The plant occupies five acres of ground between the Chicago & Northwestern and Illinois Central Railways, and switches from both railways to the shops and warehouses admit of supplies being taken directly to them, and of the farming implements manufactured being shipped directly from the factory. The buildings are commodious and conveniently arranged, and are fitted up with the latest improved machinery for every purpose, and well lighted by electric lights, so that in the busy season the factory can be operated day and night. A large number

of workmen are employed, many of them the most skillful and experienced mechanics in the country. For more than half a century the "Grand Detour Plow" has been in use among the farmers of the United States, who prize it highly as an implement of superior quality, finish, and durability, well adapted to any soil, and there is not a Western State where it is not in use, its fame even extending to foreign countries. The company manufactures walking, riding and gang plows, cultivators, harrows, etc., and as they are of the most approved style and are made of the best material, they give general satisfaction, and are in great demand. For the past few years Mr. Cumins has given but little attention to the business, but lives practically retired. Orris B. Dodge and Charles H. Noble are the active managers of the manufacturing interests of the company. Our subject is closely identified with the monetary interests of this city as a director of the Dixon National Bank and as one of the men of wealth, who, while building up their own fortunes, have been largely instrumental in making Dixon a rich and flourishing industrial centre. In politics as on all questions, whether of public or private import, he holds sound and sensible views and is unwavering in his allegiance to the Republican party.

Mr. Cumins has a very attractive home in this city, replete with comfort and luxury, and to the lady who presides over it, formerly Miss Louisa B. Gill, he was married in 1884. Two children by a former marriage complete his household.

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**G**EORGE LAUER, a representative of one of the pioneer families of Lee County, is profitably engaged in the mercantile business in Sublette. He is a native of this county, and is a son of Andrew and Katie (Strubel) Lauer, natives respectively of Bavaria and of Hesse-Dramstadt, Germany. His father was for many years actively identified with the agricultural interests of this section, but he is now living in retirement in Sublette, in the enjoyment of a good income.

The paternal grandfather of our subject died in

Germany, while his grandmother came to the United States with the family in 1848, and was a resident of this county several years, until her death near Sublette. Andrew Lauer had four brothers and one sister who came to the United States and one brother, Milthias, who remained in Germany. Those who came to this country are: Adam who now lives in Chicago; Michael, also a resident of that city; George, who died at Sublette; Joseph, who was accidentally shot and killed in Sublette Township; and Mary, who married Joseph Bear, of Northwestern Iowa.

The father of our subject was born in July, 1819. He left the Fatherland in 1848, in company with other members of the family, to seek a new home on American soil. He was then in the prime of early manhood, and was admirably adapted to the life of a pioneer amid the wild scenes of Lee County in the early years of its settlement. He applied himself assiduously to agricultural pursuits, and in due time became the proprietor of four hundred and forty acres of finely improved land. He resided on his farm until 1885, and since that time has made his home in the village of Sublette. He is a faithful member of the Roman Catholic Church, and is universally respected in his community. He was deprived of the companionship of his wife, to whom he was wedded in 1851, by her death in 1875, after they had lived together nearly a quarter of a century. They reared eight children, namely: George; Lizzie, wife of William Halbrinier, of West Brooklyn; Andrew J.; Maggie, wife of George Steplnitch; Mary, wife of John Malack; Michael; Kate, wife of John Steplnitch; and Antone.

George Lauer, who forms the subject of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm, and assisted in carrying it on until he attained his majority, gaining his education in the meantime in the local district schools. He pursued farming until 1880, and then adopted his present calling as a merchant, becoming a partner of Joseph Bettendorf, under the firm name of Bettendorf & Lauer. They remained together until the following year, when Mr. Lauer's brother, Andrew, purchased an interest, and the business was thenceforth conducted under the firm name of Lauer Bros. until

August 14, 1890, since which time our subject has been sole proprietor of the store and is managing the business by himself. He has a well-ordered establishment, carries a full line of all such goods as are in demand, and has control of a good trade, both in the village and with the people of the surrounding country.

Mr. Lauer was married at the age of twenty-eight to Miss Mary T., daughter of J. George Malach, (of whom see biography), and is a native of this county. Unto them have been born six children, as follows: George, Mamie, Leo, John, Andrew and Roma.

Mr. Lauer has, besides his business interests and property in the village, one hundred and fifteen acres of unimproved land. He and his wife and family occupy one of the pleasantest and most comfortable homes of Sublette, and are numbered among the most highly esteemed people of the community. Since he became a resident of this village, our subject has taken an earnest interest in all that concerns its welfare, and he has been especially helpful in educational matters as a member of the School Board, which position he has held for several years, although he does not aspire to public office. In politics, he has always kept faith with the Democrat party. Religiously, he is a Roman Catholic and a consistent Christian gentleman.



**F**REDERICK A. SCHICK has become wealthy through his operations as a farmer and stock-raiser of rare ability, and his farm on section 10, South Dixon Township, is one of the most valuable of its size in this part of the county, as its soil, which is naturally very fertile, has been made more so by careful cultivation; it is capable of sustaining many cattle, horses and swine, and is, in fact, well stocked; and its improvements are substantial and well arranged.

Our subject was born in Saxony, Germany, in August, 1838. He is of pure German blood, and is a son of Karl Schick, who was also of Saxon

birth, and spent his whole life in his native land, dying in 1863 at the age of sixty-four. He was both a carpenter and a farmer. His religion was that of the Lutheran Church. His wife, who was likewise a life-long resident of Saxony, was Margaret Lieprent in her maiden days. She fell a victim to the cholera in 1866, being past fifty years of age at the time of her death. She, too, was a member of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject grew up on a farm, and obtained a good common-school education in the German schools. He was not quite twenty-one when he left his early home to seek beyond the seas the fortune denied him in his own country, embarking at Bremerhaven on the sailing vessel "Thoretto," in April, 1859, for the United States of America, and landing at New York City after a voyage of forty days and forty nights. He came thence to Dixon, and from there made his way to Whiteside County, where he found himself a stranger in a strange land, without a nickel in his pocket that he could call his own. But he was of good courage, and immediately set about finding some work whereby he could support himself. He was successful in his search for employment, prudently saved his money to invest in land, and made his first purchase of realty in Whiteside County. He soon after came to Lee County and bought, in 1860, a farm of eighty acres, and in 1880 bought his present farm in South Dixon County. He located upon it the following year, and has since made of it a very fine piece of property, placing its one hundred and sixty acres under careful cultivation, and making every possible improvement, so that it ranks in its appointments among the best in the township. He was a poor man when he came to this county, but he has made himself rich by paying strict attention to his business, conducting it systematically, and by employing the methods of tilling the soil best adapted to his land, and by that wise economy that knows when to spend money to advantage, as well as when frugality is the better part. His adopted county has found in him a good citizen, who has contributed his share to its growing wealth and prosperity, and takes a true interest in its welfare. He is very well posted in the politics

of his adopted country and has a decided preference for the Democratic party. His religious affiliations are with the Lutheran Church, of which he and his wife are both active members.

Mr. Schiek was first married in Whiteside County, to Miss Margareta Ortgiesen, a native of Germany, who came to this country with her parents. (For parental history see sketch of George Ortgiesen). She was young when she died after the birth of one child, William, who died two years later. The second marriage of our subject, which took place in South Dixon Township, was to Miss Appalonia Genter, who was born in Rhine Byron, Germany. She came to America when twenty years old, and from that time until the day of her death in Dixon, in 1874, at middle age, she was a resident of Lee County. She left no children. Mr. Schiek was a third time married in Germany, he having returned to his native land in 1874, and in the Saxon Province where he was born he was wedded to Miss Wilhelmina Kafer. She was also born and reared in Saxony, and is a daughter of Karl and Doretha (Gotha) Kafer, who are now living in their old home in Germany, both being past four-score years of age. Mrs. Schiek is at present visiting them. The family are all members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. and Mrs. Schiek have six children, all of whom are at home, and are named as follows: Elsie B., Charles A. F., Alvin C., Edward A., Ella D., and August W.



**H**ENRY H. HOOVER, who is engaged in general farming on section 19, Palmyra Township, has made his home on this farm since the spring of 1874. In the autumn of 1872 he had come to the county after having spent six months in Whiteside County, Ill. He had emigrated to this State from Pennsylvania, where, previous to that time, his entire life had been passed. He was born on the 18th of November, 1826, in Lancaster County, and is of German descent, his grandparents having been natives of the Fatherland. Jacob Hoover, a resident farmer

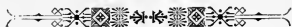
and a native of Lancaster County, wedded Miss Mary Herr, who was also born in that county, of German parentage. Upon a farm they began their domestic life, and their home was blessed by the presence of five children who grew to mature years, our subject being among the number. Four of the family are still living. The parents spent their entire lives in the Keystone State, but did not live to advanced ages. Mr. Hoover passed away in his thirty-eighth year and his wife died at the age of forty-seven. She was a member of the New Light Church.

Henry Hoover was the fourth child born unto this worthy couple, and is the only one living in Illinois. His early life passed uneventfully, he working upon his father's farm in the summer months, while in the winter season he attended the public schools. After arriving at the years of maturity, he was married in the township of his birth to Miss Christiana Huber, who was born on the 18th of October, 1828, in Lancaster County, where the days of her maidenhood were passed. Her father, Christian Huber, was of German descent and married Anna Shaub. They continued to make their home in Pennsylvania, where the father died at the age of three-score years, and the mother had also passed her sixtieth birthday at the time of her death. Both were members of the Mennonite Church, and were highly respected people.

Upon a farm in the State of their nativity, Mr. and Mrs. Hoover began their domestic life, and their home was blessed by the presence of two children. The elder, B. Franklin, is a teacher of recognized ability, and is now engaged in bee keeping, which business he has followed since 1884. He has now an apiary containing about one hundred colonies, and having made a thorough study of the business he is meeting with good success in his undertaking. The daughter of the family, Anna M., is now engaged in the millinery business in Sterling, at the corner of Third Street and First Avenue.

During the twenty years that have elapsed since Mr. and Mrs. Hoover came to Lee County, they have formed an extensive acquaintance in this locality, and their many excellencies of character

have won them high regard. They are classed among the best citizens of this community, and are well deserving of representation in this volume among the honored pioneers and leading residents of the county. Our subject is a progressive and enterprising farmer, who, by close attention to his business and fair and honest dealing, has won a comfortable competence.



**O**LIVER P. JOHNSON is a representative of a family that has been identified with the agricultural interests of this State from the early years of its settlement, and he is himself a pioneer of Northern Illinois, and one of the early settlers of Lee County, where he is now living practically retired from active business in the pretty village of West Brooklyn, though he still retains his large and finely improved farm in Brooklyn Township, deriving a good income from its rental.

He comes of good old Revolutionary stock. He was born in the town of Boston, Erie County, N. Y., October 21, 1812. His father, who also bore the name of Oliver, was a native of Pennsylvania, where his father, a native of Massachusetts, and of English blood, had settled in Colonial times as a pioneer. He entered the Continental army during the Revolution, and gave up his life for the cause of freedom. His wife was thus left a widow with four small children to care for, in a wild country inhabited by hostile Indians. She was warned by some friendly savages that the red-skins contemplated an uprising, when the whites would be swept away, and two days before the terrible massacre at Wyoming, she left that fated country and was safely on her way to her old home in Massachusetts when it occurred. She located near Springfield, and there reared her children. In her last years she went from there to Erie County, and died there at a venerable age.

The father of our subject was but four years old when he was left fatherless, and he returned with his mother to Massachusetts, where he was reared by a man of the name of Williams, who lived near

Springfield. He was married in that State to Elizabeth Sackett, who was born near Springfield, and was a daughter of Plain and Mary Sackett. In 1796 he removed to New York with an ox-team, and settled near the Hudson River. Five years later he went from there to Erie County, and located near Boston Township on a tract of land that he purchased of the Holland Purchase Company. He built a log house in the primeval forests, and made it his home until 1821, and he then again started forth to seek fortune's favors on the frontier, making his way across the wild intervening country by the way of the Olean, Alleghany and Ohio Rivers to Illinois, landing at Shawneetown, having set out on the journey in March. He located first in White County, but a year later removed to what is now Sangamon County, where he bought a tract of land six miles from Springfield, and was one of the first settlers in that section. The present capital of the State was then but a mere hamlet of six houses. A gristmill, operated by horse-power, was the only mill for many miles around, and St. Louis was the principal market and depot for supplies. Deer, elk, antelopes and bears were very plentiful in that sparsely settled wilderness. The people were principally home-livers, subsisting on what they could raise on their farms, and on game, while the women carded, spun and wove all the cloth used by their families.

Mr. Johnson was actively engaged in improving his land in that region until 1827, when he sold it, and removed to what is now Logan County, where he entered nine hundred and sixty acres of Government land fifteen miles northwest of Lincoln, and three miles from the present site of Atlanta. He built upon it and developed a large farm. He had the misfortune to lose his wife while residing there, and shortly before her death he bought a home in Putnam County, where he lived retired until the end. To him and his wife were born nine children, of whom our subject is the sole survivor.

Oliver P. Johnson was eight years old when the family sought a new home in the primeval wilds of this State, and he grew up under pioneer influences. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-one, and in the meantime became thor-

oughly acquainted with farming in all its branches as carried on in those days, before the introduction of modern machinery. When he attained his majority he went to Galena to work in the lead mines and was employed there nearly three years. In 1836 he took up his residence in La Salle County, and was one of the first settlers in the vicinity of Earlville, his being the first family to locate at the upper end of the grove. The land was all owned by the Government, and had not been surveyed. He made a claim to a tract that pleased him, built a log cabin in the grove, and one year later sold his claim, and went to what is now De Kalb County, locating at Johnson's Grove, two miles east of Shabbona. At that time Shabbona, and his tribe of Indians, who were very friendly to the whites, inhabited the grove, and the Chief was a frequent visitor at Mr. Johnson's house. At that time his nearest neighbors were at Somanank, seven miles distant, and deer, prairie wolves and other wild animals had not yet fled before the advancing steps of civilization.

After a year's residence in De Kalb County, Mr. Johnson came to this county and selected a location in what is now Brooklyn Township, and he has ever since lived here. At the time of his settlement in this township, all the land in Northern Illinois was owned by the Government, the few settlers holding their homes as claims. He developed a large farm, erected a fine set of frame buildings, and his improvements have added greatly to the attractiveness of that section of the township in which his homestead is situated. He rented his farm after occupying it a number of years, and removing to the village of West Brooklyn, has continued to live here in retirement from active business, though still having a general supervision of his affairs. He is a man of business acumen, of practical energy and decision of character, and these traits have made him a valuable helper in the great work that has been wrought in the reclamation of Lee County from its former wild condition.

Mr. Johnson has been fortunate in his domestic relations, as by his marriage, July 13, 1834, to Miss Elizabeth Ross, he secured a wife who, during the fifty-six years that they have lived together, has

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Lafayette M. Ritz



been to him all that that word implies, always ready to help him with wise counsel and cheerful assistance. Five of their six children are living, namely: Joseph, Elizabeth, Charles, Oliver P. and James.

Mrs. Johnson was born in Virginia, March 19, 1813, and is a daughter of Joseph and Jane (Norman) Ross. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania, and was a son of James Ross. He went to Virginia when a young man, and was there married to a young lady who was a Virginian by birth. From there he went to Ohio in 1818, thence to Indiana in 1828, whence he came to Illinois in 1833, and was one of the early settlers of La Salle County. He located first on the banks of Indian Creek, near where the village of Earlville now stands, but three years later he removed to De Kalb County, and became a pioneer of Ross' Grove. Some years later he went to Texas, and spent his last years in that State. Mrs. Johnson's mother died in Virginia in 1815.



**L**AFAYETTE REITZ is connected with the agricultural interests of two counties of Northern Illinois, Lee and Whiteside, having valuable farming property in each, and making his home in the first named on his well ordered farm on section 2, Nachusa Township. As a representative and honored citizen we are pleased to present his portrait and biography. He was born December 3, 1828, on the banks of the beautiful Susquehanna River, in Columbia County, Pa. His parents, John H. and Elizabeth (Fry) Reitz, were natives of Lehigh County, Pa., their parents also being natives of that State, and of Dutch ancestry.

After their marriage in the county where their childhood had been passed, Mr. and Mrs. Reitz established a comfortable home there, and he carried on the trade of a carpenter. After the birth of four of their children, they took up their abode in Columbia County, and a few years later he turned his attention to tilling the soil on the banks of the Susquehanna River, and improved a good farm

upon which his death occurred in 1852, at the age of sixty-eight years. His wife survived him for nearly a quarter of a century, spending her last years in this county, and dying at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Thomas Clayton, in Nelson Township, in 1876, at the age of eighty-eight years. She retained the vigor of her mind and body until the last. Both she and her husband were life-long members of the Lutheran Church, and were very worthy people.

Our subject is the youngest of a family of three sons and five daughters, of whom the only ones now living are himself and three of his sisters: Mrs. Thomas Clayton; Mrs. Benjamin DeFraime, of Dixon; and Mrs. Abraham Detwiler, of Clay County, this State. Lafayette Reitz attained his majority in his native county. In the year 1856 he came Westward to Illinois, as he was convinced that the prospects for acquiring a competency were better in a newly settled country where land was cheap and remarkably fertile, than in the older States where the soil had been tilled by successive generations for many years. He sought a suitable location in Whiteside County, lived one year in Jordan Township, then spent three or four years in Lee County, but subsequently returned to Whiteside County in 1860, and bought a tract of land in Geneseo Township.

By the exercise of unremitting toil, Mr. Reitz placed his land under good cultivation, obtaining abundant harvests from its two hundred and six acres, and putting up good buildings, besides making other admirable improvements. He lived upon it nearly twenty years, but in 1881 removed to his homestead in Nachusa Township, which is an eighty-acre farm complete in all its appointments, and a very pleasant place of residence. He is one of our self-made men and has accumulated a fortune since he became a resident of the State, his business methods, foresight, and close attention to his affairs contributing to this end. He is well known in both Whiteside and Lee Counties, and bears a high reputation among his acquaintances for personal worth and good citizenship. He has mingled much in the local public life of his community, and has held all the township offices. In politics he is a straightforward Republican. In

their religious associations both he and his wife were identified with the Lutheran Church for many years, but now attend the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In the early years of his manhood, Mr. Reitz was married in his native county to Miss Abby Meuseh, their union taking place in September, 1853. She was born April 7, 1834, in the same county as her husband. Her parents, John and Catherinc (Heim-bauch) Mensch, were life-long residents of that county, living to be very old, Mr. Mensch being ninety years of age when he died. They were members of the Lutheran Church. Of their nine children, all of whom married, two sons and three daughters are yet living. Mrs. Reitz came to Illinois with her husband, aided him in getting a good start in life, and died in their home in Genesee Township in 1873, when nearly forty years old. She was a member of the Lutheran Church, and was very highly regarded for her many virtues. She was the mother of eleven children, of whom these four died young: William O., Harriet E., Cora J. and C. Elmer. The surviving children are Anna E., wife of Jacob Winters, of Sterling; John L., who married Miss Lizzie Meyers, and resides on his father's Whiteside County farm; Mary M., wife of Homer Drinkwater, of Chicago; S. Alice, wife of Charles Minning, of Lincoln, Neb.; Joseph E., a farmer in Nachusa Township, who married Miss Ada H. Heckman; Lavina K., wife of George Garrison, a farmer in Nachusa Township; and Edward L., who assists his father in the management of his farm.

Mr. Reitz was a second time married July 1, 1875, in Hopkins Township, Whiteside County, Miss Sophia Seidle becoming his wife. Their marriage has been blessed to them by one son, Frank A. W., who is at home with them. Mrs. Reitz was born in Kline Klopa, Wurtemberg, Germany, March 28, 1848, and is a daughter of John G. and Barbara (Waggoner) Seidle, who were also natives of Wurtemberg, and of the old German stock. After their marriage at Sieventing, where they lived on a farm until the birth of eleven children, they came with their family to America in 1853. They landed at Baltimore, Md., forty-eight days after they left Bremerhaven, and from there proceeded

to Columbus, Ohio, and began their new life in that country on a farm six miles from that city. In the fall of 1860 they came thence to Illinois, and in 1864 located on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Hopkins Township.

Tu 1875 Mr. and Mrs. Seidle retired to Sterling, and there both died, the former in 1885, and the latter in 1883, aged respectively seventy-eight and sixty-eight years. They were members of the Evangelical Association, were prominent in their community, and had many friends in Sterling and in Whiteside County generally. Mrs. Reitz was well trained for her present position in the home of her parents, with whom she remained until her marriage. She makes a good wife and mother, and her neighbors always find her kind and pleasant. She is one of eleven children, all of whom are living, and all but two are married.



**J**OHIN M. GARDNER, who has been a resident on section 5, Lee Center Township, this county, for over twenty-five years, and who for the past fourteen years has served as Supervisor of the township, is well and favorably known throughout the community. His father, the late John H. Gardner, was born near Troy, N. Y. His mother, whose name was Melvina Bixby, was a native of New England. This couple emigrated to Illinois in 1844 from Steuben County, N. Y., and settled in what is now Amboy Township, where the mother died in 1849. The father spent the latter years of his life in Lee Center Township, his decease occurring in 1871. They were the parents of six children, our subject being the second in order of birth.

John M. Gardner was born in Hornby, Steuben County, N. Y., January 26, 1841. He was but three years old when his parents removed to Lee County, and, after a residence of six years in Amboy Township, came with them to Lee Center Township, where he was educated in the common schools, and reared to manhood upon the home farm. He was married in this township, October 28, 1868, to Miss Alice L. Clapp, daughter of E. L. Clapp, also resi-

dents of this township. Her mother's maiden name was Catherine Bull, for a history of whom see sketch of E. L. Clapp. Mrs. Gardner was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., November 1, 1845. Mr. Gardner is a member of the Republican party, although he has never taken a very active part in political affairs. The confidence which his fellow-citizens repose in him, is, however, shown by the fact that he has held the office of Township Clerk for three years, was Treasurer of the township for twenty-four years, and, as already stated, has been Supervisor of Lee Center Township for fourteen terms. He is a man who is liberal in his religious views. Mr. Gardner has always followed the occupation of a farmer, and owns a fine tract of one hundred and seventy-eight acres, on which he has placed good improvements and where he lives a retired life.



**C**HARLES W. SEYBERT, whose business is that of a dairyman and general farmer, is the proprietor of one of the best equipped farms in all South Dixon Township, finely located on sections 7 and 8. Mr. Seybert is of Pennsylvania birth, born in Luzerne County January 17, 1848, and he is the third son and fifth child of Wallace Seybert, a well-known wealthy farmer of this part of Illinois, now living in retirement in his pleasant home on West First Street, Dixon, where he and his good wife, whose maiden name was Desire Hill, are serenely passing the sunset of life in the enjoyment of the fruit of their early labors. They were born in the grand old State of Pennsylvania seventy-five and seventy-three years ago, respectively, and their parents were also natives of that Commonwealth, but came of German families that had settled there in Colonial times.

After marriage and the birth of all their children but one, Mr. and Mrs. Seybert came to this State in the spring of 1862, and made their home on an unbroken farm of two hundred and twenty-five acres in South Dixon Township. At first Mr. Seybert rented land for a time, and then bought property as his means increased, and he ultimately became one of the wealthy men of the county and

the proprietor of twelve hundred acres of valuable real estate. He and his wife continued to live on their farm until 1888, when they retired to their present home in Dixon. Mr. Seybert has not only played an important part in the rebuilding of this section, but he has been conspicuous in local public life, and has held nearly all the township offices of South Dixon. He is sound and true in his political faith, which is in accordance with the principles announced by the Democratic party. Religiously, he and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church.

Although the greater part of the life of our subject has been passed in Lee County, he spent his first fourteen years near Beach Haven in the State of his birth. He had an excellent opportunity to become thoroughly conversant with agriculture in all its branches while assisting his father in his extensive operations. For fourteen years he has lived on his present farm, and in that time has wrought a great change in its condition by the extensive and valuable improvements that he has made upon it, including a fine and well-fitted up set of farm buildings, all built by himself. His residence is of a neat and tasty design, and is of ample proportions; and he has recently erected a large and roomy barn, 48x84 feet in dimensions, and provided with all the modern conveniences, including a windmill of sufficient power for grinding and shelling corn, pumping water, etc. The farm comprises a quarter of a section of land that is exceedingly fertile, and its rich pastures afford support for a fine herd of milch cows for dairy purposes, as well as giving feed to a considerable quantity of other well-graded stock.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Carrie Campbell took place in the city of Dixon. It has been a felicitous union, and has brought them four children: Charles Wallace, Wilbert W., Hazelton W. and Emma M. Mrs. Seybert is a native of Massachusetts, born in that State in 1855, and was a child when her parents, Sylvanus and Almyra (Cook) Campbell, came to Illinois. She received a good education in the city schools of Dixon, and is a bright and capable woman. Both she and her husband are highly thought of in their community as people of fine character, generous and right-

mind, and true to all the obligations of life. In his political affiliations, Mr. Seybert is a Democrat.

Mrs. Seybert's father was born in Connecticut of New England parents, who traced their descent from Scottish ancestry. He early learned the trade of a blacksmith, and when a young man went to Massachusetts to engage in it, and there he met his wife, who was born and reared in the old Bay State. They lived there until after the birth of five of their seven children, of whom Mrs. Seybert is the fourth, all still living, and five of them married, and then they came to Illinois. They have since lived in Dixon and are well known and greatly respected. He still carries on his calling as a blacksmith, and has acquired a comfortable property. He has a mind of his own, is positive in his opinions, and is independent in religion and in politics. Mrs. Campbell is a Baptist in her religious belief.



**W**ILL D. DREW is a fine representative of the young farmers, native to the soil, who within the last decade have put new life into the agricultural industries of Lee County. He is well equipped for his work as a general farmer, stock-raiser and dairyman, as he has inherited from his father's estate a finely improved farm of one hundred and forty-seven acres in Dixon Township, nearly all of which is under the plow. A fine set of buildings adorns the place and it is well stocked with cattle and other domestic animals, the cows being of the best breed for dairy use, our subject paying much attention to that branch of business.

Mr. Drew was born in the city of Dixon, July 6, 1862, and received an excellent training from the hands of his father and mother, besides being very well educated in the public schools. He entered upon his independent career as a farmer at an early period, and from the start has evinced a decided capability of managing his farming interests in a practical and skillful manner, so as to make every step count and to derive a good profit from

his operations. He is farming on the old homestead that formerly belonged to his father in 1884, and maintains it at the same high standard for which it was formerly noted. He bears a high reputation for morality and rectitude of character among the people who have known him and watched his course from childhood. In him the Republican party has a true follower. Religiously he and his wife adhere to the faith to which his father clung.

Our subject was married in Dixon Township to Miss Mabel Prescott. She was a native of this place, born September 19, 1872, but was mostly reared and educated in Manson, Iowa, whither her parents, Hollis and Nancy (Williams) Prescott, removed when she was young. They subsequently returned to Illinois, and are now residents of Dixon Township.

Our subject is the son of the late Alvah D. Drew, who was a man of prominence, and in his death the county met with a serious loss. He was born in Maine, as was his father, John Drew, who was of American parentage and Scotch-Irish ancestry. John Drew was drowned when in the prime of life by falling, in the darkness of night, through a bridge that was undergoing repairs. His wife bore the maiden name of Jemima Eaton, and she was likewise born in Maine, coming of a family that dates its history back to the pilgrims that came over in the "Mayflower." She came to Illinois after the death of her husband and died in Dixon, when past eighty years old. She was religiously inclined and was a member of the Baptist Church.

Alvah D. Drew was only three years of age when his father was drowned and he was reared and educated by his mother. He was eighteen years of age when he turned his back on his old New England home to try his life in the West. He came to Illinois, and from here went to Missouri, whence he soon returned to this State, and for a time resided in Chicago. Meeting with his brother Henry unexpectedly, they came together to this county.

Mr. Drew was of an inventive nature, and, with his brothers, Henry and Seth, patented several valuable inventions, including a one-seamed boot and a gaiter, the latter belonging entirely to himself.

He decided to travel around the country to sell his useful invention. He had spent all his money, with the exception of the trivial sum of forty cents which he gave to his wife, in the perfecting of his invention, and had to start out on his travels in a shabby state. He made the best of the situation, repairing his tattered garments, and coloring the light and worn spots, and entered upon his new work with energy. He deservedly met with success in introducing his gaiter to the public, acquiring a comfortable fortune during the six years that he was on the road.

With the money thus made, Mr. Drew purchased a good property in this county, in Dixon Township, and settled down to the life of a farmer. He prosecuted his calling with the same vigor and pertinacity that had always characterized his work in whatever he was engaged, developed his land into a fine farm upon which he placed substantial improvements, and showed himself to be an enlightened farmer. His homestead, which is now in possession of his son, of whom we write, was the scene of his death, August 15, 1884, when he was only forty-nine years of age, his birth having taken place March 29, 1835. His township was thus deprived of the services of one who had been potent in its upbuilding and influential in all that pertained to its social and moral well-being. He was of an earnest, religious nature. In politics, he was a Republican.

Mr. Drew was married at Dixon, to Miss Augusta Andrews, who survives him and is a resident of that city. She is fifty-one years of age, having been born in Connecticut, May 27, 1840. Her early years were passed in her New England home, whence she came, after attaining womanhood, to Dixon, where an older married sister was living. Her parents were Ives and Silva (Bartholemew) Andrews, who were natives of Connecticut, where they spent the most of their lives, coming here when old people and dying at Dixon, aged respectively seventy-two and sixty-five years. Mrs. Drew is the mother of six children, of whom our subject is the eldest, and all are living, but Omar, who died when twenty-six years of age. He married Miss Mary Murphy, but their wedded life was very brief, as he died in less than five months after the

date of their marriage. The other children, besides our subject are: Emma L., wife of John Kelley, a resident of Chicago and foreman of a shoe factory at De Kalb; Bertha A.; E. Fred, who works in the plow shops at Dixou, and Meroy E., the three latter at home with their mother.



**G**EORGE C. WITHEY is a well known citizen of China Towship, who is engaged in farming. He is of New England birth and antecedents, born in the grand old State of Maine, in Franklin County, September 22, 1838. His father, Ezra Withey, was born in that State October 22, 1814. He married Abigail Bradbury, who was likewise a native of the Pine Tree State, born in the town of Starks in August, 1812. They began their wedded life in the State of their birth, but in 1846, being then in the full vigor and prime of life, they determined to brave the hardships to be encountered in a newly settled country, and coming to Illinois, they east in their lot with the few pioneer settlers of China Township who had preceded them, locating on section 22. There, by their united labors, they built up a comfortable home, in which they lived until the autumn of 1883, when they retired from active life to Franklin Grove, where they now reside at an advanced age, enjoying the respect and friendship of all about them. These are the names of their five children: George C., Abigail, Mary Ann, Eliza Jane and John.

The subject of this biographical review has passed the greater part of his life in this county, as he was but eight years old when the family came here. He was reared on the parental homestead, under the pioneer influences that prevailed during his youth in these parts, and received a good training as a farmer. He made his home with his father and mother until he left them for one of his own at the time of his marriage with Miss Barbara Lawver, to whom he was wedded in Ogle County, May 21, 1868. Mrs. Withey is a daughter of Henry and Naney (Heath) Lawver, of Grand Detour, Ogle County, and was born in Knox

County, Ohio, January 2, 1850. Contentment and happiness have been the portion of our subject and his wife in the years they have passed together, and are the sign and seal of a true married life, wherein each has faithfully contributed to the well-being of the other, and both have fulfilled their obligations as parents and their duties toward their neighbors. Their pleasant household is completed by their four children, whose names are Ezra, Grace, Henry and Clara.

Mr. Withey has always been engaged in farming, and has one hundred and twenty acres of land of excellent fertility, and under a high state of cultivation. He is well versed in the principles of agriculture, employs the best modern methods of tilling the soil, and derives a comfortable income from his harvests and from his stock. He is a sensible well-informed man, irrefragable in his habits; frank, manly and straightforward in his character; just, kindly and considerate in his dealings and intercourse with others, and these traits place him high in the regard of his fellow-citizens. As a loyal citizen should, he takes a fairly active part in politics, throwing the weight of his influence in favor of the Republican party, of which he has been a devoted adherent for many years. He interests himself in whatever concerns the welfare of his adopted township, and as a School Director has done what he could to raise the standard of education in this locality.



**J**OHAN SEEBACH is a fine representative of the German element that has played such a conspicuous part in the upbuilding of the Northwest, and he is one of Lee County's most worthy farmers and stock-raisers. His finely equipped farm on section 25, China Township, is a valuable piece of property, and ranks with the best in this section as to productiveness and improvements.

Mr. Seebach was born December 30, 1836, in Hensen-Luterbach, Germany, where he passed his early years. But much of his life has been spent in America, within the borders of this county, as

when he was nineteen years old, he boldly set out for the New World, a stout heart, a clear head and industrious habits his only passport to success in the busy life that lay before him in a strange country before he could acquire a competency and build up a home. He landed in New York, and came directly from that city to Lee County. That was in the year 1855, and he found that there was still a great deal of pioneer work to be performed before the land could be properly developed into well-improved farms. Skillful and reliable laborers were in demand, and he obtained employment as a farm-hand, and for two years worked out by the month in China and Amboy Townships. At the expiration of that time, he became more independent, and began agricultural operations on his own account, renting land near Lee Centre the following five years. He was prudent and wisely economical, and he then invested his money in a farm in Bradford Township. He lived upon that for six years and then sold it at a good profit. He put the proceeds into his present farm on section 25, China Township, and has here one hundred and eighty-four acres of as fine farming land as there is under cultivation in the township. He has erected a first-class set of buildings, has provided himself with good modern machinery for farming purposes; his fields are under the best of tillage; his pastures are stocked to their fullest capacity with cattle of good grades, and he is managing his interests so as to make money, he being one of the solid men of his community.

Our subject has been greatly aided and encouraged in his work, and in the making of a cozy home, by one of the best of wives, to whom he was married in China Township, April 22, 1858. They have been blessed with eight children, namely: Conrad; Katie F., wife of Augustus Schaffer; Catherine E., John S., Christine, Charles, Anna B., and Anna Martha Elizabeth. Mrs. Seebach, who bore the maiden name of Catherine Weishaar, is a sister of E. Weishaar, of Ashton, whose biography appears elsewhere in this book. She is likewise a native of Luterbach, Germany, born April 25, 1839. She was about nineteen years old when she came to this country.

Mr. Seebach merits and receives the respect due

to him as an upright Christian gentleman, who is faithful to his obligations in all the relations of life that he bears toward others, and is loyal in his citizenship to his adopted country. He is a steadfast Republican in his politics; and religiously, both he and his wife are valued members of the Evangelical Association.



**F**RANK M. COE, an intelligent farmer and respected citizen, was born on the farm where he yet resides on section 21, Palmyra Township. His birth occurred May 16, 1852, and the family of which he is a worthy representative is numbered among the pioneers of the county. His father, Frederick W. Coe, was born in Rochester, N. Y., January 25, 1813, and was a son of Malby Coe, a native of Connecticut, of English descent. The grandfather was married in the Empire State to Miss Mary Miles, who, like himself, was born in Connecticut and came of a family of English origin. The year 1835 witnessed their emigration to the West, they locating in Jordan Township, Whiteside County, where Mr. Coe followed farming until his death in 1849, when more than seventy years of age. He was a Presbyterian in religious belief and a good and faithful citizen. His wife survived him some years and died on the old homestead in 1855, at an advanced age. She, too, was a Presbyterian and a lady of many excellencies of character. In the family were twelve children, namely: Lucy, Simeon, George, Frederick, Henry, Albert, Decius, Jonathan, Adeline, Marcus, Ann and Mortimer. Of these, three sons and a daughter are yet residents of Whiteside County, all living upon farms.

On the 30th of June, 1836, Fred W. Coe was united in marriage with Miss Phoebe A. Rogers, and in the following September they started for Illinois, arriving in this county on the 20th of the month. The lady was born in Prince Edward County, in the Province of Ontario, Canada, August 5, 1812, and was a daughter of Gilbert and Nancy Rogers, natives of Connecticut, the former born September 20, 1771, and the latter January

12, 1777. They both died in Ontario, Mr. Rogers passing away July 30, 1817, while his wife survived until September 16, 1850. They were honest farming people and were members of the Society of Friends, under whose auspices Mrs. Coe was reared. She lost her parents when she was young and at the age of twenty went to New York, where she met and married Mr. Coe. They began their domestic life upon the farm which he purchased in this county and lived in true pioneer style. The claim entered by the father of our subject was all raw prairie, but by his labors was transformed into a fertile and fruitful farm. Mr. Coe was a hard-working man and while plowing died of heart disease October 24, 1870. By all he was recognized as one of the prominent early settlers whose worth and ability won him the esteem of those with whom he came in contact. His wife, an intelligent and cultured lady, who had many warm friends in this community, died at the home of our subject April 7, 1889. They were the parents of six children: Caroline A., born August 20, 1837, is now the wife of George G. Sills; Henry A., born May 31, 1839, died July 21, 1840; Addie, born July 16, 1842, became the wife of Arthur Chase, who is now deceased, and her death occurred March 16, 1871; Helen G., born February 17, 1845, died April 3, 1848; and Emily, born July 16, 1848, died August 15, of the same year.

The youngest of the family is our subject, who in the usual manner of farmer lads was reared to manhood. His early education, acquired in the public schools, was supplemented by a course in Cornell College of Iowa. He led to the marriage altar, in Palmyra Township, Miss Zett E. Williams, who was born in Columbia County, Pa., June 23, 1858. Her parents were Mark and Elizabeth (Hoagland) Williams, who emigrated to Illinois when she was quite young and located on a farm in Palmyra Township, where they yet make their home. The death of Mrs. Coe occurred July 9, 1889, and was sincerely mourned by many friends as well as her immediate family. She was a member of the Methodist Church, and left one child, Glen F., born February 4, 1885.

The farm which Mr. Coe owns and which for fifty-six years has been in possession of the family,

is a valuable tract of land of two hundred and eight acres, situated on the north side of Sugar Grove. Its neat appearance indicates the thrift and enterprise of the owner, who is ranked among the leading agriculturists of the community. He is also a prominent citizen and takes quite an active part in political affairs, being a staunch supporter of Republican principles. He attends the conventions of his party, and is now serving his second term as the efficient Supervisor. Genial by nature, he has a keen appreciation of the humorous and is an entertaining companion who easily wins friends.



**T**HOMAS HARPER is one of the leading farmers of Wyoming Township, where his farming interests are centered, and he is known throughout Lee County as a successful breeder of Pereheron and trotting horses. He is a native of this section of the State, born in Paw Paw Township, De Kalb County, June 28, 1853, a son of William Harper, who was a pioneer of Northern Illinois, and during his life one of its most prosperous agriculturists.

The father of our subject was born in Cuyahoga County, N. Y., and was a son of Robert Harper. The latter was born and reared in Ireland, and emigrating to America, settled in the State of New York. He was a carpenter all his life, and spent his last days in Cuyahoga County. William Harper grew to man's estate in his native county, and was there married to Jane, daughter of John and Jane (Irwin) Kirk, and a native of that county. These are the five children born of that marriage: Mary J., William, Thomas, James and John. William is dead. In 1847 the parents of our subject left their old home to found a home in the wilds of the Prairie State, as Mr. Harper was convinced that a thrifty, wide-awake, skillful farmer ought to reap a rich reward in payment of care and labor spent in cultivating its fertile virgin soil. The momentous journey was made on the canal to Buffalo, thence by the lakes to Chi-

eago, and from that city a ride with a farmer brought him to this part of the State. He bought a tract of Government land in De Kalb County, containing eighty acres, and on it he built the humble log house that was the birthplace of our subject. At that time the surrounding country was but little inhabited, and Chicago was the principal market for some years before the introduction of railways. Mr. Harper was exceedingly prosperous in all his undertakings, accumulated property rapidly, and bought other land, so that in all he had seven hundred and forty acres of well-improved land at the time of his death, and was one of the rich men of the county. He erected good buildings, and his land was placed in a high state of cultivation, making his farm one of the most valuable in the township. He died July 6, 1882, thus closing a career that had been honorable alike to himself and his community, and his work as a pioneer will never be forgotten, so helpful was he in developing the agricultural resources of the country. His wife survives him, and still resides on the old homestead, in the home that she aided him to make.

Thomas Harper, to whom these lines principally refer, was educated in the schools of Paw Paw Township, where he grew to manhood under good home influences. He acquired a good knowledge of farming while a mere boy, as he was early taught to make himself useful on his father's farm, and that experience has profited him much since he began his independent career as a farmer, as he learned to shape his fortunes by the use of sound, sensible and systematic methods of carrying on his work. He continued to be a member of the parental household until his marriage, when he settled on a farm at Ross Grove. He made that his home until 1884, and then bought the farm which is his present place of residence in Wyoming Township.

Mr. Harper's farm is well adapted to stock-raising purposes, to which he partly devotes it. He has an inherent love for the horse, understands well how to handle it, is quick to note its good points, and has a sharp eye for its failings. Since 1878, he has made a specialty of raising horses, buying in that year a Pereheron stallion and two Pereheron mares, and in 1883 he commenced



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Mary P. DeWolf

breeding and training road horses. He now has some of the finest Percherons and roadsters in the county. He is the owner of the famous trotting stallion, "Roderick," by "Mark Field," the son of "Veritas," whose record is 2:18; and a grandson of "George Wilkes," dam by "Hamlet, Jr.," registered number 161, and he by "Volunteer." Mr. Harper has also three standard brood mares, besides several other valuable blooded animals. His horses are highly prized in this section, always command a good price, and find a ready market whenever offered for sale, for all who know our subject concede that whoever makes a deal with him is sure to get a well-trained, well-broken horse, sound of wind and limb, and with no concealed defects, as Mr. Harper is not only too watchful of his reputation, but loves a horse too well to let one go from his stable misrepresented.

Mr. Harper has been twice married. His union with Miss Catherine Santee, a native of Grand Detour, Ogle County, took place May 1, 1876. She died January 16, 1885, leaving two children, Gracie and Bennie. The second marriage of our subject was solemnized February 10, 1887, and was with Cora A. Mead, a native of Wyoming Township, and a daughter of Riley and Rachel Mead. In their pleasant home one son and one daughter have been born to them, whom they have named Arthur and Bertha.



**M**RS. MARY P. DEWOLF. This lady, who resides on section 5, Lee Center Township, has spent the last forty years in this Township and is well known and highly esteemed for her many excellent traits of character. She is a public-spirited woman, interested in all that tends to the welfare of the community and is noted for her great liberality in behalf of education and other worthy objects. It is with pleasure that we present to her many friends in the county her portrait and the following sketch of her life.

Isaac Pomeroy, the father of Mrs. DeWolf, was a native of New Ashford, Berkshire County, Mass. Her mother, whose maiden name was Ruth Crane,

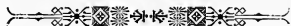
was the first white child born in Erie County, Pa. After their marriage the young couple settled in Conneaut Township, Erie County, Pa., where the father carried on farming, their death taking place on the same farm on which they first settled. Their family consisted of nine children, two sons and seven daughters, named as follows: Alden, Mary, Laura, Clarinda, Hannah, Eliza, Sarah, Luey E. and Isaac J.

Mary, who is the eldest daughter, was born in Conneaut Township, Erie County, Pa., July 7, 1821, where she grew to womanhood. She was there married June 14, 1840, to Alvah B. DeWolf. He was a son of Dorastus and Eliza (Coe) DeWolf, who were natives of New England and were married in Cortland County, N. Y., settling in Conneaut Township, Erie County, Pa. In 1851 they removed to Lee County, Ill.; and located in Inlet Grove, Lee Center Township, where they died.

They reared a family of twelve children, of whom Alvah was the youngest son. He was born in Virgil, Cortland County, N. Y., September 15, 1815. He remained with his parents in Conneaut Township, until after his marriage and in 1851 removed to this county, settling in Lee Center Township, where he continued to reside until his death, April 16, 1887. He was an energetic, enterprising business man, who took an active part in all local affairs and held the office of Supervisor of his Township for several terms. He followed the occupation of a farmer throughout life and accumulated a good property, being at the time of his death the owner of about five hundred acres. This he had highly improved and had erected a line of comfortable buildings upon his farm. He was a member of the Free-will Baptist Church, and was highly esteemed as an upright, honorable man.

Mrs. DeWolf is a lady of intelligence and refinement and has manifested her great interest in the cause of education by her liberal gifts to various institutions of learning. To Hillsdale College, Mich., she has given \$16,000, endowing a Professorship in Theology; to Storer College at Harper's Ferry, Va., \$3000; to Parker College at Winnebago, Minn., \$2000; and to Rochester Seminary, at Rochester, Wis., \$200. She has made other val-

uable bequests to relatives and friends and in all has given away \$62,000. Mrs. DeWolf is an active member and supporter of the Free will Baptist Church. She has a delightful home in which she hospitably entertains her many friends and her memory will be cherished many years after she has passed from earth, by those who have been the recipients of her bounty.



**W**ILLIAM H. HAUSEN, of China Township, is associated with the rise and growth of Lee County as one of its honored pioneers who made the first improvements in this section, and has long been one of its foremost farmers and stock-raisers. He is of New England birth and training, born in the town of Bremen, Lincoln County, Me., August 25, 1816. His father, Charles Hausen, was born in that county in the town of Friendship, and he married Jane Hilton, also a native of Lincoln County. They spent several years of their married life in that vicinity and then moved to near Bangor, Me., where they spent some ten or twelve years, but in 1840 abandoned their Eastern home to found a new one in what was to them the far-distant State of Illinois. They came hither in the fall of the year and located in China Township on the farm that is owned and occupied by our subject, on section 2, a little way from Franklin Grove. They were among the first to settle here, and here they passed their declining years until death separated them, the father dying in the spring of 1859. After his demise the mother remained on the old home and died there in 1878 at a venerable age.

Our subject was the eldest of eleven children. When he was ten years old, his parents removed from his native county to Penobscot County, in the same State, and he remained there with them until 1838. He then started out in the world to see what life held for him in the wide West. He and his brother Harrison and another man left home September 4, 1838, and after making some stops in Michigan and elsewhere they arrived in this county in October. They bought claims to a

section and a half of land, and on the farm on section 2, China Township, on which our subject lives, the first improvements were made in this part of the county.

Fifty years and more have passed by since that October day when Mr. Hausen first set foot on these prairies where he has so firmly established himself, that were then in their virgin state, as wild and lonely as when they were the hunting grounds of the Indians, but which to-day are teeming with life and every evidence of an advanced civilization, and in this year of grace, 1891, have yielded such remarkable harvests of grain and other products of the earth that will bring in untold sums of money to the fortunate tillers of the soil, and mayhap shall help to feed the starving millions across the water. That he has had a hand in bringing about this wonderful change that has converted a wilderness into a highly developed farming region, where, also, the sister industries of commerce and manufacture, that follow in the wake of agriculture, flourish, may well be the pride of our subject. He has made a good use of the advantages afforded to an intelligent, wide-awake, diligent farmer by the unsurpassed fertility of the soil, etc., of this part of the country, during the half-century that he has lived and labored here, and now has a fine estate of four hundred acres of land in Lee County, two hundred acres in Nachusa and the remainder in China Township, besides other property. He has devoted his energies not only to farming and stock-raising, but has given especial attention to fruit-growing, and derives a handsome revenue from this source.

Mr. Hausen was married, in Nachusa Township in October, 1850, to Mrs. Julia Felker, *nee* Stergy, widow of Mark Felker. Mrs. Hausen is a native of Maine. She came to this State with her husband, who was a pioneer of this county. His useful career was terminated by his untimely death within a year or two after settling here. Her married life with our subject has been spent on the same farm in China Township, and she, by her capable co-operation, has contributed in no small degree to his good fortune.

Our subject has reached and passed the milestone that marks a busy life of three-quarters of a cent-

ury, and the record thereof shows him to be a man of many fine traits of character, who never willfully wrongs another, is true in his friendships, never allows a desire to acquire wealth to shut out his strict ideas of justice and honesty, or make him less geuerous, warm-hearted and neighborly in his intercourse with the people among whom his lot has been cast since early manhood, and who reverc and trust him. Resolution, sagacity, business thrift and forethought are his leading characteristics, and by these he has achieved success. Whatever concerns the township and county of his adoption has always been of great interest to him, and he has been ready at all times to help push forward public improvements, and in his capacity of Highway Commissioner, which office he has held for many years, he has been especially useful in that direction. He is socially identified with the Blue Lodge of Masons at Franklin Grove, and with the Nathan Whitney Chapter, No. 129. He has a broad outlook on life, is a Democrat in politics, and in religion is liberal in his views.



**H**ENRY BOTHE is a general farmer and stock-raiser, and owns and successfully manages a farm on section 19, Nachusa Township, which is stocked to its full capacity with cattle, horses and swine of good breeds; its one hundred and thirty-two acres are under the best of cultivation, and a substantial and well made class of buildings adorn the place. A foreigner by birth, our subject, nevertheless, like many other of his countrymen, was found in the ranks of the Union army during the late war, and he fought gallantly for the land of his adoption until failing health obliged him to abandon military life.

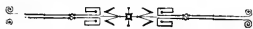
Our subject was born in Prussia, near Minden, December 26, 1840. He lived there until he was eighteen years old, and then, in 1859, came to America with his mother and two sisters, crossing the ocean from Bremerhaven to Baltimore, where they joined the father, Frederick Bothe, who had

come to this country ten years before, and had lived in the South some time. After the reunion of the family, they came to Illinois and located on a farm in Nachusa Township. The father was a hard-working man, and, by unremitting toil, got a good start in life and made many valuable improvements on his place, continuing its development until death stayed his hand, in 1873, at the age of fifty-seven years. His wife is yet living on the old homestead, and is now seventy-five years of age. She has always been connected with the Lutheran Church, and is still a faithful member. Her son, of whom we write, and her daughter, Christina, are the only members of the family now living. The latter is the wife of John Hollister, a grain-dealer in Fillmore County, Neb.

Henry Bothe did not attain his majority until after he came to this country, and he was not of age when he enlisted, September 9, 1861, in Company B, Twelfth Illinois Infantry, which was attached to the Army of the Tennessee. Our subject served one year with great credit to himself and to his regiment, showing excellent qualities as a soldier and winning the approval of his superiors for his fidelity, courage in battle, and general trustworthiness. He won a good record for hard fighting at Ft. Donelson, but that experience ended his career in the army, as he became ill from exposure and fatigue endured on a forced march, which resulted in his honorable discharge, September 8, 1862, as unfit for future service. He returned to Illinois, and, although he regained his health in part, he has never been so well since. As soon as he was able, he resumed farming, and, in 1878, he became possessed of his present farm in Nachusa Township. He is an intelligent farmer, having a good understanding of the best methods of tilling the soil, and knows well how to care for his stock, which is the source of a good income, and he keeps his place up to a high standard. His neighbors esteem him greatly, having a just appreciation of those meritorious qualities that mark him as a loyal citizen, a trusty friend, and true in his domestic relations as a kind husband and tender father. In politics, he is a tried and true Republican. Religiously, he, and his wife, also, are members of the Evangelical Church.

The marriage of Mr. Bothe with Miss Catherine Hotzel took place in Bradford Township, September 4, 1864. Mrs. Bothe was born in Germany, in Hesse-Cassel, in 1843, a daughter of Conrad and Anna E. Hotzel. She was only three years old when her parents emigrated to America, and became pioneers of this county, being among the early settlers of China Township, where the father improved a new farm, which was his home until his death, in middle life. His wife is yet living on the old homestead, and is seventy-five years old. He was a Lutheran, and clung to the faith of his fathers until death, but she has been a faithful member of the Evangelical Association for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Bothe are the parents of ten children, of whom one, Carolina, a twin, died when six days old. The others are William, at home; Elizabeth, wife of J. Conrad Seebach, a farmer at Dysart, Iowa; John, who lives with his grandmother in this township, and manages her farm; Christian, Minnie, Alvina, Kate, Lillie and Henry, who are at home with their parents.



**S**ILAS H. SHIPPEE. The sturdy stock that peopled the hills and valleys of New England has to-day many a representative on the prairies of Illinois, and our subject is one of these. He has been a citizen of Lee County these many years, and has rendered invaluable aid in reclaiming it from the wilderness by putting under a high state of cultivation an extensive farm in Reynolds Township, and placing upon it good modern improvements.

Silas H. Shippee was born in the town of Readsboro, Bennington County, Vt., July 18, 1828. His father, Christopher Shippee, was a native of the town of Charlemont, Mass., while his father, who bore the same name as himself, is thought to have been born in Rhode Island. He was one of the famous "Minute Men" of the Revolution, and did gallant service for his country during his four years of faithful service in the Colonial Army when that war was raging. He was paid in Con-

tinental scrip, which so depreciated in value that it is told that he gave fifty dollars for a night's lodging, supper and breakfast. He with four other families made the first settlement in the town of Charlemont among the hills of Western Massachusetts, where he secured a tract of land on which the trees of the primeval forest of that region were still standing, and wild game—deer, bears and other wild animals—was common in the vicinity. He cleared quite a tract of land, and, as the force of circumstances made it necessary in those old pioneer days, lived off the products of his farm to a great extent. He was a man of fine physique, and retained so much of his early vigor in his old age that when he was eighty-six years old he walked to Readsboro, a distance of sixteen miles, and carried his musket. He died at the home of the father of our subject a year later.

Christopher Shippee, Jr., was reared in his native town, and before marriage bought a tract of land in Whittingham, Windham County, Vt., which he soon traded for land in Readsboro. He settled thereon at the time of marriage, and that was his home for many a long year, until death sealed his eyes in 1886, at the advanced age of ninety-four years, and to the last few days of his life he was hale and hearty. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Johanna Jillson. She was born in New Hampshire, a daughter of David and Johanna (Cudworth) Jillson, and she died while yet in life's prime at the age of forty-two years.

Silas Shippee passed his boyhood amid the pleasant scenes of his birth, and was educated in the local schools. On his father's farm he gained an experience in farming that was helpful to him in his after career as an independent farmer. He also knew something of pioneer life in his youth, before the introduction of railways into the part of the country where he lived. North Adams, twelve miles from his home, was the nearest market, but once each year the farmers went to Troy, sixty miles distant, to buy a stock of supplies.

Our subject resided with his father until he was twenty-six, assisting him in the labors of the farm, and then came to Illinois, where he thought the chances were better for a wide-awake young man to gain a competence than in his own native State.

For two years he lived near Aurora, and after that Sugar Grove was his place of residence one season. He then traded for a quarter section of land in Reynolds Township, which is included in the farm upon which he lives. Eighty-six acres of the land were broken, but there were no fences or buildings, and his first work was to supply these deficiencies, and in the course of years he has wrought a great change, and has his place in a finely improved condition. When he began his building operations he bought the lumber in Chicago and had it shipped to Lane Station, as Rochelle was then called. He has erected a commodious, comfortable dwelling, a substantial barn and other outhouses for cattle and grain storage, has his farm well supplied with good machinery, and has it stocked with cattle, horses and swine of choice breeds. He has added to his original purchase of land, and has now four hundred acres of good farming land, all under admirable cultivation. He has not become prosperous without the struggles incidental to pioneer life, but he was strong both mentally and physically, and has in a full degree that decision of character that marks our self-made men, to which class he may justly claim to belong, and he was well able to cope with the hardships and trials that he had to confront in the early years of his settlement here. He had to labor hard to place his land under cultivation, and in those days before the war the markets were poor, so that his harvests scarcely paid for the care and time expended upon them. One year farm products were very low priced, and he sold his corn at the rate of ten cents a bushel, after paying two and one-half cents to have it shelled. When times changed for the better, as far as higher prices and greater demand for food supplies were concerned, he was quick to take advantage of the markets, and in due time, as we have seen, became possessed of a goodly amount of property. He is not only one of the most substantial citizens of his township, but he is a man who is held in universal respect for his true manliness and upright bearing in all the relations that he sustains towards others.

While still a resident of his native State, Mr. Shippee contracted a marriage in his early manhood with Miss Phiann Millard, their wedding taking

place January 1, 1854. They have seven children living, named Mary J., Johanna M., Rosella, Rodella, Eva E., Henry C. and Edgar C. They have given them good educational advantages, and the three eldest daughters taught school previous to their marriage; Rodella is a music teacher, Eva an artist, and Henry has recently been graduated from the High School at Rochelle. Mary J. is the wife of Andrew Fell; Johanna of T. H. Quick; and Rosella is the wife of William Leslie.

Mrs. Shippee was born in Stanford, Vt., and is a daughter of Rufus Millard, who was also a native of that town, of which his father, James Millard, who was of New England birth, was one of the first settlers. He bought a tract of timber, from which he felled the trees, and in time hewed out a good farm from the wilderness, upon which he lived many years. His last days, however, were spent near Waukegan, in this State. In early manhood he married Wealthy Clark, who died in Stanford, Vt. Mrs. Shippee's father was reared on that old homestead in Vermont that was his birthplace, and his life, the greater part of which he passed in his native town, he devoted to farming, and also dealt in sheep and wool. During his latter years he lived on his father-in-law's homestead in Clarksburg, Vt., and there both he and his wife died when well along in years. Her maiden name was Maria Blood. She was a native of Massachusetts, and a daughter of Silas and Polly Blood.



**G**EORGE ORTGIESEN. Among those who have contributed to make this county one of the richest and best developed farming regions in the State, is Mr. George Ortgiesen, who forms the subject of this biographical review. South Dixon Township counts him one of her most prosperous farmers, and his large farm, located on sections 29 and 32, is comparable in all points with the best in the vicinity.

Our subject was born over the sea in the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, July 10th, 1843. His father, George Ortgiesen, Sr., was also a native of that kingdom, and came of Germau blood. His

father, a Hanoverian by birth, had died when he, the son, was very young. The latter grew up on a farm, and in due time married and settled down in life. His wife, Myra Newmann, who was born in Hanover, was of similar ancestry as himself, and she too lost her father when she was a small child. After the birth of all their eleven children, of whom four died in their native land, in childhood, George Ortgiesen, Sr., and his wife and seven surviving children sought a new home on American soil, leaving the old country in the spring of 1857, on board the good ship "Orpheus," which sailed from Bremerhaven, and arrived at New York on the 10th of the following June, after a prosperous voyage of five weeks and four days. From that city the family came to Dixon, and one year later Mr. Ortgiesen began to farm in South Dixon Township, where he and his wife subsequently died at a good old age, the father being seventy-two when he died in 1874, and the mother seventy-four at the time of her death, four years later. Brought up in the faith of the Lutheran Church, they always remained in the fold, and were valued members of the church of that denomination, with which they connected themselves in this county.

Our subject is the youngest but one of the six children who are yet living of the large family born to his parents. He was a bright, active lad of fourteen years when the family came to this county, and here he grew to manhood, learning the lessons in farming that have been of use to him since he became a farmer on his own account, and at the same time acquiring those habits of diligence and careful attention to business details that are a part of the secret of his success in life. With the exception of a year or two in the city of Dixon, and two years in Whiteside County, his life, since coming to the United States, has been spent in South Dixon Township, where he has made a name and a place for himself as a farmer of rare skill. He made his first purchase of land here in 1866. It consisted of one hundred and twenty acres of unbroken prairie land. He set himself courageously to the pioneer task of reclaiming it from nature, and not only placed that under good improvement but bought other land and in time became the possessor of three hundred and twenty

acres of as fine farming property as is to be found in the township. He has erected a good class of farm buildings, and the new residence recently completed is a model of comfort and convenience in its arrangements and furnishings.

The marriage of Mr. Ortgiesen with Miss Margaret Levan took place in this township. Mrs. Ortgiesen is a native of Northern Prussia, born October 5, 1849, in the vineyard district, not far from the River Rhine, and near the French border. She is the eldest daughter and child of Jacob Levan, of whom see biography. She was but a child when she accompanied her parents to their new home in the far-away western wilds of America, and she was reared and educated in this township. She is the mother of twelve children, all of whom are at home with their parents, and are named as follows: Minnie G., Jane A., Margaret, George F., Clara, Jacob W., Charles, Nellie, Daniel, Burton, Walter and a baby unnamed.

Mr. Ortgiesen's politics are of the Democratic order. In religious matters he upholds the Lutheran faith, he and his good wife attending the church of that denomination, and giving generously of their means to help pay its running expenses. They are large of heart, pleasant and obliging in manner, and their neighbors regard them highly.



PETER L. BRECUNIA comes of one of the pioneer families of Lee County, where most of his life has been passed, and to-day he stands among the most noted farmers and stock-raisers who have been so largely instrumental in its upbuilding. His farm, which is highly improved, is advantageously located on section 31, Ashton Township.

Pennsylvania is the native State of our subject, and February 14, 1834, the date of his birth in Huntingdon County. His father was Daniel Brecunia, and it is thought that he was born in Washington County, Md. He married Christina King, who is supposed to have been a native of the same



county as her son, our subject. They began their wedded life in that county, but subsequently removed to Bedford County. They lived there nine years, but in the spring of 1849 they made still another move, and, coming to Illinois, located in Franklin Grove, Lee County, whence they came to Ashton Township two years later, and this was their home until death closed their mortal careers.

Peter Breunia was the fourth in order of birth of the ten children born to his worthy parents, and he was a lad of fifteen years when he accompanied them to their pioneer home in this county. He remained with them until he married, when he settled on the farm on section 31, Ashton Township, on which he has resided ever since. He has always given his attention to agriculture, has a thorough knowledge of the best methods of carrying it on profitably, and is conceded to be one of the best farmers in the township. He has two hundred acres of land in Iowa, besides his valuable homestead here, which comprises two hundred and thirty-four acres of land under admirable tillage, and provided with commodious buildings, of a modern appropriate style of architecture, everything about the place betokening superior management and unremitting care on the part of the owner.

Our subject was married in Bradford Township, February 22, 1863, to Miss Susan M., daughter of Jacob and Hannah (Foreman) Riddelsbarger. The father was born in Franklin County, Pa., and the mother near Hagerstown, Md. In 1845 they came to Illinois, and after spending a few months in Oregon, became pioneer settlers of China Township, where he died. The mother is living at an advanced age. Mrs. Breunia was the third in a family of four children, and she was born near Hagerstown, Md., May 25, 1843. Her marriage with our subject has been productive of mutual happiness, and has brought them two children, Quinby A. and Byron L. Quinby is the proprietor of the Franklin Grove Creamery.

Mr. Breunia has a strong, independent, self-reliant nature, and is quite capable of acting and thinking for himself, as is demonstrated by his successful career. At the same time he is not un-

mindful of his obligations towards others, as a true Christian gentleman, and is accommodating and neighborly in his intercourse with his fellow-citizens, and always ready to do another a favor. He has not taken an active part in politics, but is a member of the Republican party, and one of its truest adherents in this township. Both he and his wife are sincerely religious, and are members of the Dunkard Church.



**A**DOLPH FRENZEL is numbered among the enterprising and successful business men of Dixon who is engaged in carrying on a meat market on the corner of First and Peoria Streets and where he has been established since 1866. This gentleman not only deals in meats of all kinds, but also in live stock, doing quite a business in this line. He had formerly been in business on his own account in Chicago, and also worked in Louisville, Ky., as a "jour." By persistent industry and close economy he has made his own fortune since coming to Dixon, as he lost all he had in Chicago.

This gentleman is one of the many in this country who had their birth across the sea, he having been born in Saxe-Weimar, Germany, in 1835. He comes from pure German ancestry. His parents lived and died in their native county and the father followed the trade of a butcher in which he was reasonably successful.

Our subject and his twin brother, Henry, came to the United States in 1861, and Henry died some years later in Chicago, leaving a wife and one child. This gentleman received but meager educational advantages and soon learned the trade of a butcher with his father and at the early age of sixteen years he set out from home working at his trade. He then served his country as a regular soldier for some years when he did journeyman work at his trade in Hamburg previous to coming to America. He landed in New York City and directly went to Louisville, Ky., and after a short time went to Chicago.

While in this last named city, Mr. Frenzel met

and married Miss Katherine Hastenstine, a native of Baden, Germany, who had come to the United States with her parents in 1848, but the father returned to his native home in 1858. She is a lovable and true woman and mother and is liked by all her acquaintances. This couple have been blessed by the birth of three children; Robert F., who assists his father in the market; Ida, wife of Trune Rosebrock, now living on a farm in this county, and Carrie, who is at home. Mr. and Mrs. Frenzel are people who are held in the highest repute by all with whom they come in contact, and in politics, Mr. Frenzel affiliates with the Republican party.



**W**ILLIAM H. SWIGART has done yeoman service in developing the agricultural resources of this county by his practical work as a farmer and dairyman since he came here many years ago in his boyhood. He has a farm on section 23, Palmyra Township, which comprises eighty-six acres of land under a high state of cultivation and amply supplied with buildings of a good class and all the appurtenances for conducting farming operations after the best methods. In the dairy business he takes the lead, having all the latest improved machinery for preparing feed and the mills being operated by a seventeen-foot windmill. He is also interested in stock-raising, which he is pursuing successfully, and makes a specialty of Norman horses, owning a fine stallion of that famous breed.

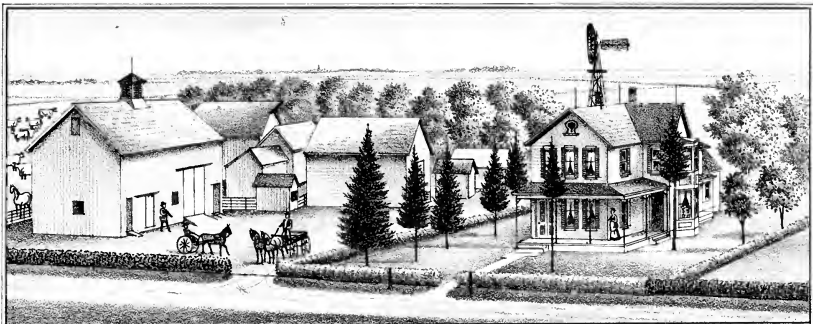
Our subject was born in Augusta County, Va., May 22, 1840. His paternal grandfather was a German by birth and came to this country when a young man, settled near Uniontown, Md., and there passed his remaining days. His son Samuel, the father of our subject, was born there and in that State carried on his trade as a wheelwright. He went to Virginia and there met and married Miss Maria Dinkle, who came of one of the old families of that State. In 1841 they removed to Seneca County, Ohio, where he proceeded to open up a farm in the wilderness, but his busy career was closed by

his untimely death at the age of forty-five years. After this sad bereavement the mother took her children to live in Gratiot County, Mich. There she was subsequently married to Roswell Reynolds, whom she survived some years, her death occurring in 1889, at the venerable age of seventy-seven years. She was a woman of true Christian character and a prominent Methodist.

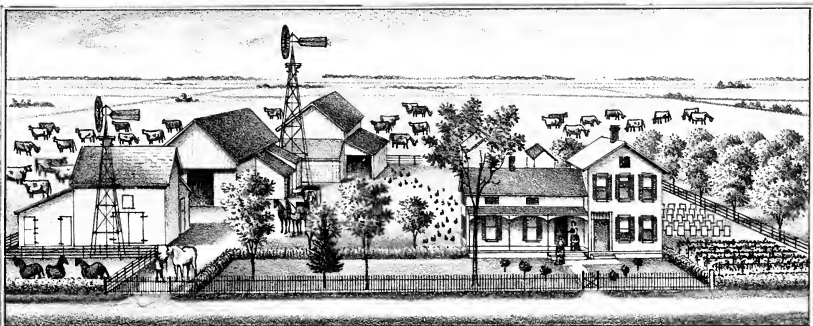
He of whom we write was fifteen years of age when his father died. He went with his mother to the new home in Central Michigan, but did not stay there a great length of time as he was an independent, self-reliant lad, ambitious to make his own way in the world. In 1857, when but seventeen years of age, he came to Illinois to see what life held for him here, and has since worked his way up to his present substantial position as one of the solid men of his township. Besides what he has accomplished in the line of his work, he has made his influence felt in social and religious circles and has never hesitated to champion all plans for the moral elevation of the community. He is known by his fellow-citizens to be scrupulously honest and conscientious in his acts, cheerful and accommodating in his intercourse with his neighbors, always glad to do another a favor, and in all respects a thoroughly upright man, who seeks the good of others and is justly held in high repute. He and his wife are prominent in society and in the church and have devoted their whole energies to the upbuilding of the Union Church of this township. Their talent for music is utilized in perfecting the choir, of which they are leaders. Mr. Swigart has been at the head of the Sugar Grove Sunday-school for many years and has done a great deal to make it successful and attractive to the children as well as to their elders. As a loyal citizen should, he interests himself in politics and has given his allegiance to the Republican party.

Our subject was first married to Miss Janette M. Johnson, who was born and reared in Palmyra Township, a daughter of one of its pioneers, E. H. Johnson, of whom a biography appears on another page of this volume. Mrs. Swigart died while yet a young woman, leaving one child, Roy Ellwood, who lives with his father.

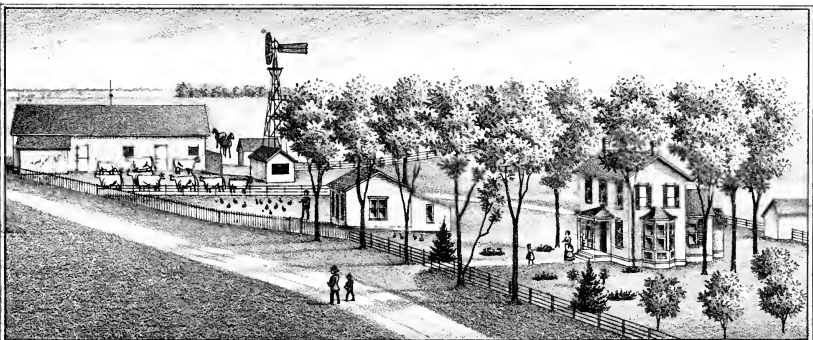
Mr. Swigart was married a second time in this



RESIDENCE OF S. D. EASTWOOD, SEC. 23, PALMYRA TP., LEE CO., ILL.



RESIDENCE OF W. H. SWIGART, SEC. 23, PALMYRA TP., LEE CO., ILL.



RESIDENCE OF ANTON W. HARMS, SEC. 3, PALMYRA TP., LEE CO., ILL.

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township, taking as his wife Miss Carrie L. Lawton. Mrs. Swigart was born, reared and educated here, and is a daughter of the late Charles Lawton, formerly a well-known farmer of this locality and a native of England. His wife survives him, and is living on the old homestead with her sons. She was also born in England, but was married in Pennsylvania. Her maiden name was Ann Mary Tuck. Mrs. Swigart received her education in the public schools of Palmyra Township, and here grew to womanhood. Her marriage with our subject has brought them one daughter, whom they have named Lulu, and who is at home with them.

The family residence, a view of which appears in connection with this sketch, is a comfortable abode and the center of a hearty hospitality which is extended to friends with genial warmth.



**C**APT. SUMNER D. EASTWOOD is most favorably known throughout Lee County, where nearly the whole of his life has been passed, he being a son of one of its early pioneers. His name is associated with the best interests of Palmyra Township as one of its leading farmers. He has a farm on section 23, that is highly improved, its appointments of the best class, and he devotes it to general farming and stock-raising, and also to dairy purposes.

Capt. Eastwood was born in Alleghany County, N. Y., on the 21st of November, 1836. His father, Reuben Eastwood, was likewise a native of the State of New York, and is a son of Jonas Eastwood, who is thought to have been born in Ireland, and to have been of pure Irish blood. He came to this country when a boy, and was married in the State of New York to a lady who was born of German parents in Germany, and had come to this country when a young woman. Jonas Eastwood and his wife reared a family of children in the Empire State, and after their offspring were mostly grown came thence to Illinois. They located in Carroll County, and there he died at the age of seventy-eight. His wife had died two years before in Lee County at the age of seventy-

five. They were both active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he was a prominent exhorter.

Reuben Eastwood grew to manhood in his native State, and his early occupation, while a resident thereof, was that of a shoemaker. He was married to Miss Nancy McElhaney, who was born and reared in the same State as himself, and was of good Scotch-Irish stock. In 1837, after the birth of two of their children, Mr. and Mrs. Eastwood sought the wilds of Illinois to found a new home by pioneer labor. They traveled hither with a team overland, and selecting what is now Palmyra Township as a suitable location for their future abode, Mr. Eastwood obtained a squatter's claim to a tract of land, which he afterward purchased of the Government when it came into the market. He lived upon and improved it, but finally sold it at a good price, and in the later '60s took up his residence in Dixon, where he died in October, 1874, when past three-score years of age. His record as a pioneer and a valued citizen is one of which his children may well be proud, and his name will ever be associated with the upbuilding of this county. His wife survived him until July, 1880, when she passed from the scenes amid which she had lived for more than half a century, or since her early womanhood. She was sixty-five years old at the time of her death. She was well known as one of the noble pioneer women of the county, and her memory is revered for her great worth in all the relations of life.

But a year had passed over the head of our subject when his parents brought him to this county, and ever since he has lived in Palmyra Township, knowing no other home, and in time has come to be one of its successful farmers. He purchased his present farm in 1879, and located on it the following year. It comprises one hundred and two acres of land, nearly all of which is highly improved, and a good house and barns adorn the place. A view of the homestead appears on another page. The fertile fields yield large harvests. Mr. Eastwood has cattle of high grades, including thirty-five cows that are devoted to dairy purposes.

The Captain stands high in the citizenship of his community, as his whole career shows him to

be a man of honor, with an open heart and fair mind, just and generous in his dealings, and incorruptible in money matters. His fellow-citizens appreciating the full force of these characteristics all combined in one man, and knowing his executive ability, have frequently entrusted local offices to his care, and twice have elected him to represent Palmyra Township as a member of the Lee County Board of Supervisors. In politics he is a Democrat and has never failed in his fidelity to his party.

Capt. Eastwood was married in his adopted township to Miss Nancy Haight, who was born in the Province of Ontario, Canada, in July, 1835. Her father, Thomas Haight, died in the summer of 1891, thus closing a life that had been prolonged to a good old age. He was a life-long resident of Canada, spending all his days as a farmer on his native soil. His wife, who was a native of that country, died there while yet a young woman, when her daughter, Mrs. Eastwood, was young. Mrs. Eastwood came to the United States, and to Lee County, when she was just entering her womanhood. She is the mother of six children, of whom two are deceased; one who died in infancy, and Eveline, who was six years old when she died. Gertrude S., who obtained a superior education at Lanark Institute, in the Province of Ontario, has for the past ten years been a teacher, and during that time has gained steadily in reputation as an instructor of rare merit; Addie is at home; Grace, a stenographer, is in the employ of the Thompson Plow Company, at Beloit, Wis.; and Lida is at home.



**A**NTON W. HARMS. Prominent in agricultural and social circles of Palmyra Township, and well known throughout the entire county, Mr. Harms has won the esteem of his associates and the respect of all with whom he comes in contact. He is the owner of a splendid estate comprising one hundred and twenty acres located on sections 2 and 3, which was formerly included in the old homestead of his father.

Since the place came into his possession, about 1882, many improvements have been introduced and changes effected whereby the value of the land has been increased considerably. The reader will notice on another page, a view of this pleasant rural abode with its attractive surroundings.

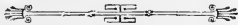
Among those who emigrated from Germany during the early half of this century and sought to establish homes in the United States, were Anton Harms, Sr., and his wife and children. The father left his family in Buffalo, N. Y., and proceeded alone to Illinois in search of a location. During his absence, the wife and mother became very ill, and died and was buried before he could return to New York. Afterward he brought his children to this county and here was united in marriage with Anna Hector, who like himself was a native of Oldenburg, Germany.

Lee County is the native home of our subject, who was born October 28, 1854. His opportunities for securing an education were limited to the common schools of the district, and his time was mostly devoted to aiding his father on the farm. The farm which had been purchased on coming to this county was on sections 2, 3 and 4, and Anton Harms, Sr., continued its improvement until he passed away July 15, 1878. He was seventy-eight years old at the time of his death, having been born in 1800. His wife survived him and died on the home farm March 14, 1890, aged seventy years. They were faithful members of the Lutheran Church and sincere Christians.

The marriage of our subject united him with Miss Mary S. Ahrens, who was born in Oldenburg, Germany, August 12, 1859. When twelve years old she accompanied her parents, Arend H. and Christina (Socker) Ahrens to this county and settled with them in Center Grove, Clinton County, Iowa, whence two years later they removed to Sterling, Ill., and here they now reside. They are consistent members of the Lutheran Church, honored by all who know them, and now in the twilight of their lives, when the shadows are deepening near the shores of eternity, they can look back upon lives well spent.

Three children have been born to Mr. Harms and his estimable wife—Arthur H., Herbert W.

and Jessie B. There are no measures proposed for the advancements of the interests of the community and its citizens, which fail to receive the hearty endorsement and support of Mr. Harms. He is numbered among the most ardent supporters of the Republican party in the township and promotes its welfare in every possible way, casting his ballot for its candidates and using his influence in behalf of its principles. He and his wife are identified with the Lutheran Church and are faithful members of that denomination. His dairy interests are extensive and he owns thirty milch cows, selling the milk to the Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Factory, of Dixon.



**C**OL. THOMAS MORGAN is a prominent contractor and builder, who conducts a large business in his line which is by no means confined to this county or State, of which he has been a resident for more than twenty years, his dwelling place being one of the attractive homes of Dixon, pleasantly located on Peoria Street. The Colonel was one of the leading officers of an Indiana regiment during the war, and no man faced the difficulties and dangers of those trying times with more fortitude, resolution and fearlessness than he, and the honors conferred upon him were richly deserved by one who risked his all in the cause of an adopted country.

Col. Morgan was born in Monmouthshire, Wales, May 26, 1821. His father was Griffith Morgan, and he was born in the same country, his birthplace being in Glamorganshire, which was, so far as known, the native shire of the father, Thomas Morgan, who spent his entire life in Wales. Griffith Morgan learned the trade of a molder in his youth, and was engaged at it in Monmouthshire until 1831. In that year, accompanied by his son Thomas, he embarked at Liverpool on the ship "Lagodo," and landed at New York after a voyage of six weeks. He located at Harrisburg, Pa., and there a few months later was joined by his wife and the four children that he had left in the old country while he prepared a home for them in

this. He erected the first rolling mill ever built at Harrisburg, and was a resident of that city two years. Going from there to Louisville, he engaged in molding there one year, and at the end of that time bought a farm in Clark County, Ind., and located his family thereon, while he followed his trade in Tennessee and Virginia. In 1838 he sold that farm and bought another in Kosciusko County, the same State. He devoted himself assiduously to tilling the soil thereafter, and made for himself a substantial place among the farmers of that region, and there closed his eyes in death, at the end of a long life of seventy-five years. The maiden name of his wife was Jane Longmore. She was born in Yorkshire, England, and died on the old Indiana homestead. These are the names of her nine children: Jane, Thomas, Griffith, John, William, Henry, George, James and Albert.


A lad of ten years when he came to America with his father sixty years ago, our subject was old enough then to have firmly impressed upon his mind the scenes of his birthplace, and though so many years have elapsed, he still retains a pleasant recollection of his early home and of some of the incidents of his life there. He was young when he began to work with his father, and remained with him until he was eighteen years old, when he began to learn the trade of a carpenter at Warsaw. At the age of twenty-five he commenced business on his own account as a contractor, and was thus engaged until June, 1862, when he threw aside his work to offer his services in defence of the Union, spurred on thereto by as loyal a love and devotion for this land of his adoption as ever inspired any of its native-born citizens to do battle for its honor. His name was enrolled as a member of Company K, Seventy-fourth Indiana Infantry, and he was mustered in as Captain. He soon proved by his efficiency in carrying out orders, by his dauntless courage and readiness of resource in emergencies, and tact with his men that he was entitled to the rank to which he had been raised, and was successively promoted to the offices of Major, Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel, and from August, 1864, commanded the regiment in the latter capacity. Among the more important battles in which he was an active participant were those at Mumfords-

ville, Stone River, those fought in the principal engagements of the Georgia campaign, and the hotly contested battles of Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge; he also accompanied Sherman on his famous march to the sea, engaging in all the chief battles on the way thither. He continued with his gallant leader through the Carolinas, and thence by the way of Richmond to Washington, and took part in the Grand Review of the Union forces after the war was brought to a final close, and was discharged with his regiment in June, 1865.

On his return from the South, at the close of his martial career, our subject resumed his former business as contractor and builder, confining his operations mostly to dwellings for a time, and then branching out in other directions as a contractor of public buildings. He carried on an extensive business in the building of churches, residences and other buildings in different cities of Indiana until 1869. In that year he took a contract to build two churches in Aurora, Ill., and in 1871 contracted to build the Episcopal Church at Dixon. He was much pleased with the pleasant site of the latter city and the many superior advantages that it possesses as a place of residence, and decided to make his home here, and since then it has been the centre of his operations, and he has been of material assistance in promoting its growth, several of its finest buildings, which add to the architectural beauty of the city, being the work of his hands. He has often been called elsewhere in the pursuit of his business, and his time is well employed in filling numerous contracts. In 1872 he erected St. Paul's Church at Peoria, a handsome and finely finished structure, and in 1874 he went to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to erect a church, several substantial business buildings and a dwelling.

Col. Morgan has been twice married. In 1847 he was wedded to Mrs. Lydia (Lee) Williams, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Richard and Susan (Abennethy) Lee. She departed this life in 1870, leaving two daughters, Susan and Lydia. Susan is the wife of George Gregg, and Lydia is the wife of Daniel Williams. The second marriage of our subject, which took place in 1874, was to Miss Jennie Brown, a native of Dixon, and a daughter of John and Eliza (Cotton) Brown. One child has

been born of this union, Mary E. The Colonel was reared in the Episcopal Church and has always remained true to the faith. His honorable record as a man, as a citizen, and in the business world, stamps him as one upon whom perfect reliance can be placed, who is to be trusted in all things, and whose citizenship is of value to any community.

 **S**YLVESTER SHAW, who resides in Lee Center, is an old pioneer of this county, and is well known as one of the prominent and wealthy farmers of this section as well as a successful business man in other directions. He was born in Ontario County, May 21, 1818. He there grew to manhood and when twenty-one years of age came to Illinois, settling in Lee County in 1839, where he took up a claim in what is now Bradford Township.

For two years before settling on his claim Mr. Shaw lived in what is now Lee Center Township, afterward making his home in Bradford Township until 1881, when he returned to the village of Lee Center in the spring of that year. In June, 1884, he engaged in the mercantile business in that place and is still carrying it on, at the same time operating his farm. He is the owner of some three hundred and sixty acres of fine land in Bradford and Amboy Townships, and as the greater part of his life has been spent in agricultural pursuits, he has a wide experience in all that relates to the business, and has been very successful in whatever he has undertaken to do.

Mr. Shaw was married in DuPage County, Ill., July 4, 1845, to Miss Amelia H. Noble, who was born in Geneseo, Livingston County, N. Y., June 17, 1819. They have been the parents of seven children: Oscar F. is a farmer in Iowa; James N. carries on the same occupation in Bradford Township; Fred departed this life in this township, March 11, 1890, when thirty-seven years old; Harriet married Theodore Gale, who is now deceased; Alida E. is the wife of John R. Daniels; Ella E. married Frank Derr, and Carrie I. died when seventeen months old. Mr. Shaw has never been an office-



seeker, but takes an interest in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the township, and has served it as Highway Commissioner. He and his family are highly esteemed in the community.

The father of our subject, John Shaw, was a native of Vermont, and his mother, whose maiden name was Polly Fox, was born in Massachusetts. They removed from what is now Wyoming County, N. Y., to Hancock County, Ill., where they settled and remained for two or three years, afterward removing to Utah, where they were among the early pioneers of that Territory, and where they spent the remainder of their lives. The father of Mrs. Shaw, Elisha Noble, was born in Sheffield, Mass., and her mother, who was Miss Candace Beach, was born in Hartland, Conn. They departed this life in Genesee County, N. Y.



**C**HARLES W. LATIMER, dealer in marble and granite and a manufacturer of monuments, has been engaged in business in Dixon in his present line since 1874, and with an excellent degree of success has carried on operations. He learned his trade in the East and became a most skillful worker, so that those requiring work in his line do not hesitate to call upon him, knowing that they can receive what they ask for. His trade is large and is constantly increasing and he keeps upon the road traveling salesmen. In his shop may be seen some fine specimens of his work which show what he can do in his line of trade, but most of his business is done to order.

Mr. Latimer was born in Wayne County, N. Y., September 5, 1845. Henry M. Latimer, father of our subject, was born in Utica, N. Y., and there he was reared to manhood. He wedded Ann E. Williams, of Utica, N. Y. The death of Mrs. Latimer occurred in Albion, Orleans County, in 1860, at the age of thirty-nine years. Mr. Latimer still survives his wife and is living in Hawley, Orleans County, at the age of seventy-five years. Of the family but two sons survive—our subject and his

brother Henry T., who is now a painter of Erie, Pa. He served in the late war for one year, nine months and sixteen days as a member of Company K, Twenty-seventh New York Infantry, during which time he saw some hard fighting and made a good record as a brave soldier.

Charles Latimer was born and reared in Lyons, N. Y., where at the age of eighteen years he responded to his country's call for troops to put down the Rebellion, enlisting in the Ninth New York Heavy Artillery under Col. W. H. Seward, Jr., a son of Secretary Seward. The regiment was assigned to the Sixth Corps of the Army of the Potomac, and participated in the battles of Cold Harbor and all the engagements of the corps. They were then in the Army of Shenandoah Valley under Sheridan and were in the battles of Fishers Hill, Cedar Creek, and the second battle of Winchester. Mr. Latimer was then detached from his company by a special order to serve as head clerk in the Provost-Marshal's office at the headquarters of the Sixth Army Corps, Maj. David I. Miln, Provost-Marshal. He served thus from February 6, 1865, until July of the same year, when the war having been brought to a close he was honorably discharged, and in Washington, D. C., was mustered out on September 29. In the meantime, his company and regiment were consolidated, becoming Company M, Second New York Artillery.

At the age of sixteen years, Mr. Latimer began learning the trade of a marble cutter in the shops of W. W. Mead of Lyons, where he remained for two years, when his labors were interrupted by his war service. On his return from the South, he again resumed work in that line and for some years was employed with the firm of Day & Ashcroft, extensive dealers in marble and granite of Norwich, N. Y. When he severed his connection with that firm, he came to Dixon in 1874, and with the business interests of this city has since been prominently connected.

In Palmyra, N. Y., Mr. Latimer was first married, the lady of his choice being Miss Ella Backus, who was born and reared in the Empire State, and with her husband came to Dixon, where she died at the age of twenty-eight years. Unto them were born two children, but both passed away before

the mother, who was a most estimable lady and a faithful member of the Baptist Church. The lady who now bears the name of Mrs. Latimer was formerly Miss Laura E. Merrill, and she was born in Palmyra Township, this county. One child graces the second union, a son, Frank M.

Mr. Latimer is a prominent Mason and has attained to the Thirty-second Degree, being initiated into the mysteries of the Scottish Rite in Binghamton, N. Y. He is connected with the Blue Lodge and Commandery of Dixon, was Captain-General of the last named, and for some seven years filled the office of Recorder, and at present is Generalissimo of the Commandery. He is also a member, Trustee and Adjutant of Dixon Post, No. 299, G. A. R., and has been Treasurer of the Dixon Hose Company, No. 1, since 1882. With his ballot he supports the Democratic party but takes no active part in political affairs. He is a valued citizen of the community and in business circles ranks high.



**S**YLVESTER A. SHOEMAKER is an old and well-known resident of South Dixon Township, where he has been engaged in general farming for several years, and he now owns a well-ordered farm, finely located on section 25, near the village of Eldena. He is a son of the late John W. Shoemaker, who was a pioneer farmer of this county, and at the time of his death, December 20, 1888, at the age of sixty-nine years, was living in a beautiful home one mile north of the city of Dixon, which had been built up by his industry. He was a most estimable man, whose life record was worthy of emulation. He took a lively interest in public affairs and was always true in his allegiance to the Republican party. Mr. Shoemaker married for his first wife Electa Newcomb, who was born and reared in Catskill, N. Y., and was a daughter of John Newcomb. Her father kept a hotel in Catskill for many years, and died there when past sixty years of age.

John Shoemaker's first wife died in the prime of life, leaving three children, of whom our subject

was one, and in 1851 he brought them to Illinois. He settled in South Dixon Township, and afterwards returned to Schoharie County, N. Y., his native county, to marry Elizabeth Hinman, who is yet living at a venerable age, and makes her home in New York State. The paternal grandfather of our subject was Jacob Shoemaker, and he was a native of the Empire State, descending from the old Dutch stock, his ancestors being pioneers of New York in the infancy of that State. After the death of his wife he came to Illinois in his old age and spent the remainder of his days with his son John, in this township. He was a true Christian, and he and his wife were devoted members of the Baptist Church nearly all their lives.

He of whom this sketch is written was born in Schoharie County, N. Y., October 11, 1841, but as he was only nine years old when his father brought him to this State, most of his life has been passed here, where he grew to man's estate under the invigorating influences of pioneer life. As soon as he arrived at years of discretion, he selected the occupation of a farmer as the one most congenial to his tastes and habits, and has successfully devoted himself to his chosen calling in South Dixon Township for several years. He purchased his present farm in 1881, and under his watchful care it is always in good condition, its eighty acres are under admirable tillage, and it is well provided with suitable buildings for all the purposes of general farming. Mr. Shoemaker is a hard worker, exercises thrift, prudence and foresight in conducting his affairs, and spends his money judiciously in making improvements. He is looked upon as one of our best citizens, who is influential in all that relates to the moral uplifting of the community. He is firm and unshaken in his adherence to principles of honesty, truthfulness and justice, and is always to be found on the side of those whom he believes to be in the right, whether they are in the minority or in the majority. He is fully alive to the importance of the temperance question, on which he is well posted, and he is a whole-souled Prohibitionist.

Our subject was married in the town of Amboy to Miss Martha Burdick, and to them have been born nine children, of whom three are deceased, as

follows: Isabel; one who died in infancy; and Lillie, former wife of George Hepley, of Dixon. Those living are: Grace, wife of Oliver Fritz, of Beatrice, Neb.; Charles H., Ruhama, Frederick, Bert, and Lela, the five latter living at home with their parents.

Mrs. Shoemaker was born near Troy, N. Y., and is a daughter of Nathan and Ruhama (Burdick) Burdick, natives of the State of New York. The family came to Illinois when Mrs. Shoemaker was thirteen years old, and has ever since lived in this county. The father, who has attained a venerable age, resides at Eldena, where the mother died in 1889, when full of years.



**D**ENNIS MILLER, who is the proprietor of a good farm in Brooklyn Township, is now living in retirement in the pleasant village of Paw Paw. He is a son of one of the pioneer families of Lee County and is deserving of the honorable title of pioneer himself, as he has been a helper in the great work that has been accomplished in the development of this section of the country. He was born in Kingston, Province of Ontario, Canada, January 18, 1829. His father, Andrew Miller, was also a native of that place, of which his father, our subject's grandfather, Miller, a German by birth, was an early settler. The latter was a blacksmith and wagon maker, and followed those trades for some years after he settled in Canada. He then devoted himself to farming until his death, on his homestead in Kingston.

Andrew Miller learned the trade of a blacksmith of his father, and was engaged at it in his native town several years. In 1845 he made a new departure and, like his father, sought a new home in a wild, sparsely settled country, coming to Illinois with his wife and eight children, the long and monotonous journey being performed with a team. He bought a tract of wild land in what is now Brooklyn Township, where but few had preceded him. He built a frame house on his homestead for the shelter of his family, buying some of the timber at the Inlet saw mill and some at Chicago. He then

turned his attention to preparing his land for cultivation, and in the course of time had a well-tilled farm as a reward for his labors. He made it his home for a number of years, but the last part of his life was spent in Cerro Gordo County, Iowa.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Lydia Dennis, and she was born in the Province of Ontario, Canada. She died December 24, 1891, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Madden, in Brooklyn Township. In her younger days she was an expert in the art of carding, weaving and spinning, and clothed her children in garments which were wholly the production of her own hand. She did her cooking before an open fire in a huge old-fashioned fireplace, and had but few conveniences for doing her housework.

The subject of this life record was a lad of sixteen years when the family came to Illinois, and he still has a keen remembrance of the journey hither and of the pioneer surroundings of the new home in this county. At that time Northern Illinois was but sparsely settled and the Government held most of the land for sale at \$1.25 per acre. There were no railways, and Aurora, Ottawa and Peru were the chief markets. Mr. Miller has often seen deer and other kinds of wild game roaming over the prairies, bluffs and river bottoms, where are now fruitful farms and busy towns. The farmers of that day used the cradle in harvesting their grain, and other primitive farming implements were employed that have since been superseded by modern machinery.

Mr. Miller helped his father in the management of his farm and remained an inmate of the parental home until he married, when he commenced farming on his own account. Two years later he bought forty acres of land in Brooklyn Township, which formed the nucleus to his farm. He bought other tracts at different times, and now has one hundred and eighty-six acres of land in a body, well improved and supplied with comfortable buildings. He continued farming until 1881, when he rented his place and took up his residence at Paw Paw, where he has since lived, retired from active business.

Mr. Miller was married in 1852 to Miss Ann Beemer, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter

of Alexander and Ascnath Beemer. Six children have blessed their married life, four of whom are living. The eldest child, William H., died when two and a-half years of age; the youngest died in infancy unnamed. Those remaining are: Jerome B., Almira A., Nellie E. and Edith. Almira married Charles Umphrey, and they have three children: Floy E., Edna B. and Annie E.; Nellie married Arthur Wells and they have one child, Addie N.; Mrs. Wells died September 6, 1891.

Mr. Miller is a Republican in politics, and a Prohibitionist in principle. He is a man of good habits, of sound and sensible views on all subjects with which he is familiar, and his neighbors and other friends hold him in high estimation for his sterling character.



**A** CLINTON WARNER, who is engaged in the real-estate and loan business at Dixon, has been a prominent figure in the public life of Lee County ever since he attained manhood, and has filled various offices of trust and honor with eminent ability. He is a native of New Preston, Conn., born April 3, 1850. His father, Leman A. Warner, was born near Lockport, N. Y., while his father, Dr. John Warner, is thought to have been born in Vermont, and to have descended from an old English family that settled in New England in Colonial times. The doctor removed from his native State to New York, and was thereafter in active practice as a physician in Niagara County until death closed his career.

The father of our subject was quite young when his father died, and soon after he went to reside with an uncle in Washington, Conn. He was a natural mechanic, with a regular genius for handling tools, and in due time became a carpenter and a cabinet-maker. He was a fine workman and devoted most of his time to pattern-making. He continued to live in Connecticut until 1855, when he came to Illinois and located at Freeport. He later bought a home and for some years operated as a contractor and builder. In the mean-

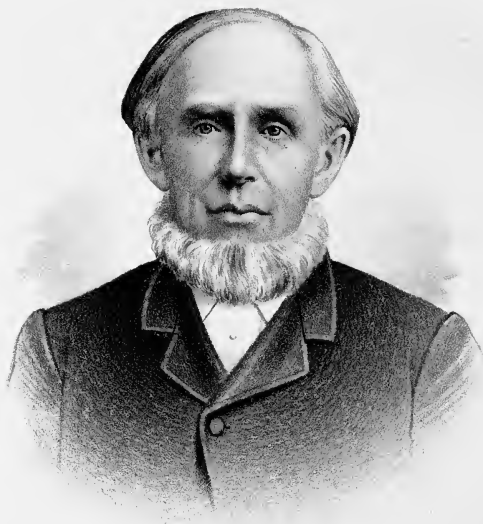
time his inventive talents were not idle, and he produced several useful articles, and in 1872 patented an invention known as the "Warner Door Spring," which proved to be very valuable, and in time yielded him a handsome income. He established a factory in Freeport to manufacture the springs, and operated it a number of years, but finally disposed of it advantageously, and now lives in retirement from active business, in the enjoyment of an ample fortune. In early manhood he married Miss Sarah D. Whittlesey, a native of New Preston, Conn., and a daughter of the Hon. David Whittlesey. They have reared a family of five children.

Our subject was a small boy when his parents removed from the New England village in which he was born to the city of Freeport, in this State, and his education was conducted in the public schools of the latter place. He lived there until he attained his majority, and he then came to Dixon, with whose interests his own have since been deeply involved. After coming here he served one year as Deputy County Clerk, and then, though so young, was made Deputy County Treasurer, which office he held for fifteen years. During that time he turned his attention to the real-estate and loan business, and since 1889 has devoted his time to those branches, and has been an active factor in the steady growth of the city. In 1887 he published a map of Lee County, that is valuable for its accuracy.

In 1875 Mr. Warner and Miss Myra O. Brookner were united in marriage. Mrs. Warner is a native of Dixon, and a daughter of Christopher and Jane Brookner. Her wedded life with our subject is an example of a felicitous union, and their dwelling is one of the attractive homes of which the city has so many. Their pleasant home circle is completed by the six children born unto them: Henry C., Edward C., James C., William H., John F. and Frederick M. The son John F. died September 4, 1891 at the age of five years.

Mr. Warner's aptitude for affairs, and other gifts that mark him as a man peculiarly adapted to the exigencies of a public life, early attracted the attention of his fellow-citizens, and they have often called him to the front to important civic

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*Joseph E. Smith*

positions. He served two years as City Clerk; represented Dixon on the County Board of Supervisors in the year 1889 by appointment, and in the year 1890 by election; he was a member of the Board of Aldermen one term; was Mayor of the city for two terms, in the years 1886 and 1887; and for three terms has been a member of the North Side School Board, of which he is now President. His public record is without a blemish, as he has conducted his official duties by the same honorable methods that have ever characterized the management of his private business, and he has never betrayed a trust. His politics are of the Republican order.



**J**OSEPH E. SMITH has been an important assistant in bringing Lee County to its present high state of development, as he has improved two good farms within its borders. In conducting his farming operations he acquired a fortune ample for his needs, and for some years has lived retired in the village of Nachusa. He is a man of worth, and his many friends will consider his portrait and biography a valuable addition to this volume.

Mr. Smith was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, December 25, 1821, a son of John and Mary Smith, who were also natives of that province, where they passed their entire lives. They were respectable, God-fearing people, and members of the German Catholic Church. Our subject is the only one of the three children born to his parents now living. His only sister died in Germany. His brother Hilary left the Fatherland in 1854 to join him in this country but never reached his destination, as the ship in which he sailed was wrecked and he found a watery grave.

Our subject was reared to the life of a farmer in his native province, and was an inmate of the parental home until he attained the age of sixteen. He then set out boldly into the world and with good courage, having faith in his ability to make his way unaided in spite of the hardships he might encounter. He made his way to Bremerhaven,

and April 18, 1837, embarked on a vessel, the "William Brant," that was bound for Baltimore, Md., where he landed after a long voyage of eighty-eight days. He proceeded to Alleghany County, in that State, and for twelve years made his home in that part of the country. At the expiration of that time he came to Illinois to avail himself of its rich agricultural possibilities, and since 1852 has been a resident of this county.

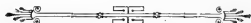
At once after settling here Mr. Smith bent his energies to his work as a farmer, which, in a country that was still in the hands of the pioneers, was oftentimes very hard, and had to be performed without the aid of the fine farming machinery in vogue to-day. Notwithstanding, he opened up two farms in South Dixon Township, and from being a poor man is now in comfortable circumstances. In 1884 he retired from his labors to a cozy home in the village of Nachusa, and here he and his good wife are enjoying the wealth for which they have toiled together. They hold a warm place in the hearts of all in the community, as they are always cheerful and pleasant, and are charitable and benevolent, no one who is suffering or needy appealing to them in vain for sympathy or help, and by their generous use of their money where it will do the most good they show that it was gathered together for no selfish purpose.

No American-born citizen has greater love for this country or is more loyal to the Government than Mr. Smith, who transferred his allegiance fully to the United States when he came to live under its flag, and sensibly adopted the habits and customs of its people instead of trying to retain those of the Fatherland, and has truly Americanized himself, so to speak. He is peaceful and law-abiding, has always sought to avoid discord and has never sued a man nor has he ever been sued. In politics he is a sound Republican, and in religion both he and his wife are devoted Methodists, having belonged to the church forty years.

During his residence in Maryland our subject was happily married to Miss Henrietta E. Merrill, who was born in that county January 23, 1830. She is a daughter of William and Fannie (Holtzman) Merrill, who were also natives of Alleghany County, and there they always lived, dying when

old people on the farm where they had passed their wedded life. They were members of the Dunkard and Lutheran Churches, respectively. Mrs. Smith's paternal grandfather was Philip Merrill, who was born in Germany but died in West Virginia. Her maternal grandfather was Charles Holtzman, who lived and died in Maryland, he being seventy-two or seventy-three years old at the time of his demise. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary La Rue, and who was of French extraction, was born in New Jersey, and died in Maryland, at the age of seventy-one.

After marriage our subject and his wife lived on a Maryland farm until they came to Illinois. Nine children have been born to them of whom five are deceased: Charles W., Alonzo, Arthur L., John R. and Hilary G. Those living are Clarence C., a farmer in South Dixon Township, who married Amanda Young; Oscar G., who operates an elevator in Nachusa, and who married Margaret Burket; Etta, wife of Walter F. Preston, of whom a biography appears on another page of this volume, and Fannie A., widow of John Bossemeyer, who is also represented in this BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD.



**M**RS. C. M. SWYGART, who resides in a pleasant home on Madison Avenue and First Street, in Dixon, also owns a good farm three miles north of the city. It consists of one hundred and sixty acres of well-improved land and was formerly the homestead of her father, John Moyer, who purchased the property over fifteen years ago. He placed good improvements on the place and later purchased another farm in a different part of the county.

Mr. Moyer was a native of Berks County, Pa. His father, a German who emigrated to this country in Colonial days, was a valiant soldier throughout the Revolutionary War and spent his last years in the Keystone State, where he died at a good old age. He was employed during his life in operating iron furnaces in which he was very successful and accumulated a large property. He was a widower when he came to this country,

bringing with him two sons. He was married a second time in Pennsylvania to a lady who was a native of that State and who there died at the age of ninety-five years. They were both members of the Lutheran Church. Their son John also became an iron manufacturer and on his father's death succeeded him in business in which he became rich. Some years after his marriage, he sold out his interest in Pennsylvania and came to Illinois, where he purchased a farm in Lee County which he carried on extensively and was as successful in this calling as in his former occupation. He died in this county in 1884, at the age of eighty-seven years, retaining his mental and physical strength up to the day of his death. He was a prominent and influential man in the community and highly esteemed as a good citizen. His business was conducted on the strictest principles and in the most honorable and upright manner. He was a sound Republican in politics and had been given all the local offices of the township. He was one of the four original founders of the Lutheran Church in this place and gave liberally to the cause. His wife, whose maiden name was Rebecca Trout, was born and reared in Berks County, Pa., where she was married. Her father was an Englishman, who was married after coming to the United States to a lady of Pennsylvania birth. He was a prominent business man and both he and his wife were highly esteemed in the community in which they lived. They were worthy members of the Presbyterian Church.

The mother of our subject, who was the first wife of John Moyer, died in Pennsylvania, while in the prime of life. She left but one daughter, Mrs. Swygart. John Moyer was married a second time to Mrs. Elizabeth Cleaver, *nee* Yudder, a native of Pennsylvania and who died in this county some years ago, full of years. She was a member of the Methodist Church.

Mrs. Swygart was reared and educated in Pennsylvania and is a woman of good education, excellent business qualities and fine executive ability. She is the mother of eight children. William H. married a lady in New Mexico, who lived but a short time afterward; he is general agent for the Sante Fe Railroad at Lake Valley, N.



M. John, who married Miss Mattie Holland, is an engineer on the Wabash Railroad and resides in Decatur, this State. George W. lives in California, where he was married. Edward resides in Chicago and married Miss Anna Bradford. Clementine is at home with her mother, and is a highly educated and refined young lady. Lillia is also at home. Ella, who is the wife of Frank Willard, is at present in California. Eva, who resides at home, is an artist and gives lessons in painting. Mrs. Swygart and her daughters are members of the Presbyterian Church. The family is well-known and highly esteemed in the city, where they reside.

He worked hard, and in the development of a good farm, did his share in advancing the growth of the county. He and his wife spent their last days on the old homestead, and died in the ripeness of a good old age, he being past seventy-five years old, and she passing away previously when more than three-score years old. They were both truly religious, firm believers in the Lutheran faith, and life-long members of that church.

After our subject became of age, he continued to live with his father for eighteen months, and in that time earned his first \$260, which he judiciously invested in eighty acres of wild land, upon which he has since built his home. He worked hard to convert this tract of prairie soil, on which never a furrow had been turned, into a finely cultivated farm, and he not only accomplished his purpose, but has improved other land, adding to his original purchase forty acres at one time, then an eighty-acre tract, and after that still another tract of eighty acres, and recently purchased still another of one hundred and sixty acres, and now has four hundred and forty acres of as fine farming land as can be found within the bounds of the township, upon which he has erected a good class of buildings, and everything about the place denotes thrift and watchful care in its management. The cattle, horses and swine that are raised on the farm are of fine breeds, and our subject derives a good income from his stock.

In this township, where the most important part of his life has been passed, our subject was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Fritz. Mrs. Lindeman was born in Somerset County, Pa., June 20, 1835, to John and Eva (Mowrey) Fritz, who were also natives of Somerset County, where they passed the early part of their life, both being of German descent. After the birth of all their children, Mr. and Mrs. Fritz left Pennsylvania, and coming to this county, east in their lot with the pioneers who had preceded them, locating in what is now South Dixon Township on a slightly improved farm. Mr. Fritz further developed that place, bought other new land, and in time had a fine large farm of seven hundred acres. He grew old among the people with whom he had settled, and who learned to respect him for his sterling worth, and died at



**H**ERMAN LINDEMAN. No class of men has done more for the benefit of this county than the farmers who have redeemed the land from its original wildness, and have thus contributed greatly to the wealth and prosperity visible on every hand. Among these sturdy tillers of the soil is the gentleman whose name is at the head of this biographical review. He has a good sized, neatly equipped farm on section 23, South Dixon Township, which is well-stocked with cattle, horses and swine of fine breeds.

Mr. Lindeman was born in Carroll County, Md., October 1, 1835, a son of John B. Lindeman, who was a highly respected pioneer of Lee County. His father was a native of the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, and was descended from a worthy ancestry. He was married in the land of his birth to Elizabeth Lindeman, who was also born and reared there, and came of a good family. After the birth of four children, they concluded that they could rear their offspring to better advantage and provide for them a more comfortable home in the United States of America than they could in their own country, so they emigrated hither in the latter '20s or early '30s, and settled in Carroll County, Md., living for a time in Frederick City. Mr. Lindeman began life in this country as a farm laborer. In the winter of 1844, he brought his family to this State, located in Dixon, and after a time purchased a tract of land in this township.

an advanced age at his home on section 13, on the old Chicago road, he being nearly seventy-six years old at the time of his demise. In religion, he adhered to the faith of his fathers, and was connected with the Lutheran Church in this county for many years, his wife also being a devoted member of that church. She is yet living, making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Lindeman of this notice, and is ninety-three years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Lindeman are among the leading members of the Lutheran Church at St. James, as are their children likewise. They stand high in the estimation of their neighbors, who know them to be sincere, true-hearted people, of irreproachable character, helpful toward others who may be in need of assistance, and always friendly in their relations with all about them. Mr. Lindeman and his sons are stalwart adherents of the Republican party. Our subject and his wife have six children living: Clara, wife of A. J. Lyons, a farmer of Gage County, Neb.; Alice, wife of Edward Burket, a grocer at Crete, Neb.; Ida, wife of Luther Burket, a farmer of Dixon Township; Mary, wife of Lincoln Grover, a banker of McDonalds, Kan.; Clinton and Gilbert, who live with their parents, and assist their father in the management of the farm.



**H**ON. CHARLES H. INGALLS, Major of the Sixth Regiment Illinois National Guards, is one of Lee County's most distinguished sons, who is pre-eminent in her public life, and is prominently connected with her most leading interests as one of the successful farmers and stock-raisers within her borders. His home is in his handsome, elegantly appointed, farm residence on section 10, Sublette Township, and here he has improved one of the finest equipped and choicest farms in this section.

Maj. Ingalls was born in Lee Centre Township, March 11, 1846, and is a son of Charles F. Ingalls, now of Chicago, one of the earliest settlers of that township, one of the leading pioneers of the county and one of its prominent citizens until within

a few years. The Ingalls family now in the United States originated in Lincolnshire, England, but came to America in early Colonial days. Four generations of the ancestors of our subject lived on the same pleasant New England farm in the town of Abington, Windham County, Conn., his great-great-grandfather, James Ingalls, locating there long before the independence of the United States. His son Ephraim, the next in line of descent, inherited the farm and passed it on in due time to the son who bore his name, and was the grandfather of our subject, and thus it came to pass that the old homestead in that Connecticut town was the birthplace of Charles F. Ingalls, January 18, 1817. He was the seventh of the nine children born to his parents, and of the others it is recorded that Henry L., who was an early settler of Cass County, in this State, died in Minnesota; Edmund, who located in Cass County in the early days of its settlement, died there one year later; Lydia became the wife of Jonathan Colby, and died in Menard County; Deborah, who married Dr. Richard F. Adams, died in Lee Centre; Addison came West in 1832, and died at Oak Park, this State; Ephraim came to Illinois in 1837, and is now a physician and surgeon on the West Side in Chicago.

The father of our subject went to Windsor County, Vt., when he was twelve years old, and there completed his education and afterwards taught school. He had not attained manhood when he exchanged the hills of Vermont for the prairies of Illinois in 1834, but was an intelligent youth of seventeen years, whose services as a teacher were welcomed by the pioneers of Cass County, where he engaged in teaching the ensuing two years. In 1836, accompanied by his brother George A., he came to Lee County and took a claim in Lee Centre Township, and in 1844, when the land came into the market, he purchased a half section. He soon became one of the most thrifty and well-to-do pioneer farmers of that place, and besides attending to his farming interests, dealt to some extent in real estate, and finally obtained possession of over five hundred acres of valuable land. His homestead contained two hundred and seventy acres of land which he placed under a high state of cultivation, and adorned with the best improve-

ments in the vicinity. In March, 1885, having previously sold his homestead, he left Lee County and though his residence has been nominally in Chicago, he and his wife have passed much of the time in traveling, spending the winter seasons either in California or Florida. He paid his first visit to the Golden State in 1850, going thither in a wagon train. He followed mining three years, dealt in live stock one year, and then returned home in 1854 with the money thus made, making the journey by the Isthmus and New York City.

Mr. Ingalls is a Republican and while a resident of Lee County took an important part in the administration of public affairs as a member of the Board of Supervisors. He was married April 6, 1838, to Miss Sarah Hawkins, and they have lived together in a congenial marriage for more than half a century. Mrs. Ingalls is a woman of an earnest Christian character, and is a member of the Baptist Church. She was born in Reading, Windsor County, Vt., March 15, 1819, a daughter of John S. and Mary (Morrison) Hawkins, and lived in her native county until the date of her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Ingalls have reared five children, namely: Charles H., our subject; Ephraim F., a resident of Chicago; Sarah D., wife of J. H. Pierce, Superintendent of the National Tube Works at McKeesport, Pa.; Ara M., wife of W. H. Morgan, of Chicago; Mary S., wife of Charles C. Jacobs, of Amboy. The parents of our subject gave their children good educational advantages, not only in the common branches of study but in the arts, and their parlors are adorned with oil paintings and other artistic works from the hands of their daughters.

The original subject of this sketch was reared on the old homestead in Lee Centre Township that was his birthplace, and not only had he an opportunity to be well grounded in all that pertains to agriculture, but was given exceptional chances to obtain a liberal education in the academy at Lee Centre and at the State Normal University at Normal. He was but a boy when the war broke out, but watched its course with a deep interest, and in August, 1862, inspired with as lofty a patriotism as that which animated his elders, he offered his services to the Union as a soldier, but, to his bitter disappointment, he was rejected on account of his

youth and size. In December, 1863, he again volunteered, and this time was accepted, and was mustered into the army as a private in Company E, Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry. He accompanied his regiment to Chattanooga, and thence with Sherman to Atlanta, and was present at the capture of that city, besides taking part in the battles of Kenesaw Mountain and Peach Tree Creek. He then returned to Tennessee with Gen. Thomas, and fought in the engagements at Franklin, Spring Hill and Nashville. In the latter city he was detailed by the medical directory to the First Division of the Fourth Army Corps, and in June, 1865, was transferred to Company K, Twenty-first Illinois Infantry. In July he went to New Orleans, and in August to San Antonio, Tex., where he remained until orders were received for mustering his regiment out of the service, December 25, 1865. From January until June 10 of that year, he had been in the office of the Medical Director, and was subsequently in the Provost-Guard's headquarters and in the Provost-Marshal-General's office at San Antonio, holding a position in the latter until his discharge. In May, 1865, he had been promoted to be Sergeant, an honor richly deserved, as he had shown himself in every way worthy of preferment by his loyalty to his country, by his excellent soldiership on the battle-field, and by his prompt and intelligent service wherever he was placed. His military record was won when he was scarcely more than a boy, for he was not yet out of his teens when the war closed.

Returning to his native county after he left the army, Maj. Ingalls resumed work on the farm, and gave his attention to farming until 1868. He then engaged in the hardware business in Sterling one year, and at the expiration of that time located on the farm which he still owns and occupies on section 10, Sublette Township. He has here two hundred acres of very fertile, highly cultivated land, supplied with the finest modern improvements, which have been made by the Major himself, and his farm is well stocked with cattle, horses and hogs of the best breeds.

Maj. Ingalls was married March 1, 1871, to Miss Mary I. Morse, daughter of Walter and Susan Morse, and she presides over their beautiful home

with true grace, uniting with her husband in cordial welcome to all who cross its threshold to share its bounteous hospitalities. Five children complete their family circle: Herbert F., Grace M., Neva M., Walter F. and Fred.

Our subject's title as Major is due to his connection with one of the leading military organizations of Illinois. September 20, 1878, he organized a company of one hundred men, which was enrolled as Company F, Fourth Illinois National Guards, and for ten years he was Captain of the company, and was then promoted to the position of Lieutenant-Colonel. The regiment was subsequently disbanded and Col. Ingalls received the compliment of being commissioned Major of the Sixth Regiment of Illinois National Guards, and still holds that rank. Socially he is connected with the Knights Templar and the Grand Army of the Republic. His services as a public official in various responsible capacities have often been in demand, the calibre of his mind, his high-toned character and his native ability, marking him as a man eminently fitted to fill important places. He was a member of the County Board of Supervisors for Sublette Township one term, and represented his district in the Thirty-fourth General Assembly, which elected Gen. John A. Logan to the United States Senate in 1885. The Major's political relations are with the Republican party, of which he is an ardent advocate.



**J**OSEPH F. COLE, Postmaster and druggist at Compton, is one of the leading citizens of the village who is active in its business interests and is potent in promoting its growth. He was born near Wellshoro, Potter County, Pa., July 14, 1844. His father, Joseph Cole, was born, reared and married in the State of New York. He was a millwright by trade, and after marriage he removed to Potter County, where he followed that occupation a few years. He subsequently took up his residence at Angelica, Allegany County, N. Y., and there his death occurred in 1854 while he was yet in the prime of

life. His wife, whose maiden name was Adeline Fairchild, and who was also a native of New York, did not survive him many months, but died the following year.

Thus sadly bereft of his parents while yet a boy, our subject went to live with his uncle Samuel P. Fairchild, with whom he came to Lee County in 1856. On his arrival here he went to live with Elisha Hills. He attended school a portion of each year, and made the best of his opportunities to obtain an education, and the remainder of the time he assisted on the farm, thus continuing until 1864. A youth of nineteen years who had watched with great interest the course of the war that was raging between the North and the South, he then determined to do a man's part in helping his country in the hour of her direst need, and in the month of May, he enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Fortieth Illinois Infantry, for one hundred days. He went to Tennessee with the command which was assigned to guard the Memphis & Charleston Railway, and he was thus employed until the expiration of his term of enlistment. He was honorably discharged with his regiment, having shown excellent soldierly qualities in the discharge of his duties.

Soon after his return from the seat of war, Mr. Cole went to Mendota to attend school, as he was ambitious to improve his mind by further study. He devoted himself assiduously to his books for a year, and then went to Bloomington to learn the trade of a house and sign painter. He remained in that city for four years, and after that spent a year at Normal working at his trade. At the end of that time he came back to Lee County, and until 1872 was engaged in the mercantile business at Malugin's Grove. Carnahan Station was his next place of residence, and he was similarly engaged there a few years. In 1888 he established himself as a druggist at Compton, and at the same time opened his house to the traveling public under the name of the Compton House. In the management of these various enterprises he has done well, and is looked upon as one of the solid men of the village. He received his appointment as Postmaster in May, 1889, and it is conceded that no better man could have been found for the

place, for he conducts the affairs of the office with the same carefulness and method with which he carries on his private business.

In 1871 he was married to Miss Ellen Carnahan, a daughter of A. J. and Elizabeth Carnahan, of whom a sketch appears on another page. Their marriage has been a harmonious and happy union, and has brought them four children, whom they have named Addie, Lizzie May, Andrew J. and Joseph F.

Mr. Cole is a patriotic citizen and a true Republican. He has filled various offices of trust with credit to himself and benefit to the community. He was Township Clerk for eight years, and was the last Postmaster at Malugin's Grove before the office was abolished at that point.



**J**OHAN McKINSTRY, one of the prominent men of the county, formerly identified with its mercantile interests, but now living retired, occupies an important place in the history of this section of the State as a founder of Nelson, a station on the Northwestern Railway, where he has made his home many years. He was born in Livingston, Columbia County, N. Y., May 22, 1821. His grandfather, Col. John McKinstry, was a native of the North of Ireland, and was a descendant of Scotch-Irish ancestry. He came to America when a young man, and was afterwards captured by that remarkable Indian chief, Brant, and was to be burned at the stake. He happily thought of showing that he was a Mason by making the signs of his order, and when the chief noticed his signs he at once interfered with the active preparations that were going forward to roast him alive, and commanded his release. The Colonel and the dusky warrior became fast friends, and often visited each other. It was during the Revolution that this episode occurred, and Col. McKinstry was serving in the Continental Army at the time. He was a valiant and efficient soldier, and received his title and promotion to be one of the leading officers of his regiment on account of his undaunted bravery in battle and mer-

itorious conduct. After the Revolution he settled on a farm near Hudson, N. Y., and there lived to be an old man. He was a Protestant in religion, and was a prominent man in his county. He had married before he left his native island—Miss Elizabeth Knox, who was also of Scotch blood and Irish birth, becoming his wife. They reared a large family of children, eight in number, to good and useful lives.

The father of our subject, John McKinstry, Jr., was born in Columbia County, N. Y., August 5, 1777. He passed his early life there, and in his younger days was a sailor for three years. He was married in the county of his nativity to Miss Salome Root, who was born among the hills of Berkshire County, Mass., and came of an old Bay State family. Her father, Joshua Root, was also of Massachusetts birth, and was a patriotic soldier through the Revolution. He died in the city of Hudson, N. Y., in the fullness of time, being fourscore years of age at the time of his demise. He married Miss A. Catlin, who died in Berkshire County, when sixty years of age, some years before her husband's death occurred. After marriage, John McKinstry and wife spent their remaining years in Columbia County, N. Y., he dying September 30, 1840, at the age of sixty-nine years. His wife afterwards came to Illinois with their son of whom we write, and died at his home in 1872, at the age of seventy-eight years. She was naturally rather slender and delicate in physique, but, notwithstanding, lived to an advanced age, was active to the last, and retained her early mental vigor in a remarkable degree until the end. She was a member of the Episcopal Church, while the father was for many years a prominent and active worker in the Universalist Church. He was identified with the Whigs in politics, and his ability and intelligence made him a leader in his community.

Our subject and his brother Sloane, a farmer in Nelson Township, are the only children now living born to their mother. By a former marriage, their father had one son, named Robert, who is one of the largest fruit-growers in the United States, located at Hudson, N. Y. John McKinstry left his early home in 1857 to find a new field for

his energies in the great Prairie State, which was then considered to be not far from the Western frontier. He started the town of Nelson as a station on the Northwestern Railway, six and one-half miles from Dixon, it being a mere tract of wild uninhabited prairie at the time, and often during the night the howling of the wolves would salute his ears, while wild game was to be had in abundance not far away. He has lived to see many wonderful changes wrought in the face of the country since he first settled here, much of the land being converted from its original state to smiling farms, while busy, bustling towns have sprung up in all directions where there were but few evidences of an approaching civilization when he first came here to join the pioneers of the early days of the settlement of the county. He has been very active in bringing about the improvements that make it a wealthy and highly developed region, where commerce and manufactures flourish.

Immediately upon locating at Nelson, Mr. McKinstry opened a store, and for many years sold goods here to the farmers of the surrounding country, besides consigning their grain for them at the station, of which he was the agent from 1857 until 1877, a period of twenty years. He established a postoffice here in 1858 for the convenience of the people in the village and outlying districts, and had it under his charge until five or six years ago, with the exception of three years. Besides doing the business for the farming community, he has also helped in the management of public affairs as a member of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, which office he held four years in the interests of Nelson Township. He has never neglected an opportunity to promote the welfare of his adopted county, and has always shown a wise public spirit in lending his influence to those schemes best calculated to advance the highest interests of this section. He possesses a vigorous mind, is well-informed, and is abreast of the times. He is widely and well-known in this part of the country and has many friends.

When our subject came to Nelson he was an unmarried man, but he subsequently contracted a matrimonial alliance the 29th of March, 1871, with

Miss Hattie Landis, a native of Lancaster County, Pa., and a daughter of Abraham and Maria (Pickle) Landis. Her parents were also Pennsylvanians, and they lived in their native State until after the birth of their children, except the youngest, who was born when they came to Illinois. They settled in Sterling in 1847, and there Mrs. Landis died in 1873, and in 1890 Mr. Landis closed his eyes in death, at the age of eighty-three years. They were people of solid worth, and were members of the Mennonite Church.



**L**YSANDER CYRENO SAWYER, who resides on section 6, Lee Center Township, was born in Clark County, Ohio, January 11, 1818, and is a twin brother of L. Cyrenus Sawyer, of whom see sketch in another part of this volume. He came to Illinois with his parents, and remained at home until he was eighteen years old, when he started out in life by himself. He worked for other people, and was also employed in improving his claim, located on section 1, Amboy Township. He also worked one winter in the lead mines in Jo Daviess County. He then traded his claim for a farm in China Township, on which he settled, and where he lived almost fifteen years, then purchased the farm where he now lives, and which comprises fifty acres. He has here made good improvements, and has his farm in first-class shape.

In 1850, Mr. Sawyer, in common with so many of the Western people, was attacked by the gold fever, going overland to California with an ox-team, the journey occupying six months' time. He remained in California about two years, during which he had the usual varied experience of the seekers after gold. He was ill a good part of the time, and on this account was not so successful as he might otherwise have been. He returned by way of the Isthmus and came very near being drowned, as the steamer on which he embarked at San Francisco was unseaworthy, but they succeeded in reaching Acapulco, when the vessel

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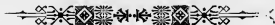
*Melville Beach*



completely gave out, the crew and passengers, however, congratulating themselves that matters were no worse. Mr. Sawyer returned to his farm in China Township, where he has since remained. He was married in Lee Centre Township, in September, 1840, to Miss Charlotte Shumway, who was born in Bradford County, Pa., September 19, 1820, where she grew to womanhood.

The father of Mrs. Sawyer, Darius Shumway, was a native of New York State, and her mother, whose maiden name was Catherine Hulburt, was born in New Jersey. They emigrated to Illinois, settling in Inlet Grove, in this county, but on account of sickness remained there but one year, when they returned to their old home in Pennsylvania, where they died. They had nine children, of whom Mrs. Sawyer was the second in order of birth.

Our subject and his wife are the parents of three children: Sarah E., who is the wife of Daniel Corell; William H., a farmer in China Township; and Hiram C., also a farmer, who resides in Sac County, Iowa. Mr. Sawyer is a strong Republican, and has held the office of School Director. Mrs. Sawyer is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is highly esteemed for her many amiable qualities.



**M**ELVILLE BEACH was formerly one of the foremost farmers and stock-raisers of Lee County, and still retains his large landed interests, although living retired from active business in his handsome residence in the village of Ashton. But few of the residents of this section have met with the success that crowned his efforts while he was engaged in agriculture and he is to-day one of the wealthiest men in this part of Illinois.

Mr. Beach is a native of Essex County, N. J., and May 28, 1812, the date of his birth. A history of his parents is given in the biography of his brother, Sidney Beach, on another page of this volume. When he was little over ten years old he accompanied his father in his migration to the

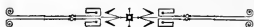
County of Delaware, Ohio, and there, under wholesome pioneer influences, grew to a vigorous manhood on his father's farm. The latter, who was a shoemaker as well as a farmer, taught him to make shoes, and he likewise gained a thorough knowledge of farming.

In the early '50s Mr. Beach left the old home in Delaware County to try his fortune in this State. He spent one winter in Chicago, and the following spring went to Washington Grove, Ogle County, where he lived two years. At the expiration of that time he came to this county, and in the years that followed was an important factor in the work of development being carried on by the pioneer settlers of this region. He settled on section 35, Ashton Township, where he lived and labored until his removal to the village of Ashton in 1876.

From the first Mr. Beach showed himself to be a valuable addition to the citizenship of the community among whose people he had come to dwell, and he was not a whit behind his neighbors in his liberal encouragement of public improvements and of enterprises that would tend to promote the growth of the township, while at the same time, by an exemplary life and by his advocacy of whatsoever would advance religion and morality; he was influential in forwarding its higher interests. He is possessed of an energetic, determined spirit, a mind quick to grasp and make his own the most accurate business methods, and a large share of common sense. With these traits prosperity was assured to him from the start, and in due time he accumulated a valuable property, including his handsome residence in the village of Ashton, and eleven hundred and sixty acres of fine land.

Mr. Beach was married to his first wife, whose maiden name was Nancy Wilson, in Delaware County, Ohio. She departed this life during their residence in that county. Of the several children born of that union, these two are the only survivors, James and Antoinette, the latter of whom is the wife of John Leidy. Our subject was a second time married, in Delaware County, Ohio, taking Miss Eliza J. Scott as his wife. Their marriage has been blessed to them by the birth of these four children: M. Wesley, Melva, Cora C. and

Esmeralda A. Mr. and Mrs. Beach are members in high standing of the Free Methodist Church, and their name is connected with its every good work. They are known for their charitableness, which is unquestioning where another's wants are to be relieved, or a kind act can add to another's comfort and contentment; for their hospitality, which is all bountiful; and for other pleasant attributes which endear them to all with whom they associate. As a loyal citizen Mr. Beach has always been interested in the politics of his country and is a member of the Prohibition party. In connection with this brief biographical notice appears a lithographic portrait of Mr. Beach.



**G**EORGE A. LYMAN, editor and proprietor of the *Amboy Journal*, although entering upon his profession at a comparatively recent date, after making his mark in an entirely different walk, has won recognition for his ability to conduct a well-regulated, readable paper, which is a potent force in the literary, social and political life of the county, as well as an influence in forwarding the material concerns of the community.

Mr. Lyman was born in the town of Winchester, N. H., June 26, 1838, and is a son of Tertius A. and Sarah P. Lyman, of whom a biography appears elsewhere in this volume. He was given excellent educational advantages, and was graduated in the Class of '55, from the Northfield Institute, at Northfield, Mass., which has since been merged into Dwight Moody's famous school at that place. In 1856, our subject accompanied the family to this county, and in due time he became one of the active, practical farmers of Bradford Township, owning and operating a good farm in that place. He devoted himself to agricultural pursuits and to his duties as a public official until 1888, when he turned his energies to the congenial profession of a journalist, for which his scholarly tastes, knowledge of men and affairs, and experience in politics, seemed to make him peculiarly adapted. He rented his farm and purchased the *Amboy Journal*, of which he is sole proprietor. This paper has more

than a local reputation, as it is the second oldest in Lee County, having been founded in 1855. It is an eight-column quarto, is a Republican organ, and its editorials are sound and clear expositions of the principles of that party, and treat intelligently all matters of general public interest.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Mary E., daughter of James A. Jones, was solemnized February 13, 1865. She was born in September, 1839. Two sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lyman—James Alex and George Richard. James, the eldest, was graduated from Beloit College, in the Class of '88, with the highest honors, he being Valedictorian of his class. He is now pursuing his studies at the Johns Hopkins University, at Baltimore, one of the foremost institutions of learning in the country, and he will finish his course in 1892, when he will receive the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The younger son is undergraduate at Beloit.

Mr. Lyman has always been an active politician, working in the interests of the Republican party, of which he is an ardent champion, although free from bitter partisan bias. He has been, for many years, Chairman of the Township Committee, and has been a delegate to District and State conventions. While a resident of Bradford, he was Township Assessor for some ten years, and held the responsible office of Township Treasurer fifteen years.



**J**ACOB HILL, a retired farmer, is now residing in North Dixon where he purchased a residence in the fall of 1890. He was for many years engaged in farming on section 22, Nachusa Township, this county, when he purchased his first thirty acres in 1856, to which he later added ninety-three acres more, and partially improved it. He finally sold the entire place to his son, Fred H. Hill who has not yet removed to his farm but is a resident of the same township.

Mr. Hill came to this State and county from

Livingston County, N. Y., where he had resided for fifteen years. He was born December 25, 1821, in Salem Township, Luzerne County, Pa. His father, Jacob Hill Sr., was also a native of Pennsylvania his birth place being near Philadelphia. His parents were of German ancestry. Jacob Hill, Sr., was married near the place of his birth to Miss Catherine Culp, whose parents were of good honest Pennsylvania stock and also of German descent. Some time after their marriage, the young couple settled upon a farm in Luzerne County, Pa., which they improved and on which they resided until 1854 when, with a portion of their family they came to Illinois and settled in South Dixon Township on new land that was mostly unbroken. Here they lived until their death, the father reaching the age of seventy-four and the mother living to be some years older. They were lifetime members of the Lutheran Church and were a worthy and estimable couple. Our subject is one of six sons and three daughters of whom four are still living. His first marriage took place in 1842 to Miss Lucy A. Hill, in Livingston, N. Y. She was a native of Luzerne County, Pa., in which county she was married. She died at her home in Nachusa Township, in 1864, at the early age of forty-four years. She was the mother of three children all of whom are living, namely: Mary M. wife of Abram Buskirk. They reside on a farm in Livingston County, N. Y.; Elizabeth married David Lansley and they are farming near Eldena; Fred H., who has recently purchased the old homestead and married Charlotte Miller of this county.

Mr. Hill was a second time married in this county to Miss Belinda Martena, who was born in Somerset County, Pa., April 20, 1832, remaining there until 1863. She is the daughter of Jacob and Anna (Cork) Martena, natives of Pennsylvania and Beverly County, Va., respectively. They were married in Somerset County, Pa., and there began life on a farm, following that occupation until their death when full of years, Mr. Martena being ninety-two years old to a day, and his wife reaching nearly as great an age. They were members of the Lutheran Church and highly respected people. Our subject and his wife are the parents of four children: Florence E., married Mallie Grove

and resides in Dixon; Samuel Freeman and Jacob D. are at home and are bright and intelligent children; Anna Catherine is the only daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Hill, with most of their family, are worthy members of the Lutheran Church and are highly respected and esteemed throughout the community. Mr. Hill has held the various local offices of his township, and in politics is a sound Democrat.



**P**ERSON CHENEY. The popular and well-known proprietor of the Union & Cheney House, of Missouri Valley, Iowa, has farming interests in this county vested in a beautiful farm on section 18, South Dixon Township, which he leaves to the skillful management of his wife and son, while he attends to his hotel business. Mr. Cheney is a native of Grafton County, N. H., born May 19, 1833, and a son of Person Cheney, Sr., and Ann (Moore) Cheney, who were both natives of the Granite State, the mother born and reared in Peterboro, Hillsboro County, and dying in Grafton County when past seventy-five years of age. The father was a life-long resident of the latter county, dying at the age of seventy-eight. He was a dealer in wood and coal for many years, and was greatly respected among a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Both he and his good wife were prominent members of the Baptist Church, and when a young man he filled the pulpit of that church for some years at different times.

Our subject is one of nine children, all of whom are living but two, one of them having been killed in the Rebellion, bravely yielding up his life for his country. The family comes of fine old New England stock, and ex-Governor Person Cheney, of New Hampshire, was a cousin of our subject.

Mr. Cheney grew up in his native county, receiving a practical education in its schools. For some time in his early manhood, he was engaged as a paper-maker, but he soon hit upon the vocation for which he is so admirably adapted by nature,

as an hotel-keeper, and has conducted that business with unqualified success for many years. He is an ideal host, his fine physique and ample proportions speaking well for his fare, and his inevitable cheerfulness, jollity, and courteous consideration of all with whom he comes in contact make him a great favorite with the traveling public, by whom he is always well patronized, and he has many friends throughout the commercial world all over the West, particularly in Iowa and Illinois. His first attempt at hotel-keeping was as proprietor of the Waverly House, of which he took charge soon after coming to Dixon in 1850, the hotel being the property of the Northwestern Railway Company, as is also the Union House, of Missouri Valley, with which he has been connected some years, running this and other hotels in Iowa during the last decade, and he was at the Waverly House eighteen years.

Mr. Cheney was married in Grafton County, N. H., to Miss Harriet Burnham, in whom he has found a valuable helpmate who has contributed right royally to his prosperity. Mrs. Cheney is also a native of that county among the granite hills of New Hampshire, where her marriage took place; born in the town of Rumney, March 29, 1835, a daughter of Samuel and Mary A. (Godfrey) Burnham. Her parents were likewise born in Grafton County, and were the son and daughter of New Hampshire people, both the Godfreys and Burnhams being among the early settlers of New Hampshire. Mr. Burnham was in early life a hatter, and during that time was Postmaster and Town Clerk of Rumney for some years. He subsequently went onto a small farm near Rumney, where he and his wife lived until after all their children were grown up and married, and they themselves were full of years, and then they came to Illinois in 1868, and from that time until their death were tenderly cared for by their daughter, Mrs. Cheney, in whose home they died, the mother passing away first in February, 1884, at the age of seventy-eight years, and the father dying in the same month in the year 1890, when some three months over eighty-nine years old. He was a member of the Universalist Church, while his wife was a member of the Baptist Church, and both

were sincere Christians. In politics, he was a sound Republican.

Mrs. Cheney is one of four children, of whom one is deceased. She is well educated, having been well schooled in her native State. She is well endowed both mentally and physically, has a decided talent for business affairs, and is an able manager, as is proved by the way she has carried on the farm with the assistance of her son. This farm, which has belonged to the family twenty-five years, comprises one hundred and twenty acres of fine farming land, which is adorned with a handsome set of buildings, including a commodious residence that is of a modern style of architecture, is tastefully and conveniently fitted throughout, and is one of the most attractive homes of this locality.

Mr. and Mrs. Cheney are the parents of three children, of whom two are deceased, Charles and Harry, who died young. Samuel T., their only surviving son, is a bright young man, who is ambitious and enterprising, and has already gained a good reputation as a farmer. Mr. Cheney and his son are Republicans, and are at all times loyal to their party.



**J**OHAN THARP LAWRENCE, a resident of Palmyra Township, is the oldest son of the late John Tharp and Julia (Ricketts) Lawrence. His father was born in London, England, March 26, 1791, and was educated at the school of the celebrated Dr. Burney. He entered the British navy as a midshipman at fifteen years of age and saw first service in the great battle of Trafalgar. He served through the Anglo-French War of 1811, when, during the temporary peace of that year, his elder brother's death gave him possession of the family property in England and the estate of Hazelymph Island of Jamaica. He resigned his commission in the navy and on September 11, 1818, was married at Elizabeth, N. J., to Julia, daughter of James Ricketts, Esq., of Abyssinia, N. J., and Ridgland, Jamaica. From this

marriage were born eleven children, of whom three survive: the subject of this sketch; James Ricketts, a retired merchant of New York City, and Frances, widow of the late Maj.-Gen. James B. Ricketts, of Washington.

After his marriage, Mr. Lawrence continued to reside on his Jamaica plantation, which was then valued at £48,000, with three hundred and six slaves, until 1827, when a law suit, by which the estate was thrown into chancery, and the approaching emancipation of the slaves by the British Government, led him to sell out his Jamaica property and remove to Elizabeth, N. J., where he continued to live until 1833, when, from the carelessness of a sailor and the prodigality of a West Indian, his means were somewhat reduced, so that he found it necessary to obtain some employment. He then removed to Jersey City, and for a short time held a situation in the New York Custom House, and was then induced to embark the remainder of his property in a commission and importing business in New York.

In the disastrous years of 1837 and 1838, amid the general failure of New York merchants, Mr. Lawrence also failed, and then removed his family in 1840 to Illinois, where he bought a squatter's title, as it was then called—the land not being yet in market—to seven hundred acres of land, part of which is still the present home of his son. At that time there were in this part of Illinois neither churches, schools, nor comforts of any kind, in addition to which the country was extremely sickly, rendering it a very unfit abode for women and children delicately brought up. For these reasons, added to the loss of one child, and the dangerous illness of others of the family, Mrs. Lawrence returned in the fall of the same year, 1840, to New York, with all the younger members of the family, and for their support and education opened a boarding-school in that city, which became sufficiently remunerative, her boarders being mainly the daughters of Southern planters. Mr. Lawrence, with his two elder sons, remained for some time longer in Illinois, but finally he and his second son joined Mrs. Lawrence in New York, where he died in 1847. His widow survived him until 1886, when she died aged eighty-five, at the home of her

son-in-law, Gen. Ricketts, in Washington, and was buried in the old family vault at Elizabeth, N. J.

John Tharp Lawrence, son of the above, was born at Hazelymph estate, St. James Parish, Jamaica, September 25, 1819, and was educated in the grammar department of the Columbia College, N. Y., under Prof. Charles Anthon, LL. D., the celebrated Greek scholar. In addition to private tutors in French, Spanish and mathematics, he was a cadet at West Point for one year, in 1836, being a classmate of Gen. Sherman, distinguished in the war for the Union. He was for a short time a pupil in the law-office of the well-known Lyman Trumbull, who was lost at sea in the ill-fated "Pacific." He also practiced surveying for a time, being employed in the survey of the first railroad projected in New Jersey, from Springfield to Easton, Pa., and assisted in laying out Greenwood Cemetery, L. I. He came to Illinois as a pioneer in advance of his family, in 1839, where he has resided as a farmer on the same land ever since. He was married June 9, 1845, to Elizabeth, the third daughter of Capt. Hugh Graham, of the American Merchant Marine service, and Mary Patterson, his wife. Mr. Lawrence has six children, five daughters and one son, namely: Julia, wife of Harry Eldred, residing in the State of Washington; John Tharp, who married Florence Hubbard, daughter of Thomas S. Hubbard, of Kansas; Elizabeth married Charles L. Guyot, an architect and builder, of Denver, Col. Three unmarried daughters, Lillias, Mary, and Frances, reside with their father.

Capt. Hugh Graham, mentioned above, was the son of a Belfast, Ireland, merchant, born in 1775. He entered the British navy as a midshipman, but soon left it for the merchant service at the early age of nineteen, commanding a vessel which ran to New York. He was a packet master for a number of years in the trade between New York and Liverpool. He removed with his family to Illinois in 1838, and died in New York, whither he had gone on a visit, in 1854. His wife died in 1845, at the residence of her son-in-law, the late Chief-Justice Lyon, of Wisconsin, then living at Ræine. William Graham, son of the above gentleman, having come to Illinois in the spring of

1837, with his friend Charles Hubbard, on a hunting expedition, was so pleased with the country, that he induced his father and many friends and acquaintances to join them. Through him the neighborhood of Dixon received many settlers, with considerable means and more education than the general run of pioneers to a new country, and who were of great advantage in building up this part of the State. Major William Graham, who traveled extensively in the Lake Superior country, California and Montana, died at the Montana Silver Mines in 1878.

In a country like England, which has suffered so little from foreign invasions and domestic wars, the records have been but little disturbed, and it is easy to trace family histories, particularly those of large landed proprietors, from the registers of deeds and wills, and the records in old churches. From these records a history of the Lawrence family has been drawn out, from which it appears that the first of the family of whom there is any record is the crusader, Sir Robert, who accompanied Richard Cœur de Leon to Palestine, and for services there (1191) was created Knight Baronet, granted lands and a coat-of-arms—a red cross, in the jargon of heraldry called a cross reguley gules, on a field azure, and the motto, *In Cruce Salus*—Salvation in the Cross; this has ever been the totem, as the Indians would call it, of a large family. James Lawrence, of Ashland Hall, Lancashire (1153) married Matilda, daughter and heiress of John de Washington, of Washington, Lancashire, England, and quartered the heiress's arms with his. Thus the Lawrence arms contain the stars and bars from which the American flag was taken. Sir Henry Lawrence (1623) of St. Ives, Huntingdon, was president of the Privy Council to his friend and neighbor, Oliver Cromwell. On the restoration of Charles II one of his sons settled in Huntingdon, L. I., and is the ancestor of the many prominent New York Lawrences; another son, John, emigrated to Jamaica in 1675, where he obtained large possessions and is the ancestor of the Jamaica Lawrences. His will is dated May 10, 1690. The estate of Fairfield, where he first settled, is still in the hands of the English branch, now represented by Hon. William Frederick Lawrence, of Cowes-

field House, member of Parliament for Liverpool. The Lawrences are thus identified with the earliest English settlement of Jamaica.

On the mother's side Mr. Lawrence is also connected with the earliest settlement of Jamaica, Capt. John Ricketts, of Cromwell's army, having accompanied Admirals Penn and Venables in the expedition sent by Cromwell (1655) against Jamaica and took part in its capture from the Spaniards. For his services he received a large grant of land and the estate of Ridgland, the earliest home of the family, remained in their possession until 1826. For his father's services in this expedition, William Penn, after suing many years at court, in curled locks and velvet doublet, received from James II the grant of Pennsylvania. Col. William Ricketts, son of the Capt. John above mentioned, went to New Jersey about 1670, where he married Miss Ogden, daughter of the first patentee of Elizabethtown, and became possessed of a large property there, on which his descendants resided until 1840. Elizabethtown, in the early part of the present century, was a very gay and fashionable place, many of the leading inhabitants having been prominent in military or civil employments during the Revolutionary War, and the town was a favorite city of refuge for the French emigrants. In the old church yard of St. Mathew's Church, there are still to be seen the tombstones covering the graves of many of the noblest names of France.

Mr. Lawrence's grandfather, James Ricketts, married Sarah, daughter of Peter VanBurgh Livingston, fourth Lord of Livingston Manor, New York, and his wife, Sarah Alexander, a sister of Lord Stirling. Mr. Livingston was the elder brother of Philip Livingston, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and William Livingston, for many years Governor of New Jersey during the Revolutionary War. The first President Harrison made a run-away marriage with a granddaughter of William Livingston. The Livingstons are connected by marriage with most of the New York families prominent in the early history of the country, the Jays, Schuylers, VanCourtlandts, VanRensselaers, Waltons, etc., and were themselves ardent patriots, VanBurgh Livingston having sacrificed a large part of his

fortunes in the struggle for Independence. Mr. Lawrence's family history is thus connected with the early history both of the United States and Jamaica.

Personally, Mr. Lawrence is a highly educated and refined gentleman, a worthy descendant of his renowned ancestors. He is of a literary turn of mind and has written extensively for various periodicals, one of his articles on practical farming securing a valuable prize offered by an agricultural paper.



**J**OHN P. MESEROLE, who has been a resident of Dixon for several years, was formerly a prominent contractor and builder of Long Island, doing an extensive business in the city of New York. He was born at Greenpoint, Long Island, N. Y., May 13, 1821, and is descended from an ancient French Huguenot family, the first of his ancestors to come to America arriving here in the seventeenth century, being one of the first settlers of Long Island. The father of our subject, Jacob Meserole, and his grandfather, John Meserole, were both born on Long Island. The latter served an apprenticeship to a cabinet maker in his youth, but we are not told whether he ever worked at the trade on his own account. When the Revolution of the American colonists broke out, he took his place in the ranks with his fellow-countrymen to fight for freedom from British oppression. He was subsequently captured by the enemy and pressed into service on board of a man-of-war. He early took advantage of an opportunity to escape, and rowed across the river to Manhattan Island, where he arrived in safety, though he was fired upon during his passage. For many years after that he had charge of the toll gate at Wallabout Bridge, Brooklyn, near the navy yard. He spent his last years at Guaness, which now forms a part of Brooklyn, dying at eighty.

The father of our subject was for many years a pilot on the Grand Street Ferry, New York, but he finally turned his attention to farming and

gardening on Long Island, in which he did a lucrative business. He died at Flushing, at the venerable age of eighty-six years. In early manhood, he married Mahala Post, who was also a native of Long Island, was a daughter of Richard Post, a Quaker. She died at Astoria, Long Island, aged sixty years.

He of whom we write received a sound education, and at the age of seventeen began to turn his aptitude for mechanics to account by learning the trade of a carpenter and builder at Astoria. He served an apprenticeship of three years and was thoroughly grounded in all that pertains to his chosen calling. He then worked at it for some years for others in New York and on his native island, and after that experience became a contractor and builder in his own right. As he always did good work, keeping fully up to the agreement in all particulars, and was prompt and methodical in carrying on his business, it grew and prospered, and in time he had all that he could control. He was very successful in handling large contracts, and was known as one of the most careful and reliable men in his line. He had his residence in Astoria, Long Island, and while many of his orders came from that quarter and from different parts of the island, he often took large contracts in New York City, and his reputation for ability was such that he was appointed general superintendent of the work when the improvement of Hell Gate was commenced. His business netted him a handsome income, and he accumulated a fortune sufficient for all his wants. In 1877 he came to Dixon to make his permanent residence in this attractive city, and his high character and pleasant social qualities have won for him the warm esteem of all with whom he associates.

Mr. Meserole was first married in April, 1846, to Miss Emily Vandervort. She spent her entire life on Long Island, her death taking place there in 1871. She was the mother of these four children: John V., William F., Jacob A. and Warren C. In 1874 our subject was married to Mrs. Julia M. (Merriman) Beckett, his present estimable wife.

Mr. Meserole is a Democrat of the purest type, and while a resident of Long Island City figured in its public life as a member of its Board of Alder-

men. He was formerly for many years one of the leading members of the Reformed Church, which he served as Deacon and Trustee. After coming to Dixon, there being no church of that denomination in the city, he united with the Presbyterian Church, of which his wife is also a member, and they are liberal in their contributions for its support.



**J**AMES E. GRAY, Postmaster of Lee Centre and Collector of Lee Township, has an enviable record as a soldier of the late war and bears the scars of wounds received during that struggle. His father, John Gray, was born in Ireland, and his mother, whose maiden name was Mary Powell, is a native of Wales. They came to Illinois in 1842 and to Lee Centre Township in 1849, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the mother dying in 1866 and the father in July, 1888. They were the parents of ten children, of whom our subject was the ninth in order of birth.

James E. Gray was born in London, Ontario, December 15, 1841. When he was five months old, his parents removed to Ogle County, Ill., where he lived until 1849, coming with his parents in the spring of that year to this county and settling in Lee Centre Township, where he grew to manhood. He was educated in the common schools and spent his youth upon the farm. He enlisted, April 18, 1861, in Company C, Thirteenth Illinois Infantry, being the first man in Lee Centre Township to enroll his name. He remained in this company and regiment for three years and was then mustered out of the service at Springfield, Ill., October 8, 1864; he re-enlisted in the Seventh Illinois Cavalry and served one year, being mustered out at Tusculumbia, Ala. He took part in the following battles: the siege of Vicksburg in December, 1862; Arkansas Post, Lookout Mountain, Ringgold Gap, Mission Ridge. At the battle of Chickasaw he was wounded in the left shoulder and left on the field for dead. During the siege of Vicksburg he received another wound, just above the left knee.

On leaving the army Mr. Gray returned to Lee

Centre Township and engaged in farming, but soon afterward removed to Blackhawk County, Iowa, where he remained for six years, carrying on a farm and also operating a steam sawmill. After spending some time in different States, he again returned to Lee Centre and was engaged principally in farming until appointed Postmaster, April 17, 1889. He has also held the office of Collector for some nine years.

Mr. Gray was married in Amboy, Ill., to Anna Christopher, who was born in Staten Island, N. Y., and died in Lee Centre Township, July 6, 1881. One son, John C., was the only child born to this couple. Mr. Gray is a member of the Masonic fraternity and is a man highly esteemed for his many good qualities. He makes a good public official, serving both the interests of the Government and those of his fellow-citizens with much ability. Mr. Gray contracted a second marriage March 4, 1890, Mrs. Alpha M. Fox, *nee* Lewis, becoming the bride. Mrs. Gray at the time of her marriage was the widow of M. Fox, a soldier in the late war.



**J**OHAN W. SANDERS is an enterprising and progressive young farmer who is successfully prosecuting his calling on his father's homestead on section 29, Ashton Township, where he has passed his entire life thus far, and he has already acquired an enviable reputation as an agriculturist of marked ability. He was born on the farm where he now lives July 4, 1861, and is the seventh of the nine children of Henry and Rachel (Morgan) Sanders, natives respectively of Adams County, Pa. and Ohio. A history of his parents is given in the sketch of Henry Sanders.

Our subject grew to manhood in the home of his birth in the western part of Ashton Township, and has never left its sheltering roof for another. He obtained an excellent education in the public schools, and a good training on the farm in all that goes to make a sagacious, observing and wide-awake farmer, who is prompt to use every resource for revenue afforded by a well-conducted farm.



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*Jacob Westman*

Thus well-equipped for the life of a farmer, and having a genuine liking for the occupation, he adopted it for his vocation when it came time for him to decide upon what career to enter. He then rented his father's farm of two hundred and eighty acres, which he keeps up to the same high standard in cultivation, productiveness, etc., it had attained before it came into his hands.

Mr. Sanders' pleasant, hospitable home owes much of its attractiveness to the amiable wife who presides over it. They were united in marriage in Ashton Township, January 9, 1883. Two children complete their household, Grover C. and Lulu C. Mrs. Sanders, whose maiden and married name are the same, her given name being Laura V., was born in Adams County, Pa., and is a daughter of Daniel Sanders, of that county.

Our subject and his wife are very highly thought of by the people around them, many of whom have known him all his life, have watched his course with satisfaction, and recognize the manliness and rectitude of his conduct in all the relations that he sustains toward others. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sanders are active in religious affairs, and are among the most efficient working members of the Presbyterian Church. In his political views, he has a decided tendency to mould his belief in accordance with the pronounced principles of the Democratic party.



**J**ACOB WERTMAN. In the twilight of an honored life this venerable resident of Natchusa Township, whose pleasant home was situated on section 4, closed his eyes upon the scenes of earthly toil and usefulness and passed to the great beyond, January 23, 1892. Esteemed in life, in death he was sincerely mourned and among his many acquaintances there was not one who did not realize that in the death of this citizen the township had lost one of its most active residents, and his family and friends one who was ever devoted to their happiness.

The Wertman family is of German origin and was established in this country by the graud-

father of our subject, Michael Wertman, who when a young man emigrated from the Fatherland and settled in Bucks County, Pa. Afterward he removed to Columbia County, where he secured a large tract of land and improved a fine farm, upon which he spent his last days, his death, however, occurring at the home of his son Daniel. His widow survived him some years and passed away in Columbia County. They were faithful members of the Lutheran Church and highly esteemed for their splendid endowments of heart and mind.

The second child in the family was Henry, father of our subject, who was born in Columbia County, and passed his childhood there and in Bucks County. In the last-named county he was married to Miss Anna M. Krymmin, a native of Bucks County, who belonged to an old Pennsylvania-Dutch family, Presbyterians in their religious belief and farmers by occupation. After residing for a number of years in Bucks County, Henry Wertman and his wife removed to Columbia County, where they secured a farm and resided for many years. Their last days were spent with their son, Henry, Jr., the father dying September 6, 1867, at the age of eighty-four years, and the mother departing this life November 16, 1859, aged seventy-four years. He was a member of the Lutheran Church, and she held membership with the Presbyterian Church. This worthy couple had a family of five sons and five daughters, all of whom were married and had families of their own. Of the number three sons and three daughters are yet living.

Our subject is the second in order of birth and was born in Hemlock Township, Columbia County, Pa., upon his father's farm, November 11, 1811. His boyhood was passed in the usual routine of farm labor, but, desiring to pursue some other avocation, he learned the trade of a carpenter in his youth. Hoping to better his financial condition by a removal to the new and rapidly growing West, he came to Lee County, Ill., in 1838, and in Dixon followed his trade for some years, or until his marriage, which was celebrated in Dixon Township.

The lady of his choice was Miss Mary E. Shell-

hammer, a native of Columbia County, Pa., born August 15, 1830. Her parents, Solomon and Jane (Buckaloo) Shellhammer, were also natives of the same county. The paternal ancestors came from Prussia, Germany, and settled in that community in an early day. There the grandfather of Mrs. Wertman lived and died, his life occupation being that of farming. Six children were born unto Solomon Shellhammer and his wife in Columbia County, Pa., after which, in the spring of 1837, they emigrated Westward with teams and covered wagons to Dixon, Ill. At night they camped along the wayside, and after traveling for eight weeks arrived at their destination on the 21st of June.

The father had followed wagon-making in the East, but after locating in Lee County secured land from the Government near White Rock, in Dixon Township, where he developed a farm. Some years later he purchased land in Nachusa Township, where he lived one year. He then made his home with our subject until his death April 28, 1879, at the age of eighty-two. His wife had passed away November 21, 1854, when fifty years of age. They were members of the Methodist Church, and throughout the community were held in the highest regard. Mr. Shellhammer made the first plow in Lee County, the implement having a wooden mold-board, steel shear and iron land-slide. With the early history of the community he had been prominently identified, and lived to see the many changes which transformed the county from a barren wilderness to one of the best counties in the State. In the Shellhammer family were eight children, seven of whom are yet living. All are residents of the West, are married and have families, and two now reside in Lee County. John T. and C. K. are mechanics; Jesse B. is living in Clayton County, Iowa. He and his brother Joseph, of Dixon, were soldiers in the late war, during which the latter was wounded and taken prisoner. He now receives a pension in recognition of his services.

Mrs. Wertman is the fourth in order of birth. She was carefully reared and has been a true and loving wife and mother. The Wertman house-

hold numbers four children, the eldest of whom, Charles H., wedded Sarah Courtwright, and is now engaged in farming near Milford, Seward County, Neb.; Thomas J. married Lucetta Hausen and is farming in Villisca, Iowa; Alice M. is the wife of Warren P. Dysart, a resident farmer of China Township; and Will L. married Miss Kate Smith, of Keedysville, Washington County, Md., and operates the homestead farm. The Wertman family is one widely and favorably known throughout this community and the various members are held in the highest regard by many friends. Their lives have been well and worthily spent and naught can be said against them.



**J** GEORGE MALACH, whose pleasant home is on section 14, Sublette Township, has acquired wealth by farming and stock-raising, and is among the foremost men of his calling in the county. He is a native of Germany, born November 1, 1830, at Oberhelbersheim, near the famous Bingen on the Rhine, and he grew to manhood amid the beautiful scenery of his native province. His parents were John Philip and Anna Maria (Silles) Malach. His father was a baker, and also tilled the soil, owning a few acres of land. At the age of sixty-seven years, he had to suffer the amputation of one of his legs on account of disease, but notwithstanding he was so old, he recovered from the effects of it, and lived some seven years longer, dying in the land of his birth at the age of seventy-four. His wife lived to be very old, being eighty-seven when she died. They were true and faithful members of the Roman Catholic Church. They had eight children, of whom only three grew up; our subject, the eldest, being the only one to come to America. John Jacob and Margaret still reside in Germany.

He of whom we write received a good education in the excellent schools of his native land, which he attended until he was eighteen years old. He learned the trade of a baker from his father, and at the age of twenty-two, in 1852, he em-

barked on a ship at Havre, and sailed away for the New World in the flush and vigor of the opening years of a stalwart manhood in quest of whatever fortune might have to offer him in this country with its immense resources and great possibilities. A voyage of forty-five days on the ocean brought him to New Orleans, where he worked at his trade for two years. He then came to Lee County to visit some cousins. He did not like country life, and made several trips to Chicago, in search of work as a baker, but could not obtain satisfactory wages. He then wisely concluded to do whatsoever his hands could find to do to earn an honest living, and hired out as a farm laborer.

Mr. Malach worked steadily, and by frugally saving his earnings, in a few short years became independent, and in 1863, purchased eighty acres of land that he had previously rented. He has displayed remarkable push and enterprise in the conduct of his affairs, and from that small beginning has increased the acreage of his landed property to seven hundred and twenty acres, in Sublette Township, which is divided into three farms, and he has besides land in other States. Each farm is provided with a good set of buildings, and the land is well cultivated, and Mr. Malach derives a handsome revenue from them.

Fortune also favored our subject in the selection of a wife, as by his marriage in 1859 to Miss Catherine Krebs, he secured the active co-operation of a capable helpmate. She was born within twenty miles of his birthplace, and came to this country with her parents, John and Theresa Krebs, who have been welcome inmates of the home of their daughter and son-in-law since 1859. Mr. and Mrs. Malach have seven children, namely: Mary T., wife of George Louer; John P., George A. F., Elizabeth, Catherine L., Christina Emma, and Orthmer William.

Mr. Malach inherited some property in Germany, but much of his fortune is the result of his own well-directed efforts in carrying out his undertakings. He has not only been an important agent in the upbuilding of this part of the county, but he has had a hand in the administration of local public affairs as an incumbent of some of the township offices, and he has generously aided every

plan for public improvement. He takes an intelligent interest in the politics of his adopted country, and is a stalwart Democrat. In religion, he has always held to the Roman Catholic faith in which he was reared by pious parents.



**C**HARLES T. DAVENPORT, of Willow Creek Township, has passed the most of his life in Lee County, and occupies an honorable place among its thrifty and enterprising young farmers and stock raisers. He was born in Angelica, Allegany County, N. Y., December 30, 1858, and is a son of Dwight Davenport, a prosperous farmer of this section. The latter is a native of Harpersfield, Delaware County, N. Y. When he was twelve years of age he went to live with an uncle in Angelica, and there grew to manhood. He attended school quite regularly and obtained a good education. When not in school he clerked in his uncle's store, and was thus engaged until 1858. In that year he started out in the world, and making his way to this part of the country, after visiting different parts of the State, selected Willow Creek Township as a desirable place to locate. He bought a tract of wild prairie, and in 1859 removed his family to their new home. At the time of purchase, his land was not under cultivation, and there were no buildings on the place. By steady industry he has wrought a great change, and now has his farm well tilled and amply provided with good buildings. In the upbuilding of his home he has had the valuable assistance of a helpful wife. Her maiden name was Margaret Heckman, and she is a native of Ithaca, N. Y.

He of whom we write is the only child of his parents, and he was but an infant when they brought him to Lee County, where he has ever since lived. He was given good educational advantages, gaining his early knowledge of the common branches of instruction in the local district school, and subsequently pursuing a good course of study in the seminary at East Paw Paw. When not in school, he assisted his father on the

farm, and has always resided on the old homestead, affording his father valuable help in its management, and showing himself to be a thoroughly practical farmer. He is a young man of good habits and personal character, and stands well among his associates. He takes an intelligent interest in politics, and is a stalwart Republican.

Mr. Davenport and Miss Mary Stubbs, a native of Willow Creek Township, united their lives in a happy marriage January 25, 1881. To them have been born two children, whom they have named Lena M. and Barbara E. Mrs. Davenport is a sincere Christian, and a member of the Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Davenport is a daughter of Andrew Stubbs, a well-known citizen of this township. He was born in Hartford, Oxford County, Me., March 11, 1822. His father, Nathaniel Stubbs, was also a native of Maine, and was a son of one Jonathan Stubbs, a pioneer farmer of Oxford County, where he spent his last years. Mrs. Davenport's grandfather was reared on the old homestead in Maine, and, with the exception of one year spent in Illinois, passed his entire life in Oxford County, where he died about 1870. The maiden name of his wife was Sophia Allen, and she was a native of the same town as himself. Her father was of English birth and breeding, and came to this country as a soldier in the British Army during the American Revolution. He sympathized with the Colonists in their struggle for freedom, and, deserting from the army, he settled in the town of Hartford, Me., as one of its pioneers. He bought a tract of timber land, cleared a farm, and resided there until his demise. His wife also died in Oxford County, her death occurring in 1865 at an advanced age.

Andrew Stubbs lived in his native county until he was twenty years of age, when he went to New Bedford, Mass., where he shipped on a whaler. He went on a cruise across the Pacific Ocean, and did not return to New England until after a voyage of four years and two months. He made two subsequent cruises, one of three years and ten months and one of three years' duration. Wearying of a sea-faring life, he determined to settle on land, and in July, 1853, he came to this State, where

there was plenty of it obtainable at a reasonable price. He bought a tract on section 34, Willow Creek Township, but a few months later he sold it and purchased a part of section 27, the same township, thus becoming the possessor of a tract of wild prairie, which he has since developed into a good farm, planting it with fruit and shade trees, and otherwise adorning the place, besides erecting suitable buildings and still making it his home.

Mrs. Davenport's parents were united in marriage August 24, 1850. Her mother's maiden name was Lucinda Gunn. She was born in the town of Collinwood, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, May 4, 1832. Her father, Horace Gunn, was a native of Massachusetts, and a son of Elijah Gunn, who spent his last years in Maumee, Ohio. Mrs. Stubbs' father went to Ohio with his parents in early pioneer times, when the State was but sparsely settled, and there was but one house on the present site of Cleveland. He bought land in what is now Collinwood, and built a home there, in which he resided some years. He then removed to Indiana, and lived in that State awhile, but subsequently returned to Williams County, Ohio, where his earthly pilgrimage was brought to a close. The maiden name of his wife, who was a native of Connecticut, was Annie Pritchard. She died at Collinwood, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Stubbs have eight children living, as follows: Elizabeth, wife of George Hinkley; Charles A., Benjamin, Almon, Mary, Albert, Ida and Wealthy. Mrs. Stubbs is a devoted Christian and a member of the United Brethren Church. Mr. Stubbs is sound in his political views, and a staunch Republican.



**I**SRAEL R. PATTERSON, A striking illustration of the power of patient purpose is furnished by the life of this gentleman, who is an attorney and Justice of the Peace at Amboy. He is one of the persevering citizens who have made Lee County what it is to-day, and is eminent in his own community for his unflinching integrity as a judge and his commendable public spirit as a citizen. Although he has had to combat against

physical weakness and poverty during much of his life, he at no time allowed adverse circumstances to daunt his strong will, and as the result of his industry and determination has achieved success.

James Patterson, father of our subject, was born in Washington County, Pa., and in his young manhood emigrated to Ohio. He first resided in Morgan County, where he was married to Miss Clarissa Ross, a native of the Buckeye State. Subsequently he made his home in other places, but finally located permanently in Morgan County, near the line of Muskingum County. During nearly all the years of his life he lived on a farm, but gave his attention to other pursuits, being engaged upon public works or in building railroads. The children born of this union numbered ten, of whom eight attained to mature years.

The third in this family was Israel R., who was born in Morgan County, Ohio, February 24, 1836, and passed his early life on his father's farm. Although his youth was passed on a farm, he never tilled the soil but engaged in other avocations. His education was received in the common schools of the district in which he lived and was somewhat limited. In 1855 he went to Maryland and Virginia and engaged in railroading; from there, in 1857, he came to Amboy and here he supplemented his previous education by attendance at private schools. He soon became a locomotive engineer on the Illinois Central Railroad and for several years was on a passenger run. His misfortune came in 1870, on the 8th of February; when his train was nearing the station at La Salle, his engine left the track and although he was the only one hurt, his injuries were severe, causing the loss of one limb and otherwise mangling his body.

On account of these injuries, Mr. Patterson was obliged to leave the road and earn a livelihood in other pursuits. He became a dealer in coal, hay and live stock, and so continued until 1877, at which date he was elected Justice. The duties of this office he has discharged satisfactorily and his industry is proved by the fact that since his election he has read law and has been admitted to the bar. His political belief brings him into affiliation with the Democratic party, to the principles of which he staunchly adheres. The Masonic frat-

ernity numbers him among its members and he is prominent in social circles. In his religious belief he is a free-thinker and maintains independence in religious thought.

Mr. Patterson was married, February 22, 1859, to Sarah R., daughter of Henry and Hepsiba Stewart. Mrs. Patterson was born in Chemung County, N. Y., whence she removed with her parents to Michigan and later came to Amboy. Seven children have been granted to Mr. and Mrs. Patterson, namely: Oscar E., a railroad man; George H., conductor on the Illinois Central Railroad; Anna and Addie, twins; Henry, Mattie and Walter, who are still under the parental roof. In the growth of Amboy Mr. Patterson has the most intense interest and has contributed no little to effect this most desirable result.



**E**VERETT E. CHASE. The ordinary, everyday life, with its duties and cares, affords splendid opportunity for acquiring practical experience, and its most common high road gives to the true worker available openings toward success. The honored position occupied by Mr. Chase in social and business circles is not the result of accidental fortune, but has been secured by tireless energy and honorable dealings with all. During a period of thirty-six years he has resided in Amboy, where he is at present (1892) serving as Justice of the Peace, and has heretofore occupied other positions of honor and trust.

The ancestors of Mr. Chase were among the Puritans of New England, where various representatives of the family still reside. Simpson Chase, father of our subject, was a mason by trade, and for a number of years was engaged in contracting and building. One hand becoming disabled, he gave up his trade, and during the remainder of his life was engaged as a grocer in Providence, R. I. In that city he resided during the greater portion of his life and until he passed away, at the age of fifty-six years. His wife, whose maiden name was Rebecca Goff, survived him many years,

and attained to the great age of seventy-six years. The worthy couple held membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which they were earnest workers.

The subject of this biographical notice was one of nine children, of whom five attained to their majority. He was born in Pawtucket, R. I., September 27, 1840, and was the recipient of excellent advantages during his youth. Of the family to which he belongs, only two members survive besides himself: his sisters, Rebecca E. and Elizabeth J., both of whom reside in Providence, R. I. An elder brother, Newton S., came to Amboys soon after this place was started, and engaged in business as a merchant tailor until his death. Charles, a younger brother, was a fine musician, but died when a young man. After completing the course of instruction in the schools of Providence, our subject came to Amboys in 1856, when sixteen years old. His first employment was in clerking in his brother's merchant tailoring establishment, and later he was engaged as Deputy Postmaster for a short time.

Again Mr. Chase was employed as a clerk and as Deputy Postmaster, and some time later, in connection with the latter position, he became a partner in a book and stationery business. In 1864 he enlisted in the United States service as a private in Company A, Eleventh Illinois Infantry. He served one year, being principally on detached duty and doing clerical work. After the war he was not in any regular business until 1868, when he entered the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad, as clerk in the office of the Superintendent, a position which he held until 1875. He then engaged in the live stock business for two years, until his election to the position of Justice of the Peace. He has since served in this capacity with the exception of four years (from 1885 to 1889) when he was not engaged in any special work.

In 1867 Mr. Chase was married to Miss Mollie, daughter of John C. Jacobs. Mrs. Mollie Chase died in 1868, and seven years later Mr. Chase was united in marriage with the widow of Capt. M. W. Wells, whose maiden name was Grace Cowdrey. Mr. and Mrs. Chase have an attractive home in Amboys, and he is also the owner of a farm of one

hundred and sixty acres adjoining the city. The only society to which he belongs is the A. O. U. W. In his political affiliations he has always been a strong Republican, and has been a delegate to State conventions. Besides the office which he now holds, he has filled various other local positions, having been City Clerk twelve years and Tax Collector for two terms.



**HENRY B. ROOT.** More than twenty years have passed since Mr. Root came to this county and located on section 16, Amboys Township. Here he still resides, busily engaged in the cultivation of the seventy-five acres which comprise his farm. Upon the place he has erected all the necessary buildings for the shelter of stock and farming implements, as well as the storage of the grain which is harvested each year in ever-increasing quantities. The family residence is roomy and substantial, while the surroundings are in every way inviting and attractive.

The parents of our subject were William R. and Laura (Benedict) Root, natives of Connecticut and Sheffield, Mass. They possessed the sturdy qualities which almost invariably characterize the people of New England, and passed their entire lives amid the surroundings to which they had been reared. Both died in Massachusetts, he in Housatonic and she in Sheffield. Their family circle was completed by the birth of eight children. Our subject, who was the second among them, was born February 4, 1828, in Sheffield, Berkshire County, Mass., and on a farm in his native county attained to the age of sixteen years. From that time until he was nineteen, he resided in Connecticut, whence he returned to Sheffield and learned the trade of paper-making.

After serving an apprenticeship at that trade, Mr. Root became foreman in the mill and was thus employed for eight years. In March, 1870, he came to Illinois and located in this county, purchasing the farm upon which he now lives and which is pleasantly situated on section 16, Amboys Town-



ship. Since he first came here this has been his home, with the exception of two years, of which one was spent in Amboy and the other in the East. His time has been industriously devoted to the cultivation of the place, which now ranks among the best improved estates in the community, and although not so large as some others, every acre is made to yield the very largest returns for the labor expended upon it. His success has been secured by the use of proper business methods in his farming operations and the exercise of good judgment in the rotation of crops.

On December 25, 1854, Mr. Root was married to Miss Caroline Phelps, in Copake, Columbia County, N. Y. The parents of Mrs. Root were Seth and Polly (Bassett) Phelps, natives respectively of Massachusetts and Fair Haven, Conn. He died in New Marlborough, Mass., and she passed away in Hillsdale, N. Y. They had a family of four children, Mrs. Root being the third in order of birth. She was born in Hillsdale, Columbia County, N. Y., February 8, 1832, and there was reared to womanhood. Her marriage to Mr. Root brought to them one child, a daughter—Ida V., who died when about four years old.

In local political affairs, Mr. Root has taken a prominent and active part, voting the Republican ticket whenever opportunity offered. His peculiar fitness for official position has been recognized by his fellow-citizens, who have called upon him to serve in many places of honor and trust. In every position he has displayed his energy and ability and has won commendation from those whose interests he had in charge. For some time he served as Constable, was School Director for six years, and is now Highway Commissioner, which position he has held for eight years.



**A**UGUST PETRI, who resides on section 7, Bradford Township, is one of the enterprising, industrious, German-born citizens of whom this county may well be proud. He was born in Prussia, October 27, 1827, and when twenty-four years of age, emigrated to the United

States. He landed at New Orleans and worked in Tennessee for a few months, when he went to California, where he remained for over six years digging for gold.

Having accumulated a comfortable fortune, our subject returned to his native country where he remained for two years, after which he decided to again come to America. He at first went to Canada, where he was employed for some time in settling his brother's estate. In 1866 he came to Lec County and the following year was married to Amalia Griesse who was a native of Hesse-Cassel, Germany, her birth taking place February 22, 1850. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Petri settled on section 7, Bradford Township, where they now reside. Their family comprises ten children: Minnie, William, John, August, Otto, Hilda, Clara, Leonard, Richard, and Rudolph.

Mr. Petri has a fine farm of two hundred and eleven acres, on which are an excellent set of buildings and which evinces in every detail the careful management of its owner, who is possessed of the true German thrift and industry. He and his family are worthy citizens and are highly esteemed throughout the township.



**S**USAN P. (FOSTER) DETAMORE, widow of David Detamore, is well known in Lec County, of which she has been a resident these many years, as the former proprietress of the Detamore House at Paw Paw, which under her able management was regarded by the travelling public as one of the best hotels between Dixon and Aurora. She is now living in retirement in the enjoyment of an ample income, passing a part of each year in her pleasant home in Paw Paw Village.

Mrs. Detamore is descended from fine old New England and Revolutionary stock, and her birth-place is in the town of Wilmington, among the hills of Windham County, Vt., March 15, 1815, the date of her birth. Her father was Jedediah Foster, and he was born in Brookfield, Mass., and

was a son of Theodore Dwight Foster, who was also a native of New England, and was an early settler of Wilmington, where he was engaged as a farmer, and spent his last years. The maiden name of his wife was Susanna Packard. She died on the home farm in Wilmington.

Jedediah Foster was reared and married in Brookfield, and went from there to Vermont, locating in the town of Wilmington. That was long before the introduction of railways, and the farmers of that region used to go to Boston with teams to market their produce. Mr. Foster resided at Wilmington until 1848, and then became a pioneer of this county, taking up his abode at Paw Paw, and here he and his good wife passed their remaining days, until they entered life eternal through the portals of death. Her maiden name was Tamison Gilbert, and Amherst, Mass., was her native place. Her father was a gallant soldier in the Revolution, and was killed in battle while fighting for the cause of freedom. Mrs. Foster had been twice married, and her first husband was named Billings. By her second marriage with the father of our subject she became the mother of these three children: Dwight, who died at Paw Paw; Susan P., and Mary Osmer, who died at Parkman, Ohio.

Mrs. Detamore was reared under good home influences in her New England birthplace, and the careful instruction that she received from her mother in all household duties made her an exceptionally capable housewife, thus she was well prepared for the arduous duties that devolved upon her in after years. When she was a young lady she went to Ohio, and in the town of Eaton, that State, gave her hand to David Detamore in marriage, and their wedded life was productive of mutual benefit and happiness.

Mr. Detamore was born in Rockingham County, Va., May 22, 1822, and was a son of Jacob and Sophia Detamore. He went to Ohio with his parents, who settled in that State in pioneer times. In his youth he learned the trade of a carpenter and stair builder, and pursued his calling in Eaton until 1851. In that year he took an important step in life, whereby his fortunes were materially bettered, as he then came to Lee County and iden-

tified himself with its pioneers. He was accompanied hither by his wife, and they came by the way of the lakes to Chicago, thence by rail to Aurora, the nearest railway point to this part of country, and from there they came by a private team to Paw Paw, which was then in its infancy, a hamlet of some half-a-dozen houses and one store.

After his arrival Mr. Detamore invested some money in several acres of land now included in the village, and he and his wife began life here in a small brick house of four rooms that stood on the place. There was no hotel here at the time and perceiving the need of one and the advantages of their location, they at once made arrangements to keep boarders and to accommodate the traveling public. As the village grew, and the fame of their hotel spread, their custom increased, and they made additions to the house, which was finally made a stage station on the route from Aurora to Dixon. As their patronage was still further increased Mr. Detamore had to enlarge his house still more, and subsequently built the hotel known as the Detamore House. He managed the house some years with the active co-operation of his wife, and then rented it and lived retired until his death in August, 1859, while yet in the prime of life, as he was then but thirty-seven years of age.

After her bereavement, Mrs. Detamore bravely took up the burden of life alone for the sake of her little daughter, and returning to the hotel she resumed charge of it, and managed it for many years with signal success. Under her watchful care it was rendered homelike and comfortable to its inmates, and a pleasant retreat to the weary traveler who sought temporary shelter beneath its roof, and found refreshment for mind and body in neat room and well-served food. Her kind, motherly manner, and cheerful, friendly ways, endeared her to those who made her house their home, gained her the esteem of all with whom she came in contact, and never did landlady enjoy more popularity than she during her reign of more than a quarter of a century, as head of the Detamore House. In 1885 she sold the hotel, and has since then lived retired, spending a part of each year in Paw

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T. J. Miller

Paw, and the remainder of the time with her daughter, the wife of Dr. T. D. Palmer, of Chicago. Mrs. Detamore is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is an exemplary Christian.



**T**HEODORE J. MILLER, who is engaged in the sale of musical instruments, sewing machines, etc., is one of the successful, substantial business men of Dixon. He is a Pennsylvanian by birth, born in the township of Summit, Somerset County, September 5, 1848. His father Josiah Miller, a brave soldier of the late war, was a native of the same county as himself. He in turn was a son of Daniel Miller, who was born in Eastern Pennsylvania about 1783. He removed to Somerset County in early manhood and was an early settler of Summit Township, where he carried on his trade as a wagonmaker, and there his life was brought to a close in 1856. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Long.

The father of our subject was reared and educated in the county of his nativity. He learned of his father the trade of wagon and carriage maker, and carried on business in that line at Mechanicsburg some years. He was then elected Justice of the Peace and gave his attention to his official duties until after the breaking out of the war. Enlisting in 1861 in Company C, Fifty-fourth Pennsylvania Infantry, he served with valor and fidelity in the Army of the Potomac three years, taking part in several important engagements. He won a good military record, of which his descendants may feel proud, and returning to his native State, passed the rest of his life at Myersdale, that lost a valuable citizen in his death in June, 1884.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Matilda Beachey. She was born in Somerset County, Pa., and died in 1849 in Summit Township, that county. She was the mother of four children. Annie married George Knee, First Lieutenant of Company A, Tenth Pennsylvania Reserves, who died January 27, 1863, of wounds received at the battle of Fredericksburg, December

13, 1862. Afterward she became the wife of W. C. Hicks, and survived him some time, passing away at Myersdale, Pa., July 31, 1890. Lydia married Daniel Peek, of Dickinson County, Kan; Maggie is the wife of Dr. George W. I. Brown; and our subject completes the family circle.

The maternal grandfather of our subject was Peter A. Beachey, who was born in Somerset County in 1797. His father, Abraham Beachey, who was a native of Switzerland, came to this country with his parents when he was young, and was reared in Maryland. From there he went to Pennsylvania and was a pioneer of Elk Lick Township, Somerset County, buying a tract of timber land from the Government and clearing a farm from the forests primeval, on which he dwelt until death closed his mortal career.

Peter A. Beachey was bred to the life of a farmer, and devoted himself to agricultural pursuits and raising stock. He was a man of more than ordinary push and energy, possessed of good judgment and acquired a large property for those days. He died in 1854. The maiden name of his wife was Ann Livengood and she was born in Pennsylvania in 1797, a daughter of Christian L. Livengood. The great-great-grandfather of our subject was the Rev. Peter Livengood, who was born on the banks of the River Rhine, Germany, and came to America in Colonial times. In 1760 he started for what was then considered a part of the "Great West," and crossing the Alleghany Mountains, located in what is now Elk Lick Township, Somerset County, Pa., which was a wilderness. He made a claim which was marked by blazed trees, and later secured from the Government a patent to several thousand acres of land, a portion of it in behalf of his neighbors. He was very prominent in the settlement as a preacher and school teacher and was well educated for the times. At the same time he superintended the improvement of his land. Both he and his good wife lived to be very aged, he dying in his ninety-sixth year, and she in her ninetieth year. Christian L. Livengood spent his entire life in Somerset County, his death occurring at the age of seventy-six years. He married Elizabeth Forney, whose father was a teacher and a soldier from

Darmstadt, Germany. She was born in 1769, and died when eighty years old.

Our subject was very young when he was deprived of a mother's tender care by her untimely death, and the family was scattered. At the age of nine years he went out to work on a farm for his board and clothes, and at fourteen years of age received \$7 a month for his services, which was good wages for a boy at that time. He remained on the farm until the fall of 1864, and then following in his father's footsteps, enlisted, though but sixteen years of age, and became a member of Company K, Fifth Pennsylvania Artillery, and served in the defense of Washington until July 6, 1865, proving to be a good soldier in spite of his youthfulness. On his return from the South he attended school for a while. In 1866 he came to Lee County and located at Franklin Grove, where he was variously employed for a time.

Not satisfied with his education, Mr. Miller became a student in Dixon Seminary, and after pursuing his studies in that institution two terms, early in 1867 he entered the Iron City Business College at Pittsburg, where he had the benefit of an excellent course of study that was a good preparation for his subsequent mercantile career. He was graduated from that college in June, 1867, and returning to Lee County, resumed work on the farm, and was thus employed until 1869, when he established himself in his present business as a dealer in musical instruments, sewing machines, etc. He has a commodious store, stocked with a varied assortment of whatever is in demand in his line, and is one of the leading merchants in his branch of business in this part of the State. His name is a synonym of honor and honesty in financial circles, and in his social relations he is esteemed for his culture and true gentlemanliness. He and his amiable wife are members of the Baptist Church, and they are associated with its every good work. He is a teacher in the Sunday-school, and has done much to promote its growth. He is a member of Friendship Lodge No. 7, F. & A. M.; Dixon Chapter No. 56, R. A. M.; Dixon Commandery, No. 21, K. T.

On October 15, 1872, Mr. Miller married Miss Mary C. Emmert, a native of Franklin Grove, this county,

and a daughter of Ezra and Sarah (Neweomer) Emmert. Eight children have been born to our subject and his wife, Grace E., Hugh, Ray, Dora, Gay G., Ezra E., Maud and Theodore J.

Mrs. Miller's father was born seven miles southeast of Hagerstown, Washington County, Md., July 26, 1826. His father, Joseph Emmert, was a native of Pennsylvania and went from there, when a young man, to Maryland, where he bought a farm. He resided there until 1845 and then sold his property in that State, and coming to Lee County settled among its pioneers, buying a partly improved farm near Franklin Grove. A few years later his buildings were destroyed by fire, and he went to live with his son-in-law, a half mile from Franklin Grove, in whose home his death occurred. He was a worthy member of the German Baptist Church and a preacher in that denomination. His wife, Catherine, daughter of Henry Evay, was born and died in Washington County, Md.

Ezra Emmert passed his early life in his native County, and had nearly attained manhood when he came to Illinois with his parents. The removal thither was made with a four-horse team, and five weeks were consumed on the journey. At that time Lee County was sparsely settled and but little improved, deer, wolves and other wild animals roaming at their pleasure where are now fine farms and thriving towns. There were no railways and he used to team grain in Chicago, which was then a city of from twenty to forty thousand inhabitants. Mr. Emmert made his home with his parents until he married, and then bought a tract of wild land three miles from Franklin Grove, upon which he built a dwelling and other necessary buildings, and at once commenced the pioneer task of developing a farm.

A natural mechanic and possessing a marvelous genius in that line, Mr. Emmert early turned his attention to the improvement of farming machinery and made numerous valuable inventions, which have been of great benefit to farmers. He invented a combined seeder and cultivator, for which he secured letters patent, and derived a good profit from the manufacture and sale of the machine at Franklin Grove. He was the original inventor of

the harvester that was manufactured by the Marshes, and was known as the Marsh harvester. He also invented a corn planter and rotary seed drill, and was the inventor of the ingenious combination known as the combined well and cistern, of Emmert's portable well, and Emmert's combined cook and hot water stove, a contrivance calculated to heat the house by water from the kitchen stove.

The maiden name of Mr. Emmert's first wife, mother of Mrs. Miller, was Sarah A. Neweomer. She was born in Washington County, Md., and was a daughter of Peter and Sarah (Sherrick) Neweomer. She was the mother of four children, Mary C.; Eleanor A., the wife of the Rev. Asbury Gregory, a Baptist minister; Sarah L., who died in infancy; and Joseph F., who died when ten years old. Mr. Emmet's second wife was Mary E. Andrus, a native of Franklin County, N. Y.



**C**HARLES F. WELTY is a wide-awake, progressive farmer and stock-raiser, carrying on an extensive business in Marion Township, where he has a valuable farm and large herds of cattle; an able and public-spirited official, representing his township as a member of the County Board of Supervisors, Charles F. Welty stands among the foremost of the sons of Lee County, who were born within its boundaries, and are now among its most useful and enterprising citizens.

The city of Dixon is the birthplace of our subject, and November 3, 1858, the date of his birth into one of the oldest and most highly respected pioneer families of that city and the county. His father, the late Judge David Welty, was for years widely and favorably known throughout Northern Illinois, as a man of large business enterprise, as an incorruptible judge while he sat on the bench, and as a noble citizen, who wielded a powerful influence in advancing the educational, moral and social interests of his community. The Judge was a native of New York, and for some years, during his early manhood, was engaged in the mercantile business in the city of Buffalo. In 1833, his health be-

came impaired, and he came to Illinois to recuperate, making the journey hither on horseback, and from that time until the day of his death in January, 1885, at a venerable age, was a resident of Dixon. He was a man of means, a gentleman-farmer, and dealt largely in real estate. In politics, he was a Republican, and he was a prominent figure in public life. He was at one time Drainage Commissioner, and he served as Probate Judge for eight years. He was for many years one of the leading Odd Fellows of this part of the State, being a charter member of Dixon Lodge, No. 39.

The following biographical record of Judge Welty's life and eloquent tribute to his memory is taken from the Dixon *Telegraph*:

#### DEATH OF JUDGE WELTY.

"With a heart of grief we are again called on to register the death of another of our old and much respected citizens. Mr. David Welty quietly passed from this life last evening at half-past ten o'clock, after a lingering illness of many years. Mr. Welty was born in Williamsville, Erie County, N. Y., September 30, 1811. When he was twelve years of age, he moved to Buffalo, N. Y., where he acquired the greater part of his education. On arriving at the age of maturity, he engaged in the dry-goods business, which he followed a number of years. During the patriot war in Canada, Mr. Welty served as Aid on the staff of Gen. Burt. He moved to Dixon in the year of 1833, and has ever since resided in this county. He was elected Probate Judge in 1854 and served two terms. He also held the office of Drainage Commissioner for several years. Judge Welty was married to Miss Seraphina Scott, at Buffalo, N. Y., in 1834. David Welty leaves nine surviving children, namely: Emily, now Mrs. Devine; Ellen, married to E. K. Sibley; John, now in the Government employ; Maxwell, Adeline, Anna, Charles, William and George. Mr. Welty has been a member of the Odd Fellows' fraternity, and, until his health became so shattered that he was unable to do so, he was a regular and an active member. We understand that he was insured in a reliable life insurance company for the sum of \$10,000.

"In his day he was a good business man, and he

has always been honored and respected for his honesty and integrity as a citizen and official.

"In the death of Judge Welty, whose funeral takes place to-morrow afternoon, another old "landmark," so to speak, in the history of Dixon and Lee County, has passed away. For a man who had so strong a character, such a marked ability for business, and strict integrity, it would appear to those who knew David Welty that the brief and formal notice of his death that appeared in the *Evening Telegraph*, yesterday, was not what is due to such a man from a public journal. So we thought, in our haste, and, therefore, we write this in way of apology. Judge Welty, for many years, was known as a prominent citizen of Dixon and Lee County; held offices of public trust, where hundreds of thousands of dollars were in his hands, and where great temptation for speculation—even without injury to the public service, save in example—would arise; but those who knew the man would not have had the impudence or temerity to hint to him concerning a proposition of using his public office for personal gain in anyway whatever. While it is true that "an honest man 's the noblest work of God," still there are men who who have not the good sense always to carry out that principle, though possessing a wish to do so; but David Welty was a man who knew enough to be honest. He was a man who despised meanness, in whatever shape it came, and he had that force of character which aided him in refusing his recognition, coming in any shape it might. As an indication of "how strong he was armed in honesty," the *Telegraph* cannot better illustrate his character than by relating one of his official acts. As a requisite for admission to the bar, a certificate of "good moral character" was then, as now, required by the law student from the county judge. A man of a doubtful reputation from one of the towns in the county undertook to smuggle in as a lawyer. No particular examination as to qualifications was required in those days and a part of the general plan of the trick, of which we speak, was that of securing the required certificate by taking the court by storm. The would-be lawyer sent to Judge Welty's house late at night and requested his presence at the office. When the court arrived,

the business was not very important, and, in fact, only that of a certificate of good moral character for the party in waiting. Judge Welty, probably not in good humor, immediately wrote and signed the following: "I hereby certify that ——— is a man of character," and with it the would-be lawyer departed for Ottawa. The fact that he took such a paper was sufficient evidence that he was not a fit man to have a better one. When a courier returned with the document and suggested to Judge Welty that he had omitted the essential words, "good moral," which were required to make the certificate of any avail, the court firmly informed him that it was just as he intended it should be. It was, we believe, after Judge Welty had retired from office that the bar was disgraced with an unworthy member. He was an officer who in all sincerity looked upon "a public office as a public trust," and his entire course in all the years that he served the people was marked by a determination to hew to that line. For several years he has been in very feeble health, and has been for many years since he retired from active business. Those who have known him only in the last decade knew not the man of whom we have written. The four-score years, aided by impaired health in early youth, ended his days of usefulness about the time suggested. Since then he has not been in any way the Judge Welty of other days. He was a remarkable man in many respects and we shall not, taking him all in all, "look upon his like again." We knew him well, honored and respected him for the sterling qualities of head and heart that were characteristic of the man."

Judge Welty's wife, with whom he lived in wedded happiness for more than a half-century, did not long survive him, her death occurring July 26, 1886. They were the parents of thirteen children, of whom these ten grew to maturity: John M., who is employed in the Pension Office, at Washington, D. C.; Emily, wife of L. A. Devine, of Dixon; Elizabeth, deceased; Addie, a stenographer, of Kansas City; Anna, deceased; Ella, wife of E. K. Sibley, a banker in New York City; Maxwell, a station-agent, at Beebe, Ark.; George, a traveling man, of Chicago; Charles F.; and William A., a telegraph operator in Colorado.



Charles F. Welty received a substantial education in the excellent schools of Dixon, and after he had attained manhood took charge of his father's land. In 1881, he went to South Dakota and took up three hundred and twenty acres of land, and was engaged in its cultivation for two years. He then sold it, and returning to Illinois in 1883, took upon himself the responsibilities of domestic life by marrying Miss Mary A. McKeivitt, a native of Bureau County, in whom he has found a true wife, who has made his interests her own, and has materially contributed to his well-being. Three children have been born unto them: George, Frances and Anna.

Mr. and Mrs. Welty passed the first year of their wedded life in Franklin County, Iowa. They then came back to Illinois, and he purchased from his father three hundred and forty-five acres of land in Marion Township, which he has since devoted to stock-raising, for which it is admirably adapted. His operations are by no means confined to the limits of his farm, but he rents some two thousand acres of land, on which he pastures nearly two thousand head of cattle, and from his stock interests he derives a large revenue.

Our subject's fellow-citizens, keenly appreciating his manifest talent for carrying on a large business with a cool head, a steady hand, with close calculation, and never-failing, far-seeing judgment, have chosen him to represent the interests of Marion Township as a member of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, and he is now serving his second year in that capacity. His popularity is attested by the fact that his constituency is strongly Democratic, while he is a thorough Republican.



**T**HOMAS GRAY is one of the old settlers of this county, who is well known and highly esteemed as one of the enterprising, progressive farmers, who have done so much to render Lee County one of the well-improved portions of the Prairie State. He resides on section 4, Lee Centre Township, where he has a large and highly cultivated farm on which he has erected a fine set of

buildings, and is there most successfully carrying on the occupation to which he has devoted the greater portion of his life.

Mr. Gray was born in London, Canada, where he remained until the age of seventeen, when he removed with his father to Ogle County, this State, and settled in Leaf River Township, remaining there for seven years. In the early summer of 1849, he came to this county and located at Inlet Grove, Lee Centre Township, where, for a number of years, he kept a hotel, known as the Inlet House. In August, 1877, he removed to the farm on which he now resides, and where he has ever since been engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Mr. Gray was married at Inlet Grove, November 4, 1852, to Miss Margaret Ann Saxton, who was born in Nova Scotia, November 4, 1830. When she was about four years old her parents removed to Canada, and settled about forty miles from London. Here she was reared to the age of sixteen years, when the family removed to Calhoun County, Mich., and three years later, to this county. Mr. and Mrs. Gray are the parents of six children—John W., who is farming in Lee Centre Township; Fremont, who died in infancy; Edward J., also a farmer in this township; Jessie F., M. Anna, and Josiah L.

Mr. Gray is a staunch Republican, and in earlier years took an active part in political affairs. He has held the office of Highway Commissioner for many years, and has also been School Trustee. He and his wife are consistent members of the Free-will Baptist Church, and takes an active part in all religious matters, doing whatever lies in their power for the advancement of Christianity and for the benefit of their fellow-citizens.

The father of our subject, John Gray, was born in Ireland, and came to Canada when a young man, where he was married to Mary Powell, who was a native of Wales. In 1842, they left Canada and came to Illinois, settling in Ogle County, from which place they removed to Lee County, settling in Lee Centre Township, where they lived for the remainder of their days. Their family consisted of ten children, of whom our subject was the third in order of birth, and the eldest son. The parents of Mrs. Gray, Peter and Catherine

(Hankinson) Saxton, were natives of Nova Scotia, where they were married, and where the father died. The widow came to Canada with her four children, and there lived for many years. She is now a resident of Iowa.



**J**OSEPH G. HALL was born in England, March 9, 1843, but the most of his life has been passed in the United States, which has no more loyal citizen than he, as was proven by his course during the late war, when he enlisted in the opening year of that great civil conflict, although scarcely more than a boy, and fought for the country of his adoption with all the ardor and patriotism of one native to the soil. And his record is equally good since those trying days, as, by his enterprise as a farmer and stock-raiser, he has contributed to the wealth of this county, where he has made his home for thirty-five years. His farm, lying on section 3, May Township, is a model in many respects, so well is it managed, and its improvements are of a high order.

The parents of our subject were Joseph and Elizabeth (Hayden) Hall. Soon after the birth of their son of whom we write, the father came to this country, and took up his residence in Philadelphia, where he introduced a new industry, which was the art of tinning east-iron by means of melting block tin and then rubbing it onto the iron with a cork. While in that business he was with the firm of Creston, Stewart & Peterson. In May, 1846, the remainder of his family came to the United States, and dwelt in the Quaker City until May 28, 1857, the mother dying there in the year 1853, leaving six children, as follows: William, a retired butcher, living near Birmingham, Eng.; Sarah, who married William Lockheart, of Philadelphia; Aaron, a brave soldier during the Civil War, who volunteered, became a member of Company A, Eighth Missouri Infantry, under command of Gen. Morgan L. Smith, and after four years of hard service, mysteriously disappeared and has not been heard from since; Joseph G.; Elizabeth,

now Mrs. Perkins, of Red Bank, N. J.; and Samuel, a resident of Clinton, Ill., where he is engaged as a shoemaker.

On the date last mentioned, the Hall family left Philadelphia for this State, and settled on section 20, May Township, the father purchasing the northeastern quarter of said section. In 1862 he removed to Clinton, and subsequently to Logau County, near Lincoln, and there he died in 1876. He had married a second time after the death of the mother of our subject, Miss Sarah Wallace becoming his wife, and to them were born two children, Emma, now Mrs. Abbott, of Kansas, and Ida, who died in 1880.

Our subject came to Illinois with the family in the spring of 1857, and was living quietly in this county when the rebellion broke out. He was then a stalwart, active youth of eighteen years. He had been educated in the public schools of this land, and having grown up under the stars and stripes, he was attached to the Government represented by the grand old flag, and, as soon as possible, offered his services in its defense. He enlisted with Company A, Fifty-Seventh Illinois Infantry, in November, 1861, and in the trying years that followed, fought heroically on many a battle field, until his honorable discharge, December 26, 1846, with a noble record for fidelity and efficiency during his career as a soldier. He took part in the battles of Fort Donelson and Pittsburg Landing; was present and rendered good service at the siege of Corinth, at the battles of La Grange, Holly Springs, Pound Creek, and Tusculumbia; wintered at Pulaski, and then with his regiment accompanied Sherman on his Atlanta campaign, assisting in routing the enemy in the various engagements along the route, and he and his comrades showed the value of their soldiership during the siege and capture of Atlanta, whence they proceeded with their gallant leader on his famous "March to the Sea."

After the war, Mr. Hall began his career as a farmer by renting land in Lamoille Township, Bureau County, Ill., his capital at the outset being but \$400. He worked hard, sparing neither time nor labor to accomplish his undertakings, and he was prosperous accordingly. In 1873 he settled

where he now resides on section 3, May Township, and has three hundred and sixty-two acres of land in his farm, which is admirably tilled, and neat and orderly buildings adorn the place.

Our subject was married October 10, 1867, to Miss Mary Ash. She is a native of Pennsylvania, born February 11, 1850, and a daughter of George and Maria (Elliott) Ash. Her marriage with our subject has been a felicitous union, and has brought them three children, Maria Elizabeth, Georgia, and Joseph G.

Mr. Hall is frank, manly and obliging in his bearing, and his fellow-townsmen regard him highly. Politically, he is a Republican, and no man in the county is more staunch in his adherence to the party than he. In public life he has been School Director, and he is at present Commissioner of Highways. He is a firm believer in the Christian religion, and his life is guided by principles of right-doing and justice.

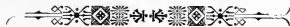
Mingled with the bitter recollections of what he had to endure while in the army, our subject has some remembrances associated with the gloomy days of the war which are dear to him, and among them are those of the many warm and lasting friendships with the brave men with whom he marched shoulder to shoulder to victory or defeat in many a hard-fought battle, and it has ever been his delight to meet his old comrades and talk with them of their experiences in camp, on the march, or in their encounters with the foe. One of the most delightful meetings of the kind, and one which will ever hold a sacred place in the memory of the participators, occurred at Mr. Hall's own residence in the month of August, in the summer of 1891 just passed, when he and his wife threw open their home to several of his old fellow-soldiers of Company A, Fifty-Seventh Illinois, and for three days held them together by their charming and bounteous hospitalities in a happy reunion. We append a pleasant notice of the affair clipped from a local paper:

#### A PARTY OF COMRADES.

"Last Saturday, Sunday and Monday, there assembled at the hospitable mansion of Joseph Hall, in May, some of his comrades of the Fifty-Seventh

regiment of Illinois volunteers and made him a glorious and jolly visit. Refreshments of all kinds, both solid and otherwise, were in abundance, and a good time was enjoyed by all present, as they rested in the shade and rehearsed stories of their trials while in Uncle Sam's service. Those present from a distance were George Wheeler and wife, William Clueitt and wife, Joseph Turner and wife and C. W. Gindele and wife, of Chicago; Charles Prentice and wife, of Paw Paw; John Mitchell, of Malden; Joe Rodmeyer, of Freeport; George Ash and wife, the father and mother of J. Hall and wife; and Conductor Fred Reed and wife, of Amboy.

"Ere the guests took their departure they gave Comrade Hall a good caning, just such a one as he deserved; one that will help to make a good man of him—if not one already; one that will be a stay and a staff for him when in need of a support—a fine gold-headed cane."



**S**ENECA E. STRICKLAND. In this volume may be found the biographies of many influential citizens, who have plodded up the steps of honor and prosperity with remarkable energy and success. The life of Mr. Strickland furnishes another example of this kind. He is now the owner of a farm comprising one hundred and seventy-four acres on section 24, Amboy Township, and thereupon is devoting his energies to agricultural pursuits and stockraising. He has a finé herd of Galloway cattle and also makes a specialty of Shetland ponies, of which he owns some splendid specimens. Progressive in every way, he is known in this section of country as the pioneer in dehorning cattle and has dehorned upwards of fifteen thousand head.

The parents of our subject were Joel B., a native of Oneida County, N. Y., and Nicena (Cargill) Strickland, who was born in New Hampshire. Their first home after marriage was in Oneida County, whence they removed to Susquehanna County, Pa., and from there, in 1849, to Lee County. After coming here they at once settled

in Amboy Township, where the remaining years of their lives were passed and where both died at a good old age. Seven children were born of their union, our subject being the fifth. During the residence of his parents in Thompson, Susquehanna County, Pa., Seneca E. was born January 18, 1836. His childhood days were passed on his father's farm in the place of his birth, where he received the rudiments of his education.

When his parents removed to Lec County, our subject accompanied them and grew to manhood in Amboy Township, remaining at home until he attained to his majority. Since he first came to this township he has lived here continuously with the exception of three years in Chicago, where he was engaged in the real-estate and notion business, and a sojourn in Indiana. He learned the trade of a wagon maker in Binghamton, this county, and engaged in that business in Amboy Township from 1859 until 1864. Since the last-named date he has been occupied in farming and stock-raising, in which he has met with satisfactory results.

The marriage of Mr. Strickland and Miss Amanda M. Bainter took place in Amboy Township December 25, 1859. The bride was the daughter of Andrew and Jemima (Doane) Bainter, natives respectively of Montgomery County, Ohio, and Wayne County, Ind. Mr. and Mrs. Bainter came to Lee County prior to their union, which was celebrated in Amboy Township May 3, 1838. They afterward began life together in the place of their marriage, and there resided until 1866, when they removed to Lagrange County, Ind. Four years later they moved to Fulton County, the same State, where Mr. Bainter died March 3, 1884. His wife passed away in Adams County, Ind., December 27, 1884, while on a visit to a daughter.

The eldest in a family of six children, three of whom were sons and three daughters, Mrs. Strickland was born in Amboy Township, May 25, 1839, and grew to womanhood in her native place. She is the mother of four children, namely: Belle B., who died in infancy; a child that died unnamed; Genevieve; and Clyde E., who died when ten months old. Upon his good farm Mr. Strickland has erected a first-class set of buildings and has

made other improvements which have suggested themselves to his progressive mind. In his political sympathies, he is a Republican, and although he has never been an office-seeker, he has been prevailed upon to accept various official positions of trust. As he takes an especial interest in educational matters, he has served as School Director with marked efficiency, and has also been Highway Commissioner. He is a Royal Arch Mason, having belonged to the order since 1860.



**H**ARTMAN KERSTEN, who has for many years been prominent in the agricultural life of Lee County, is a wealthy farmer and stock-raiser of large experience and more than ordinary capability, is sagacious, far-seeing and prudent in the management of his affairs, and has tilled the soil to some purpose, as is shown by the fine appearance of his extensive and well ordered farm in Ashton Township.

A native of Germany, Mr. Kersten was born January 2, 1836. He passed the early part of his life up to the age of nineteen in the Fatherland, and then boldly ventured across the ocean to try his fortunes in this country. He landed in New York in the month of September, 1854, and came directly to Lee County, and for some time thereafter he lived in Franklin Grove Township. He worked as a farm laborer for four years, and then entered upon his independent career as a farmer on rented land in Bradford Township. He remained there four years, and then invested some of his hard earned money in one hundred and fifteen acres of land in Ashton Township. At that time he settled here on section 36, where he has erected a substantial, conveniently arranged residence and a fine set of farm buildings. He has been very fortunate in carrying on his farming and stock interests, and has accumulated a valuable property, including nearly six hundred acres of as fertile land as can be found in the county.

Mr. Kersten was married in Dixon to Miss Anna R. Heldebrand, a native of Germany, in whom he has found a devoted wife, who is a true home-ma-

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Yours Truly  
Wm McMahon

ker. Theirs is a true marriage, and has been blessed to them by the birth of nine children, namely: Hartman, who married Sophia Neuman; Martha, wife of George Schaffer; George, who married Anna Wagner; Kate, wife of Henry Neuman; Sophia, wife of John Bachelor; Anna; Lizzie; Tena; and Minnie, who died in infancy.

Our subject possesses in a full degree those solid qualities by which alone success is attained in any walk in life. He has a firm will, a strong mind, keen powers of discrimination, and his tenacity of purpose enables him to carry out any plan that he may devise to further his interests. He has been School Director and in that capacity worked earnestly to promote the cause of education in his township. In politics he is a Republican, and is a straightforward supporter of the principles of his party. He and his wife are members of the Evangelical Church, and they stand high in the estimation of all who know them.



**W**ILLIAM McMAHAN. In this gentleman Lee County has one of its best known and most highly esteemed citizens and a representative farmer and stock-raiser. His farming interests are centered in Wyoming Township, where he has a beautiful farm under a high state of cultivation and provided with the best modern improvements.

On a Pennsylvania farm, located three miles from Danville, in Montour County, our subject first saw the light of day on January 17, 1829. His father, Benjamin McMahan, was born in the same county when it formed a part of Northumberland County, while his father, John McMahan, was born in Cumberland County. He was a son of the early Colonial settlers of Cumberland County, who came to this country from the North of Ireland, where he was born of Scotch ancestry. He died in the home that he had reared in the Pennsylvania wilderness. The grandfather of our subject entered the Continental Army on the breaking out of the Revolution, although he was then but sev-

enteen years old and served with valor during the whole seven years of the war. Soon after peace was declared, he settled in Northumberland County and did equally good work as a pioneer, clearing a farm from the primeval forests where he lived until death closed his labors. The maiden name of his wife was Jane Murry.

The father of our subject was reared on the farm on which he was born, and always followed farming. When he began his independent career in that line he bought a farm three miles from Danville, the county-seat of Montour County and settled there in 1828. There were no railways in that vicinity for many years afterward, and the farmers had to go way to Philadelphia, many miles distant, to market their produce. Mr. McMahan lived to see the country well developed, and had a hand in bringing about the great change. He died on his farm at a good old age in 1864.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Esther J. Brearley. She was born in that part of Columbia County now included in Montour County, a daughter of Stephen J. and Mary (Marshall) Brearley, who were also natives of Pennsylvania. She lived to an advanced age, dying on the home farm, where her entire wedded life had been passed, in February, 1877. These are the nine children who were born to her and her husband—William, Mary J., James, Margaret, Sarah A., Esther, Hannah, Hattie and John. On his mother's side our subject is descended from a long line of ancestors who were of English origin.

The following information in regard to the Brearley branch of the family is from a work published by W. J. Brearley, of Detroit, Mich. The first ancestor of the Brearleys to come to America was one John Brearley, who was born in the ancient city of York, England, and came to this country about 1680, and settled on Spring Grove Farm, five miles from Trenton, N. J. He secured a title to a tract of land, and died there in 1720. His son John was the next in line of descent, then came his son, John, and he was the father of James Brirley, who was the great-grandfather of our subject.

William McMahan, of this biography, was reared

on a farm, and obtained a sound education in the city schools of Danville, so that at the age of seventeen he was qualified to teach, and the ensuing two years he was engaged in that profession winters and in farming during the summer. At eighteen years of age he commenced surveying and followed that vocation a part of each year in Pennsylvania until 1854, when he paid his first visit to Illinois, coming by rail to Freeport, and from there by stage to Dixon. He accepted a situation as teacher of a school three miles from Franklin Grove, and taught that winter. In the spring of 1855 he went to the Territory of Minnesota, going by way of Galena, to which he traveled by rail, and from there by steamer to Winona. That region was then very sparsely settled, and Mr. McMahan was engaged by the incoming settlers to survey lands in the vicinity of Winona, Rochester, and St. Charles. In the fall he went to the northwestern part of the Territory and was employed in subdividing Government land on the Red River of the North. A part of the time while he was in Minnesota, he made headquarters at Minneapolis, when it was but an insignificant village of a dozen or twenty rude dwellings.

On the 1st of January, 1856, Mr. McMahan returned to Dixon to spend the winter, and in the spring went back to Minnesota to resume surveying in the vicinity of the head waters of the Minnesota and Sauk rivers. He remained there nearly a year and then spent a few months in St. Paul, and after that passed the greater part of his time at his business as a surveyor in Minnesota, until 1860, when he came to Lee County to settle permanently, having previously bought the farm on section 27, Wyoming Township, upon which he now resides. This contains two hundred acres of land of surpassing fertility, all well cultivated, and he has erected a fine set of frame buildings, of a modern and appropriate style of architecture.

Our subject and his amiable wife entered upon their married life in 1859, and have found much joy and contentment therein. It has been blessed to them by the birth of four children, of whom the following is recorded: Hattie E. married Frank McBride; John C. married Maggie Tyerman; Mattie E. died in her thirteenth year; William B. has fol-

lowed in his father's footsteps as a surveyor, and is now employed by the Government in Wyoming.

Mrs. McMahan bore the name of Sarah A. Clark prior to her marriage. She was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, a daughter of one of its pioneers, John Clark, who was a native of Lycoming County, Pa. His father, William Clark, was also a native of Pennsylvania, and resided there until 1832, when he removed to Trumbull County, Ohio, and bought a farm, upon which he lived his remaining days. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Long. She was born in Pennsylvania and died in Trumbull County. John Clark followed his trade of a blacksmith in Pennsylvania until 1834, when he settled among the pioneers of Trumbull County, buying a home in Liberty Township, where he established a smithy and engaged in blacksmithing for several years. In 1849 he sold his property in Ohio and accompanied by his wife and seven children migrated with teams to Ogle County, Ill., which he found in the hands of pioneers. He bought a tract of land in Marion Township, and while his sons worked it, he gave his attention to his trade and made his home there until his death in 1876. The maiden name of his wife was Euphemia Marshall. She was born in Lycoming County, Pa., a daughter of Mathew and Catherine (Shields) Marshall, and her last days were spent with her children, her death occurring in 1880.

A man of much enterprise, Mr. McMahan not only carries on his farm with rare skill, but finds time to branch out in other directions, having control of a good business as the representative of some of the leading insurance companies in the United States, and he still does a good deal at his old profession as a surveyor. Besides attending to his private affairs, his services are also in almost constant demand to assist in the management of public interests of township or county, and for many years he has been one of the most valued civic officials, bringing to his work an evenly balanced mind, clear discernment, never failing sagacity, and, above all, an incorruptible character. He was elected County Surveyor in 1867 and held that office seventeen years. In 1869 he was elected a member of the County Board of Supervisors and



in 1870 was elected Assessor. In 1871 he was again honored by election to the office of Supervisor, and represented Wyoming Township as a member of the County Board of Supervisors twelve consecutive years, an unusual length of time for any one man to hold that position. He is at present Assessor of the township. His whole life proves that he is entirely worthy of such honor and confidence, which are due not alone to his ability, but in part to the universal regard in which he is held in a community where all speak well of him, and no man has ever said aught against him. In his social affiliations he is a member of Corinthian Lodge, No. 205, A. F. & A. M.; of Mendota Chapter, R. A. M., and of Mendota Commandery, K. T. Religiously he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church. Politically he is a Republican, and has ever been loyal to his party.

The attention of the reader is invited to the lithographic portrait of Mr. McMahan, which appears in connection with this notice of his life.



**J**OHAN SCHIPPERT is closely identified with two of Lee County's most thriving agricultural centres—South Dixon and Nachusa Townships—as he owns a choice and highly improved farm in each, making his home on his property on section 24 of the former township. He is of foreign birth, but the most important part of his life has been passed in this country. He was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, December, 28, 1853, the youngest but one of the children of William Frederick and Louisa (Schlipf) Schippert. His parents were born in Wurtemberg, coming of pure German ancestry, and they spent their early married life there as farmers. After the birth of all their children except one, they emigrated to the United States with their family in 1853, the voyage from London to New York consuming more than forty-three days. The family first located in Luzerne County, Pa., where the father died the 1st of May, 1860, when not far beyond the meridian of life. The others came to Lee County in 1864, and the mother now makes her

home with her son, our subject. She is seventy-eight years old, having been born the 16th of January, 1814, but is as energetic and active as many a younger woman. She is a devoted member of the Lutheran Church, with which she has been connected all her life, and her husband was also a Lutheran.

Our subject attained his majority after coming to this State. He had no moneyed capital with which to begin his new life, but he was full of energy, ambition and a good capacity for work, and was intent upon making himself independently wealthy. For the first five years he worked out by the month, laboring hard at whatever he had to do, and by that time he had laid by money enough to take another advance step, and for awhile he farmed as a renter. With the money thus made he purchased his first landed property, buying a quarter of section 16, in Nachusa Township, which he turned into a good farm, supplying it with substantial buildings and all the necessary improvements. He bought that place in 1877, and in the fall of 1888 purchased the homestead on which he lives on section 24, South Dixon Township. This comprises one hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land, which is well improved, and is adorned by a well-built and conveniently arranged set of farm buildings. Fine cattle, horses and swine find pasturage on its rich acres, and yield a profitable income to our subject. He came here a poor boy, but has worked his way up to his present position as one of our moneyed men, and has made his citizenship valuable to his adopted county, as every acre that he has placed under cultivation has but added to its wealth. Both he and his wife are in every way deserving of the trust and friendship that they have inspired in their neighbors. They are regular attendants at the Lutheran Church and are influential in sustaining the moral and religious welfare of their community.

The marriage of Mr. Schippert with Miss Martha Glessner was celebrated in Dixon. She was born in Somerset County, Pa., and is a daughter of Jeremiah and Amy Ann (Laup) Glessner, she being one of the youngest children of her parents, and was but a child when the family came to Lee

County, where she was reared and educated. Her father and mother had come to this county after the birth of all their children but one, and the mother died in the new home when Mrs. Schippert was but seven years old. The father is a farmer, and is still living on the old Trueman homestead in Dixon Township. He married a second time, Ellen Ellsrode becoming his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Schippert are blessed with eight children, who form with them a pleasant household; S. Fred, Edward L., Harry W., Estella M., Lillie P., Amy Louisa, Jerry M. and Iona Ines.



**M**ODESTE GEHANT. But few of the farmers of Lee County have met with more substantial success in their calling than Mr. Gehant, whose push, determination and practical ability have placed him among the foremost agriculturists of this section of the State. He has extensive landed interests in Brooklyn Township, and his large farm, with its broad, well-tilled fields and fine improvements, is classed among the most valuable in the locality.

Our subject was born in Haute Saone, France, April 23, 1826. His father, whose name was Claude Gehant, was a native of the same place, and was a son of John Claude Gehant, who was a life-long resident of France. The father of our subject was reared on a farm, and farming was his life work. He had five children, and three of his sons came to America, namely: Luran, Claude and Modeste.

The latter, of whom we write, attended school until he was fifteen years old, and acquired a good education. He then worked on the farm with his father until he was sixteen, and at that age began life on his own account, working as a farm laborer in his native country, France, until 1855, when he came to the United States, where life seemed to him to hold greater promise than the land of his birth. He set sail from Havre on the 15th of March on the sailing vessel "Trumbull," and thirty-seven days after embarkation arrived in New York harbor. He came directly to Illinois,

traveling by rail to Chicago, whence he made his way to Franklin Grove, in this county, and thence proceeded to Bradford Township, where he found employment on a farm by the month, and was thus engaged one year. At the end of that time he bought a tract of land on section 15, Bradford Township, paying \$10 an acre for it, and he farmed there with his brother Claude for eight years. Then, selling him his share of the place, he came to Brooklyn Township and bought the farm that he now occupies. He devoted his energies to its improvement, and has been handsomely rewarded for his outlay of time, labor and money, as he has not only developed his first purchase into a choice farm, but has bought other land at different times until he now has upwards of twelve hundred acres of valuable land, and he is accounted one of the most successful farmers in the county.

Mr. Gehant was married in 1862 to Miss Olympia Choan, who is also a native of the fair land of France. She has truly been to her husband a helpmate: assisting him in the accumulation of his property by her ready co-operation in his work, by her skill, thrift and frugality in the management of household affairs, and by her watchful care of the interests of her large family. To her and our subject have been born fourteen children, to whom they have given the following names: Xavier, Josephine, August, Laona, Margaret, Joseph, Mary, Susan, Modeste, Phamia, Frank, Adolph, Zedol and Louis. The family are all members of the Roman Catholic Church and are highly regarded by the people among whom our subject came to make his home more than a quarter of a century ago, and whom he has helped to make this one of the richest farming regions in this part of the country.



**D**AVID F. LAHMAN is one of the leading farmers and stockmen of Lee County, which is indebted to him and men of like calibre, energy, enterprise and business tact for its substantial progress within the last quarter of a century or more, whereby it has be-

come a finely improved and wealthy agricultural and commercial center. He has a beautiful farm and a home that is very attractive in its appointments and surroundings, on section 35, China Township, just outside the village limits of Franklin Grove, which was the homestead that his father purchased when it was a tract of uncultivated land, with the exception of about forty acres, and developed from the wilderness after he settled here as one of the early pioneers of this region.

Mr. Lahman was born in Washington County, Md., February 3, 1837, being a son of Christian and Elizabeth Lahman. He received a good training for his life work, while helping his father to bring his land under subjection, for he was set to work as soon as he was large enough to make himself useful, and he grew up under wholesome and invigorating pioneer influences to be self-reliant, full of resource, prompt to take advantage of every opportunity to make money legitimately, and he early displayed that enterprise that has characterized his whole career since he became independent. His farm, which formerly belonged to his father, now contains two hundred and four acres of fine land, on which he has made as good improvements as can be found in this part of the county. He has erected large barns and other conveniently arranged out-buildings, and a commodious residence of a modern style of architecture adorns the place. This is one of the pleasantest homes in the township, its interior being well planned and adapted to the needs of the family; it is furnished in good taste, and its walls are ornamented with fine oil paintings, the work of his daughter Lulu, his only child, who is an artist of merit, and was well educated at Mt. Morris.

Mr. Lahman gives his attention to quite an extensive business in the stock-raising line, and makes a specialty of breeding Percheron horses, of which he has a number of fine specimens. He was for some years connected with his brother in a large stock business in Story County, Iowa, and he also dealt extensively in live stock at Franklin Grove for a time, doing all the shipping that was done from that point at that time. He has given some attention to the grain trade and was once a

partner of the firm of George H. Taylor & Co., grain dealers. For seventeen years he has done an enormous business in the poultry line during the season, which commences November 15 and continues from sixty-five to seventy days, when he handles from \$25,000 to \$30,000 worth of poultry of different kinds.

Mr. Lahman was married in 1864 to Miss Anna Brough, their marriage being solemnized in Pennsylvania, where the bride was born and reared, her native place being in Adams County. She is a daughter of Andrew and Lydia Brugh, of Adams County, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. Lahman are members of the German Baptist Church, in which faith he was reared, and they contribute liberally towards its support. Politically he is a Republican and is true to his party. This brief outline of his life shows plainly his worth as a citizen, and we may add that the entire community hold him in genuine respect.



**G**EORGE KESSLER, who so ably represents the interests of Brooklyn as a member of the County Board of Supervisors, came to this county when a boy, and has risen to an important place in industrial and public life. He is a progressive, wide-awake farmer, and his farm in Brooklyn Township is comparable with the best in its vicinity in regard to its appointments, cultivation and productiveness.

Our subject is a native of the Grand Duchy of Saxe-Weimar, Germany, and was born June 23, 1838. His parents were Conrad and Margaret (Baumgardner) Kessler, who were also natives of that German dukedom. The mother died in the Fatherland in 1858. The father came to America in 1865 and passed the remainder of his days in Benton County, Iowa. Eight of his children also came to this country, namely: Barbara, Margaret, Hartman, George, Henry, Katie, Frank, and Daniel, and all except our subject settled in Iowa.

The subject of this life record had good educational advantages in his native land, and made the most of them, attending school steadily until he

was fifteen years old. At that age he came to America with his oldest sister, setting sail from Bremen May 27, 1853, in the ship "Louisiana," and landing at New York August 9. He went to New Jersey after he arrived in this country, and was there employed by the month for nine years. We next hear of him in Chemung County, N. Y., where he was working in a tannery six miles from the city of Elmira one summer. In 1862 he came to Illinois, and in the following spring invested his hard earnings in the land in Brooklyn Township, which he has since made into one of the finest farms in this locality. It has an area of one hundred and forty acres of land that is under a high state of cultivation, and a neat set of frame buildings of a substantial and modern style of architecture adorns the place. The rich pastures support stock of good grades, the harvest fields yield excellent crops, and all go to show that our subject employs a good system of agriculture, and is a sagacious and clear-headed farmer.

The marriage of Mr. Kessler with Miss Margaret Trubel took place in Chemung County, N. Y., October 12, 1862. She was a native of the same locality in Germany where he was born, and was a daughter of George and Christina Trubel. Mrs. Kessler died in December, 1863, after a wedded life of little more than a year, leaving one child, William H., who now lives in Chicago.

In 1864 our subject was married to his present estimable wife, formerly Miss Philipena Schwabland, and a native of Hesse-Darmstadt. She was born August 28, 1841. They have seven children living: Anna, Bertha, Sarah, Maggie, Carrie, George and Laura.

Mr. Kessler is a man of correct habits, possesses a good fund of genuine common sense, and those traits of character that denote solid worth and unquestionable integrity and inspire a feeling of trust in all who have dealings with him. His fellow-citizens have such confidence in him that they have twice called him to the responsible office of Supervisor. He was first elected a member of the County Board of Supervisors in 1887, and again in 1891, and his constituents feel that the interests of Brooklyn Township are safe in his hands. He is a Republican in politics, and in religion is a faithful

member of the German Lutheran Protestant Church. Mrs. Kessler's father died in Germany, and the mother and children came to America in 1856 and settled in Mendota, Ill. The mother died in 1864. Her only brother, Frederick, died in the army. The sisters are all married and reside in Illinois.



WILLIAM W. GILMORE is engaged in the mercantile business at Compton, and in his neatly fitted up and well-stocked store he carries a full line of hardware, stoves, cutlery, agricultural implements, etc. He is a son of one of the early pioneers of Lee County, and is distinguished in its history as the second child born of white parents in what is now Brooklyn Township, his birth occurring here November 8, 1835.

John Gilmore, the father of our subject, was one of the first to settle in this part of the State. He was a native of County Donegal, Ireland, and was a son of another John Gilmore, who was of Scotch antecedents, and was born either in Scotland or Ireland. He reared his family in the latter country, and remained there until 1820, when he emigrated to the United States. He landed in New York, and lived in that city until 1845, when he came to Illinois to spend his last years with the father of our subject. He lived to the remarkable age of one hundred and two years, his death occurring in 1867. When he came to America he did not bring his family with him, but sent for his wife, two daughters and two sons two years later. The vessel on which they sailed was wrecked, and the wife and two sons were drowned. The daughters that survived located in New York City.

The father of our subject was reared in his native land, and came to America in 1818. He learned the trade of a morocco-dresser in New York, and engaged in it in that city until 1830, when he went to Michigan, and entering a tract of Government land twenty miles from Detroit, began the hard task of reclaiming a farm from the forests. He first built a log house, and in the

course of time cleared thirty-five acres of land and put it into good cultivation. In 1835 he came to Illinois with a pair of horses and a wagon, bringing with him his wife and the six children that had previously been born to them. They struck camp on the edge of Chicago, which was then but a small village, and Mr. Gilmore and William Guthrie started on foot for this part of the State. They at length arrived at Malugin's Grove, of which Zachariah Malugin was then the sole settler. There was then but one house on the present site of Dixon, and not a settlement on the open prairies.

Mr. Gilmore bought a claim to one-half of the grove, and then went back to Chicago for his family. He returned in June, and began his new life here with but \$40 in money and his team, with which to make a living for his wife and six children, of whom the eldest was but twelve years of age. But he had plenty of pluck and courage and was a good worker. While there were many hardships to contend with, still life had its compensations. The soil was of unsurpassed fertility, and needed only to be cultivated to respond with generous harvests, and wild game was plentiful, as well as wild fruits, and furnished an agreeable addition to the fare of the pioneers, who had to dispense with many articles of food now considered necessities. There were no mills anywhere in this section, but at Ross Grove, twenty miles distant, there was a rude corn cracker, and the father of our subject used to go there with a sack of corn and use his horse to grind it with. Corn bread was the chief article of living, flour bread being considered a great luxury. For some years there were no railways in this region, Chicago being the nearest railway point and market.

The first house that Mr. Gilmore built on his claim was of round logs, and not a nail entered into its construction. He split shakes for the roof, which were held in place with weight poles, but were inadequate for shelter, as during the cold winter nights the snow would blow in on the beds. He split puncheon for floor and door, using wooden pins instead of nails, and the rude door was provided with a wooden latch and the old-time latch string that always hung out in token of

perpetual hospitality. In that humble abode the family resided for some years, and then the father built and opened a public house on the Chicago & Dixon road when that was constructed. His tavern was made a stage station, and he was known far and wide to the traveling public in his character as mine host, and was popular with all. In 1865 he abandoned hotel-keeping, selling his establishment and removing to Mendota, and was engaged in the mercantile business there for a time. In 1875 he went to California to visit a daughter, Mrs. C. S. Frost, and died at her home soon after. The maiden name of his wife was Hannah Smith. She was likewise a native of Ireland, and coming to America with friends, was married to him in New York City at the age of sixteen. She spent her last years with her children, and died at the home of her son, Alexander P., in 1887. The parents of our subject reared twelve children: Alexander P., Rebecca, John, Mollie, David, William W., Robert, Addie and Emma, (twins), Eliza, Cecilia and James.

William W. Gilmore was born in the humble pioneer home of his parents, and was reared amid pioneer scenes. He attended the primitive schools of his boyhood, the first one that he went to being taught in a log house, that was furnished with rude home-made furniture. Like other farmer's boys, he was early set to work on the farm, and he continued to live with his parents until he attained his majority, when he commenced farming on his own account on a tract of land his father had bought for him. It was wild and uncultivated at the time, and after he had erected suitable buildings to make it habitable, he proceeded with his customary vigor to improve his real-estate, and in the course of time had one of the finest farms in the locality. He resided upon his homestead until 1865, when he established himself in the mercantile business at Malugin's Grove. In 1868 he went to Mendota, and lived there the ensuing two years. At the expiration of that time he moved back to Brooklyn Township and resumed farming, which he carried on until 1881. In that year he came to Compton and again embarked in the mercantile business, which he has conducted with good profit ever since.

Besides hardware, stoves, and such articles, of which he carries a large assortment, he always has on hand a full supply of all styles of agricultural implements, and enjoys a large trade among the farmers in the surrounding country, who know him well, place a full reliance in his business integrity, and are always sure of a square deal with him.

Mr. Gilmore was married in 1856 to Regina J. Carnahan, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Carnahan. They have six children, namely: Clara Janet, John W., Ida C., now Mrs. Charles I. Barrett; Hattie E., Florence and Daisy. Clara is the wife of Charles F. Guffin; John married Ollie Avery.

Mr. Gilmore, his wife and daughters, are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and their names are associated with its every good work. Mr. Gilmore has always been faithful to the Democratic party in politics. In his social relations, he is a member of Brooklyn Lodge, No. 282, A. F. & A. M.; of Mendota Commandery, No. 76, R. A. M.; and of Bethany Chapter, No. 28, K. T.



**D**AVID HARTMAN. Lee County is fortunate in that the farmers, who form such an important proportion of her population, are in general a highly intelligent, energetic, thrifty and business-like set of men. Of one of these, David Hartman, we write. His farming operations center on section 22, Nelson Township, where he has two hundred acres of land under good cultivation and supplied with all the necessary improvements that go to make up a desirable farm.

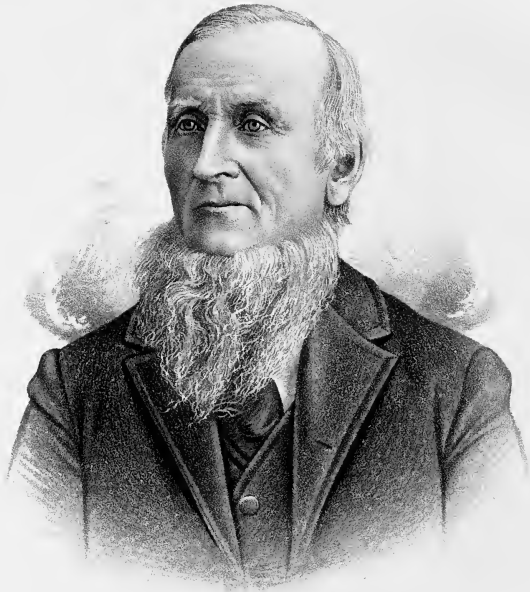
Our subject was born in Somerset County, Pa., July 1, 1849, one of the six children of Conrad and Susanna (Raymond) Hartman, natives, respectively, of Germany and Pennsylvania. Mr. Hartman came to the United States from the old country alone, when he was a young man, and joined his brother in Somerset County, Pa. He there met his future wife, and a few years later they were married. She was born and reared in

that county, and was of Dutch descent. After the birth of all their children, Conrad and Susanna Hartman came to Illinois in 1855, and buying new and unbroken lands in Nelson Township, became pioneers of the county. Mr. Hartman was a hard worker, and in time had a large farm under substantial improvement, comprising four hundred and forty acres of fine arable and pasture land, and had besides ten acres of valuable timber. He has grown old in his adopted township, which has been developed partly by his labors, and August 4, 1891, marked the anniversary of his birth seventy-eight years before. Notwithstanding his advanced age, he is yet hale and active, and his fellow-townsmen, who look upon him with the respect due to his years and great worth, hope that he may live to enjoy life a great while yet. He is a valued member of the Lutheran Church, as is his wife also, and in politics, he is faithful to the Republican party. Mr. Hartman's first wife died in their home, in this township, in 1872, at the age of sixty-five years, and was truly mourned by all who had known and loved her for her many excellencies. Mr. Hartman took for his second wife Mrs. Sarah Hax, *nee* Zorn, who was born and reared in Somerset County, Pa. By her first marriage with Peter Hax, she had three children, one of whom was the wife of our subject. Her first husband was a German by birth. They came from Pennsylvania to Illinois in 1855, and lived in Dixon for some years. They subsequently removed to Sterling, where Mr. Hax died in middle age.

David Hartman has passed the most of his life in this county, on the very farm that he now owns, in Nelson Township, as he was but six years old when the family removed to this State. He received an excellent education in the local schools, and a good training in all that pertains to farming, so that when he adopted that calling for his life work, when he attained his majority, he was well equipped for it. He is constantly making improvements upon his farm, which is amply provided with buildings of a good class, and substantial farming machinery of the best manufacture, and he employs the most advanced methods in carrying on agriculture.

The marriage of our subject to Miss Sarah Hax

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*John Gorrie*



was celebrated in this township. She was a native of the same Pennsylvanian county as himself, the date of her birth was August 24, 1854, and, like him, she was reared in this State. Comfort and hospitality reign in their home, and three of the four children born unto them complete their present household, namely: Clarence C., Estella C. and Myrtle E. Their daughter Lulu, died young.

Mr. and Mrs. Hartman attend the Lutheran Church, contribute generously to its support, and are identified with its every good work. They are very much liked by the people among whom they have lived so long, as they possess traits of character that win consideration and confidence. Mr. Hartman is an active local politician, a thoroughly good Republican, who interests himself in all that concerns his township. He has held all the civic offices within the gift of his fellow-townsmen, is at present Assessor of Nelson Township, and in these various capacities has done much to advance the welfare of the community.



**J**OHN HOYLE, a retired farmer living in the village of Eldena, has during his residence in this county materially added to its wealth by improving one of the most desirable farms in all South Dixon Township, and has accumulated sufficient property to preclude the necessity of engaging in any active business. His portrait appears on the opposite page. He is a Pennsylvanian by birth, born April 14, 1826, the county of Somerset being his birthplace. His father, Peter Hoyle, was a native of the same county, and was a son of Adam Hoyle, who passed his entire life in Somerset County. His parents or grandparents had come to this country in an early day of the Colonial history of Pennsylvania.

The father of our subject grew up amid the scenes of his birth, and early entered upon his career as a farmer. He was a drummer in the local militia for some years. He married Catherine Mossholder, who was likewise born and reared in Somerset County, being a daughter of Jacob

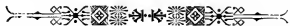
and Tamar A. (Fritz) Mossholder, who were born, reared and died in Somerset County, the father spending his entire life on the old Mossholder homestead. They were staunch Lutherans in their religion. After the birth of their children, five sons and three daughters in all, and after the most of them had grown to manhood and womanhood, Peter Hoyle and his wife came to Illinois in 1856 to spend their remaining days here. They settled near Dixon, and there the mother died in 1863, when past sixty years of age. Mr. Hoyle subsequently died at the home of our subject in South Dixon in August, 1870, at the age of sixty-seven years. They were in all things honest, God-fearing people, and their religion was that of their ancestors from the days of Martin Luther.

Our subject is the eldest of the eight children born to his worthy parents, who early trained him in the way he should go to grow into an upright man. There are two other surviving members of the family besides himself—his brother Edmund, a farmer in Lancaster County, Neb., who has been married, but his wife is now deceased; and a sister, Mrs. Margaret Swaby, who lives near Amboy. John Hoyle was married in the township and county of his birth in Pennsylvania, to Miss Emily Deeter, who was born and reared in that neighborhood, and is a daughter of Samuel and Susanna (Sheetz) Deeter. Her parents were natives of the Keystone State, and lived and died on the old Deeter homestead, obtained by Samuel Deeter's father on coming to America from Germany. The parents of Mrs. Hoyle died in the faith of the German Reformed Church, in which they had been bred. They had a large family of children.

Mrs. Hoyle has been an exemplary wife, her husband's stay and help, and a tender mother to their children, of whom they have had twelve. These nine are living: Joshua P., of whom see biography in this volume; Ellen; Sarah A.; Lucinda; Allasuma; John W., who is represented on another page of this work; Peter S., also a subject of one of the sketches in this book; Orpha J. and Etta Mabel, the two latter unmarried and at home with their parents; the others are all married and well settled in life.

Mr. Hoyle left the old home in Pennsylvania

and began life anew in this State in the winter of 1864, bringing his family with him. A year later he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land on section 35, South Dixon Township, now included in his son John's farm, upon which he made most of the improvements, and it is now in the hands of his sons. He retired to Eldena with his family in 1888, and has not since been actively engaged in any active business. He is well thought of by all with whom he associates, and is known to be a man of veracity, rugged honesty and independence of character, and thoroughly reliable at all times and in all places. He and his wife early identified themselves with the religious element of the community, and are members of the Evangelical Association. In politics he is a Republican.



**M**RS. OLIVE (AYRES) MURPHY, widow of Anderson T. Murphy, has made her home in Dixon nearly forty years, and is greatly esteemed by her many friends and acquaintances for the genuine worth of her character. She was born in Manheim, Herkimer County, N. Y., September 7, 1820, to Sylvanus and Anna (Bean) Ayres. For an extended history of the Ayres family, see biography of J. C. Ayres on another page of this work.

Mrs. Murphy was very young when her father died, and she then went with her mother to live at Buffalo, where her girlhood was passed. She was trained in all the household arts necessary to the making of a comfortable home, so that when she came to preside over one of her own she understood thoroughly what was required in the skillful management of her domestic affairs. In 1851 she paid her first visit to Illinois, coming by rail to Aurora, then the nearest railway station to Dixon, which place she reached by stage. She visited her friends in this city, which was then but a village, from October until the following March, and then went to Chicago. She found that great metropolis of today with its million and more people, a comparatively small city, with a population of about forty-

five thousand inhabitants, and could scarcely have dreamed that the uninviting looking place with its swampy environments would in her time become one of the largest and most important cities in America, if not in the whole world.

Her stay in the Garden City was made memorable to Miss Ayres, by her marriage October 5th, 1852, to Anderson Turner Murphy, and the newly wedded couple came to Dixon the home of Mr. Murphy to make for themselves a place among its most useful and valued citizens. In the busy years that followed prosperity smiled upon them, and the blessing of children was vouchsafed to them, of whom two are living to be the stay and comfort of their mother in her declining years, Fanny Ayres and Laura Gracia. One daughter, Anna Louise, has joined her father on the other shore. She married the Rev. Levi Gilbert, and died in Duluth, Minn., February 3, 1885, leaving four children motherless—Paul T., Fanny E., A. Harold and Helen I. June 17, 1861, death invaded the peaceful household of the family of our subject, and the tender husband and devoted father closed his eyes to open them no more to the scenes of earth.

Anderson Turner Murphy was born at Lexington, Ky., June 2, 1812, and the same house in which he was born was the birthplace of his father, Thomas Murphy. The original name of the family was Morgan, and it is conjectured from that, that his ancestors were Welsh people. The change of the family name happened thus: The grandfather of our subject was pressed into the British service and brought across the water to fight the colonists during the Revolution. His sympathies, however were with the Americans, and he deserted at the first opportunity and joined the Continental army. He changed his name from Morgan to Murphy when he cast in his fortunes with the colonists, as he feared detection if he were captured by the English if he retained his rightful name, and his descendants have held to his adopted name.

Mr. Murphy's father came from Kentucky to Illinois in 1830, and was a pioneer of Crawford County, where he spent the remainder of his life. The maiden name of his wife was Christina Musgrove, and she also passed her last days in Crawford County. Anderson Murphy was nearly grown

to manhood when he came to Illinois with his parents. He learned the trade of a tailor in Crawford County. In 1840 he came to Dixon, which was then in its infancy, and from that time until the day of his death was identified with it growth. He engaged at his trade for a time, and then turned his attention to the mercantile business, which he carried on until he established himself in the forwarding and commission business, in which he was interested until death terminated his career when he was scarcely past the meridian of life, and when he was at the height of his usefulness. He was much missed in the city, where he had won an honorable reputation in financial circles as an excellent business man, whose transactions were always open and above board, and where he was accounted a good citizen, and was held in sincere regard by all who knew him. At the time of Mr. Murphy's marriage he was Postmaster of Dixon.



**A**NDERSON CLAYTON RADLEY was one of the successful farmers of Lee County, and may well be classed among its pioneers, although not one of its earliest settlers, as he has aided in the development of its agricultural resources, and has improved a fine farm in Wyoming Township that compares with the best in the locality in point of cultivation and the substantial character of its improvements.

Mr. Radley was a descendant of one of the old Holland families that played so important a part in the early settlement of the Empire State, and he was a native of that Commonwealth, born in the town of Florida, Montgomery County, January 14, 1827. His great-grandfather, John Radley, who was born either in Holland or near Albany, was one of the pioneers of that county. He secured a tract of heavily timbered land, and erected a log house in the primeval forests, which were then inhabited by Indians, and deer, bears, wolves and other wild animals often prowled around his home in the wilderness. There were no railways or canals in that part of the country for years, and in fact, for a time there was no wagon road, he

having to go to mill, market and elsewhere on horseback. He cleared a large and valuable farm, becoming one of the most prosperous settlers in that locality, and he gave each of his five children a farm when they came to settle in life. He had three sons, John, Jacob and Andrew, and two daughters, Catherine and Mary. His old age was serenely passed in the home that he had planted in the forest wilds where he had labored to such good purpose.

Jacob Radley, the grandfather of our subject, was born in the pioneer home of his parents in Montgomery County. When he began life for himself his father gave him a tract of timber land, which he cleared and made into a good farm, upon which he lived until death called him hence. He married Catherine Vinton, who is thought to have been born in Seneca County, N. Y., and died on the farm where she had helped her husband to build a home. She was the mother of eight children that grew to maturity, as follows: John J., William, Rachel, Catherine, Andrew, Mary, Thomas and Rebeeca.

John J. Radley was the name of the father of our subject, and he was born on his father's farm in Montgomery County, July 4, 1804. He grew to manhood in the home of his birth, and was married in his native county to Miss Sarah Thomas, who was born in the same town as himself July 21, 1809. So far as known, her father, John Thomas, was a native of that same town, where he was engaged for many years as a miller. His last years were passed with his children in Albany. The parents of our subject began their wedded life on a part of his father's estate that he had inherited, and they resided thereon until 1855, when they came to Lee County to east in their lot with its pioneers. They located in what is now Wyoming Township, but after a few years' residence there removed to the adjoining township of Earlville, in La Salle County, where they lived respected until they closed their eyes in death, and in dying left behind them records of lives well spent, his death occurring February 6, 1884, and hers September 26, 1889. They reared a family of six sons and three daughters, who are well known and esteemed citizens of this and other counties of Northern

Illinois, namely: Anderson C., Catherine, (Mrs. Pulver), Rebecca, Jacob, James, Joseph, Elizabeth, John and William.

The boyhood days of our subject were passed in his native town in securing an education, and in helping do the farm work, whereby he acquired a good experience in the calling that he was to adopt for his life-work. At the age of twenty-two he left the parental home to begin a life of independence as a farmer on his own account by renting land in Schenectady County, of which he was a resident until 1856. In April of that year he came to Illinois and farmed as a renter in Batavia for a year. In 1857 he came to Lee County and bargained for a tract of land within its bounds, and built necessary buildings. He failed to obtain a title to that place, and in 1859 bought the land in Wyoming Township that forms the present farm, upon which he has reared a comfortable home. When he first came into possession of this property it was in its natural condition, but by his skillful and unwearied labors he has wrought a great change and brought it into a fine condition, placing the land in a high state of cultivation, erecting a neat set of frame buildings, and adorning the place by fruit and shade trees set out by his own hand.

Mr. Radley was first married December 14, 1862, to Miss Mary V. Hayden, a native of Jackson County, Mich. She died October 7, 1865, after scarcely three years of wedded happiness, leaving one son, Jay H., who is now a talented young physician, practicing his profession in New York City. He commenced his medical studies with Dr. Ather-ton, and subsequently entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in Chicago, from which he was graduated with honors in the Class of '89, and received the gold medal. By his second marriage May 9, 1866, to Miss Martha McBride, our subject has found an amiable and devoted wife. Their only grief in their married life has been in the death of their only daughter, and the only child born of their union, Ulah B., at the age of six months.

Mrs. Radley was born in Limestone Township, Columbia County, Pa., September 3, 1838. Her father, Frederick McBride, was a native of White-

hall, Pa., and a son of James McBride, who, it is supposed, was a native of New Jersey. He was a carpenter and carried on his trade there, and made it his home until death called him hence. The maiden name of Mrs. Radley's mother was Mary B. Runyan, and she was also a native of Columbia County. Her father, George Runyan, was born in New Jersey, and was a pioneer farmer of Pennsylvania County. He spent his last years near Jerseytown. The maiden name of his wife was Hannah Davis. She was born in New Jersey and died on the old homestead in Columbia County, Pa.

Since he became a citizen of Wyoming Township, Mr. Radley used his influence to advance its social and religious interests, as well as to promote its material welfare. He was reared a Presbyterian, and has remained true to the faith. He was one of the leading members of the church of that denomination at Paw Paw, which he assisted in organizing, and he has served as Elder ever since. Socially, he is a member of Anehor Lodge, No. 510, I. O. O. F. Mrs. Radley was brought up in the Baptist fold, and is a consistent member of that church. Mr. Radley died December 30, 1891, leaving many friends to mourn the loss of one of their best citizens.



CONRAD HARTMAN, one of the old settlers of the township of Nelson, living on section 22, has not only materially increased its wealth by his work as a skillful, practical farmer, but he has acquired a valuable property for himself, the possession of which places him among the most substantial men of the county. He is of German birth, although the most important part of his life since he attained manhood has been passed in this country. He was born August 4, 1813, in Kurfurstenthum-Hessen, Germany. He was educated in the excellent schools of his native place, and was reared to the life of a farmer. He grew to be a stalwart, active, wide-awake young man, and at the age of twenty-four set out into the world to see something of life, having resolved

to join an older brother who had preceded him to the United States some years before. He sailed from Bremen in 1837, and seven weeks later found himself in New York City, and from there he went to Somerset County, Pa., to find his brother, having first, however, to look around him in the great metropolis to get work to earn money to take him to his destination. After his arrival in Somerset County, he had \$1 of that money left, but he soon secured a situation as a farm hand at \$9 a month. He prudently saved his earnings, and in time when he desired to marry he was justified in doing so, as he had the means to support a wife and provide a good home for her. He was married to the lady whom he invited to share his fortunes in Somerset County, of which she was a native, her name being Susannah Raymond. Her parents were Pennsylvanians by birth but were of German blood, their parents having been born in the Old Country. Her father, George Raymond, was a farmer by occupation, and he died in Somerset County before his daughter Susan was grown to womanhood. Her mother did not die until many years later when she was an old lady.

Our subject and his wife spent the early part of their married life on a farm in Somerset County, Mr. Hartman living there eighteen years in all, but after the birth of all their children, six in number, they came to Illinois to found a new home, and in 1855 located among the pioneers of Lee County. And here, in Nelson Township, the wife and three of the children died. John was young when he died, while George and Elizabeth were grown, and the latter was married at the time of her death. Mrs. Hartman was sixty-five years old when she died in 1872. She was a conscientious Christian and a member of the Lutheran Church.

The surviving children of that marriage are Lydia, wife of William Cook, a farmer in Western Nebraska; Susanna, wife of Henry Mason, and residing with him on a sheep ranch in Colorado, and David, a farmer in this township, who married Sarah Hax, and a biographical review of his life appears elsewhere in this work. The second marriage of our subject, which took place in this county, was with Mrs. Sarah Hax, *nee* Zorn. Mrs.

Hartman was born in the town of Berlin, Somerset County, Pa., a daughter of Jacob and Gertrude Zorn, who were also natives of Pennsylvania, and were of Dutch ancestry. Her father farmed and also made brick and pottery for some years. He died at Berlin when nearly eighty years of age. His wife was not so old when she died. They were Lutherans, and staunch in the faith. Their daughter Sarah was first married in her native county to Peter Hax, with whom she subsequently came to Illinois. They settled first at Dixon, but afterward removed to Sterling, and while residing there Mr. Hax was drowned while bathing in Rock River. He left three children, namely: Milton, a resident of Dixon, who married Mary Bollman; Rosanna, wife of Cyrus Lint, a miller in Cameron, Mo., and Sarah, wife of David Hartman.

When Mr. Hartman came to this county thirty-six years ago, he was a comparatively poor man, but a strong right arm was his, and he was otherwise well equipped for the pioneer task that lay before him of delving his fortune from the soil. He began life here on a new farm of eighty acres in Nelson Township, which is a part of his present home. He worked early and late, faced the hardships that fell to his lot in the newly settled country with unflinching courage, was prudent and economical when it was necessary, invested his money judiciously, and after improving his first purchase added to it and now has a farm which is one of the best in every particular in the township. It has an area of four hundred and forty acres lying on sections 22 and 14, the most of it under plow, and Mr. Hartman has erected a fine set of buildings. Good grades of cattle, horses and swine are raised on the place, and the various cereals and farm produce common to this region are grown here in abundance.

Our subject furnishes a good example of our so-called self-made men, as is shown by this biographical record of his life, as he has gathered together his riches by unremitting and well-directed toil, displaying keen common sense, good powers of calculation, and excellent business qualifications in his dealings, which have always been characterized by strict honesty and fairness. He is public spirited as a citizen, always interesting himself in whatever

concerns his adopted township, contributing to plans to promote its prosperity, and doing good work while he held the office of Highway Commissioner. Politically, he is a Republican and has always been loyal to his party. Religiously, he and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church, and the entire community where they are so well known holds them in the highest respect.



**A**BEL J. HARRINGTON is one of the pioneers of Lee County, who has witnessed almost its entire growth from the wilderness, and has had a hand in bringing about the great change that makes it a rich and thriving community of beautiful homes, valuable farms and busy towns. He is quietly passing his declining years on his farm in Wyoming Township, which has been in his possession many years, and has been highly improved.

Mr. Harrington is a native of St. Lawrence County, N. Y., and was born amid its pleasant scenes March 20, 1828. His father was Amasa Harrington, and he too was born in New York, his birthplace being in that part of the State now included in Genesee County, of which his father was a pioneer. The latter was a native of the northern part of Ireland, and coming to America some time during the last century he spent the remainder of his life as a farmer in Genesee County.

Amasa Harrington was a young man when he went to St. Lawrence County to live. He married and resided in that county about twenty years, being employed a part of the time as a carpenter. In 1839 he started for what was then the Far West, going with his wife and six children, with a team, to Missouri, which was then on the furthest frontier. He lived in Macon County, that State, some five years, and then coming to Lee County, was one of its early settlers, locating on the present site of Paw Paw. There were but few inhabitants throughout the length and breadth of the county, and the land was owned by the Government. Mr. Harrington operated a threshing machine some years, and then took a contract to carry the mail

from Troy Grove to Rockford, at which he was engaged eight years. He became well known, and when he died at Paw Paw during the war, he left a most worthy life-record.

Abel Harrington, who forms the subject of this brief biography, was a boy of eleven years when the family went to Missouri, and he remembers well the wildness of the country, the primitive modes of life it necessitated, and many pioneer incidents connected with their stay there. There were no railways or other than rough roads as a means of communication with the outside world, and Hannibal was the nearest point at which supplies could be obtained, and where the people sold their produce. When the Harringtons returned Eastward as far as this county, they found it in very much the same wild condition as the region that they had just left, and in the absence of railways the settlers had to haul their grain with teams all the way to Chicago, the nearest market. Our subject assisted his father until he attained his majority, and then for two seasons he worked on a farm by the month. He wisely invested his money in a tract of wild prairie land containing forty acres, for which he paid \$3 an acre, the same being included in his present farm. In 1851 he worked for Evans Adrian, and bought of him eighty acres of land in the vicinity of Malugin's Grove, paying \$81 for the entire tract. The investment netted him a large sum of money in after years, as in 1864 he sold the land for \$16,000.

Our subject was a victim of the gold fever that sent so many thousands of people journeying across the plains and mountains, or by water to California, and in 1852 he made the trip with team, starting from home the 2d of March, and arriving at Downerville, in the Golden State, September 28. The Mormons and soldiers and trappers were the only white settlers at that time between the Missouri River and the Pacific Slope, and the journey was a wild and dangerous one, fraught with many hardships. Indians roamed at will over the plains and lurked in the mountains, and wild animals, such as buffaloes, deer, antelopes, etc., were to be seen in large numbers. Mr. Harrington engaged in mining with varied success until the winter of 1854-55, and then he departed homeward with his

gains, and traveling by the way of the Isthmus of Panama and New York, he at length found himself among his old friends. He settled on his land at Malugin's Grove, but two years later he rented it and removed to the farm that he now occupies in Wyoming Township, subsequently selling his Malugin's Grove property, as before mentioned. In 1867 he rented his farm, and took up his residence at Paw Paw, where he bought ten acres of land, including the present site of the railway station. He resided in the village twenty years, and during that time sold much of his land in lots at a good profit. In 1887 he erected a commodious brick house on his farm, and returning to it, has since made it his home. He has here a fine place, everything about it neat and well-ordered, and well-tilled fields and rich pastures yield a good income.

Mr. Harrington was married in 1856 to Miss Melvina Britton, a native of Pennsylvania, and through her has come much of his prosperity and happiness in life. They have three children: Earl, William B. and Jane Elizabeth. Our subject is a man of sturdy principle and good habits, and these together with activity, forethought, and a capacity for well-directed and persistent labor, seconded by close calculation and good sense in regard to money matters, are the characteristics that have been most potent in the acquirement of his property. As a good citizen should be, he is interested in politics, and is a decided Republican.



**URIAH CHITTENDEN ROE, M. D.**, well-known as a physician of Franklin Grove and as manufacturer of Roe's family medicines, his sons being associated with him in the business, represents one of the pioneer families of Northern Illinois. He was born in Lyon County, Ky., January 1, 1825, and is the son of Dr. John and Elizabeth Ann (Lyon) Roe. His maternal grandfather, Col. Mathew Lyon, had rather a romantic history. He was born in Ireland, and when only a mere boy, ambitious to see something of the world and to try his fortune in America, conceived and carried out the plan of secreting

himself on board a vessel bound for this country. On his arrival here he was sold to pay for his passage to Gov. Chittenden, of Vermont, for a yoke of oxen. The Governor took a deep interest in the spirited lad, educated him, and in due time gave him the hand of his daughter in marriage. He arose to a position of prominence in his adopted State, and at one time represented it in Congress.

The mother of our subject was born in Kentucky in 1805. She was a woman of fine physique and ample proportions, being six feet in height and in advanced years weighed four hundred pounds. She was well-educated, had literary tastes, and wrote two books, the first one was entitled, "Aunt Leanna, or Early Scenes in Kentucky", and the other, "Recollections of Frontier Life in Illinois." She died at a venerable age in 1887. She gave birth to nine children, of whom eight are now living: our subject, the eldest of the family; Franklin M., a physician in Downers Grove; Giles B., deceased, was a farmer in Ogle County; Mathew C., a resident of Grand Junction, Iowa, a farmer and carpenter, and now engaged in selling medicine for his brother, our subject; Minerva B., wife of J. C. Mayberry, of Atlanta, Ga.; Frances M., wife of John Conline, of Milan Center, De Kalb County; and Malcolm C., a physician of Ogle County, having the largest practice of any doctor within its borders.

Dr. Johu Roe was born in Philadelphia in 1800. He married Elizabeth A. Lyon, and in 1827 came to Illinois. His first stopping place was at Springfield, which was then but a mere collection of log cabins. He next went to Jacksonville, and subsequently took up a claim on the Illinois River in Putnam County. In 1833, he went to Galena to enter the land upon which he had located, but found that another had secured the title. Returning home, he told his wife that he was glad that he did not obtain the claim, as he had seen much better land near the Rock River, and he soon removed his family to that region, settling in December, 1834, at Light House Point, seven miles north of Franklin Grove, in what is now Ogle County, but at that time formed a part of Jo Daviess County. He was one of the pioneer physicians of Northern Illinois, and as this part of the State

was then but sparsely inhabited, his practice extended over a large area of country, the settlements being scattered, and in visiting his patients he often traveled long distances, being called to various points from Galena to Lake Michigan and from La Salle many miles northward. He labored here until 1848 and then went to Chicago.

The Doctor did not remain long in that city, however, but as gold was soon discovered, he joined the '49ers in the rush to California, taking his sons with him across the plains and mountains. It was not so easy to get the precious metal as he had imagined, and in 1851 he came back to Illinois, returning by the way of the Isthmus and New York City, and located at Paynes Point, Ogle County. He later removed to Nebraska, and died near Beatrice in 1873.

Our subject was still in his infancy when the family settled in the wilderness in this State. He attended school at Mt. Morris, read medicine with his father during his youth, and at eighteen years of age began to practice under his father's directions. He also gathered herbs and compounded the medicines for his father when there was no drug store for nearly one hundred miles. At the age of twenty-one, he entered the Ohio Botanical Medical College, from which he was graduated well equipped for his chosen profession, and when the family removed to Chicago in 1848, he staid behind to take charge of his father's extensive practice in Ogle County. He, however, gave it up next year to go with his father to California. He met with a serious misfortune during his sojourn in that State, as while he was doing some heavy lifting one of his thigh bones was broken near the hip, and he otherwise injured himself so that his body was bent, causing him to walk with his head near the ground. Upon his return home, while at New York City, he says he was determined to straighten up, and bracing himself against a post he exerted himself to assume an erect attitude. The effort was very painful, but he persisted in his resolution and soon became as straight as an Indian.

On his return to Illinois, after his experience in frontier life on the Pacific Slope, our subject located at Blood's Point, in Boone County, whence he removed to Payne's Point a year later, where he

practiced with his father and managed a farm that he had bought at the same time. In 1854, he came to Franklin Grove, five years later went to Ashton, thence to Rockford, and finally to Fairfax, Iowa. In 1870, he came again to Franklin Grove, and for the last twenty years or more has been a continuous resident of this village. He has practiced somewhat, but has devoted his time principally to the manufacture of various medicinal preparations, eighteen in number, many of which have found their way into households in every part of the United States, and are highly reputed for their remedial virtues.

The Doctor is widely known, and is greatly respected. He is one of the leading members of the Old Settlers' Society of Lee County, of which he has been President, and he has frequently delivered addresses at its meetings. In religion, he was reared a Methodist, and was ordained a minister in the church. His views in regard to such matters have somewhat changed since the days of his early manhood, and he is now connected with the Christian Adventist Church as one of its ministers. In politics, the Doctor was first a Democrat; from 1860 to 1872, a Republican, and since then independent. He was Justice of the Peace while in Iowa, but has never had time for public offices.

Our subject was first married in February, 1846, to Miss Almeda Brown, a native of Canada, and a daughter of Nathaniel and Lucinda Brown. Her parents were pioneers of Illinois, coming hither in 1837. She died January 28, 1882, leaving seven children, five of whom are now living, namely: Nathaniel C., dealer in real estate in Chicago, and in partnership with our subject; Ella, wife of T. J. Giddings, of Franklin Grove; Lucy B., wife of Ami Hamlin, of Brillion, Wis.; Fred U., born January 24, 1859, and educated at Mt. Morris, and has been a member of the firm of U. C. Roe & Sons since 1879; he was married August 29, 1880, to Miss Annis M. Hill, a native of Manitowoc, Wis.; a daughter of Homer Hill; and Carrie L., now Mrs. William S. Mulford, of Wisconsin. In 1883, Dr. Roe was married to Miss Mary E. Edmonds, a native of Lee County, and a daughter of Isaac Edmonds, of Compton. Three children have been born unto them—Herbert E., Marion L., and Rose Elizabeth.



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*Samuel Stone*

Mrs. Roe is a woman of fine literary tastes, being the author of an excellent book, entitled, "How Six Girls Made Money, or Occupations for Women." She is also a frequent contributor to the periodical press.



**S**AMUEL STONE. No name is more worthy of perpetuation in the annals of this county than that of Samuel Stone, whose portrait is presented on the opposite page. He is honored as one of the oldest settlers of Nelson Township, as the founder of the thriving village of Stone Station, and as a farmer who has met with more than ordinary success in the prosecution of his calling. He is one of the largest land-holders in this section of Illinois, and one of the most prosperous men of his class. He has been a hard worker in the past, and as the welcome shadows of evening gather around him in the sunset of a life well and honorably spent, he can rest from his labors, free from the cares that infested the day, in the substantial home that he has built up on section 31, of the before mentioned township, enjoying the wealth that he has accumulated with a busy hand, aided by a clear head, cool calculation, wise economy, and far-seeing judgment.

Mr. Stone was born in the township of Aurora, Erie County, N. Y., December 18, 1823, a son of Luther Stone, one of the early pioneers of Lee County, who was likewise a native of the Empire State, the town of Weston being his birthplace. He was reared to farming pursuits in his native town, and during some period of his life took up his abode in Concord Township, Erie County, where he carried on his occupation until he migrated to the wilds of Northern Illinois. He became an early pioneer of Lee County, which then had but few settlers, and was still in a state of nature. He subsequently entered forty acres of land from the Government, which is now owned by his son Samuel, and made it his home many years until he rounded out his life in death during the war, sixty-four years after his birth. He had

served through the War of 1812, and received a land-warrant therefor, by which he procured his farm in Weston.

An honorable record as a pioneer of this section was won by Luther Stone, who lived to see the country well developed. He had his full share of the hardships and trials of the primitive life necessitated by the condition of a newly settled country far from the centres of civilization, but his privations did not sour his disposition, or render him less sympathetic or kindly disposed toward others. In common with his fellow-pioneers he was exceedingly hospitable, and often gave a shelter to some traveler or emigrant family who met the generous welcome beneath his roof. At one time a man claimed his hospitality, and was well entertained by him, whom he afterward found to have been the notorious John Long, one of the murderers of Col. Davenport, of Rock Island. Mr. Stone was in full sympathy with the aim of the Republican party, and gave it his hearty support from the time of its organization until the day of his death. Religiously he was of the Methodist Episcopal faith and a member of the church.

The father of our subject was married in his native town to Lamina Warren, who was also born and reared there. Her death occurred in Nelson Township seventy years later, in 1878. She was a fine type of the pioneer women of Lee County, possessing strength of character and a tender, womanly nature. She, too, was a pillar of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Her father, Henry B. Warren, was a life-long resident of Weston. He was a millwright by trade and died from a sickness contracted while working in the mill pits, he being then in the prime of life. His daughter Lamina was two years old at the time of his death, and he had but one other daughter.

Samuel Stone is one of a family of four sons and one daughter, the latter and two of the former now dead. His only surviving brother Albert is unmarried and makes his home with him. Our subject began life in Lee County as an active, intelligent lad of twelve years, and his character was molded by pioneer influences. He saw the country in all its newness when there were still many Indians living here, and he learned of them their

customs, mode of living and manner of hunting, and acquired considerable knowledge of their language so that he could converse with them in their own tongue. It may well be his pride that he has done so much to accelerate the growth of Lee County and add to its wealth.

After attaining his majority Mr. Stone made his first purchase of land, which forms a part of his homestead in Nelson Township. He made money by his operations, shrewdly invested it in other land which now aggregates three thousand two hundred acres, all told, of which more than twelve hundred acres are in this and Whiteside County adjoining. He has a like amount in Ida County, Iowa, all under the plow, owns some fine land in Lincoln County, Kan., and a quarter section in Webster County, Neb., all of his realty being under a high state of cultivation and in a fine condition. While acquiring his property he has devoted himself assiduously to its development, and among other improvements has laid out the pretty village of Stone Station on the line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway in Whiteside County, near the boundary of Lee County, planning it wisely and well, so that it is a most desirable place of residence.

As a man who has had the making of his own fortunes, our subject's career is worthy of emulation, and furthermore it furnishes a lesson that the young men of to-day who are just starting out in life for themselves may do well to heed. It is this: Mr. Stone has never allowed himself to become the victim of costly, not to say vicious, habits, and he says that a part of his wealth is due to his putting every cent, that some men would have spent for tobacco, into real estate that has increased in value as the years have gone by and made him rich. Mr. Stone is a Republican in politics, and has stood by his party through its adversities and triumphs during the whole of its existence. His religious affiliations are with the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he has held a membership many years. He is keenly alive to all that concerns the welfare of the community, has exerted a good influence in its moral and social elevation, and has responded generously to all

appeals for help in carrying out plans for public improvement.

Our subject was married in this county to Mrs. Eliza Stone, *nee* Power, widow of his brother Willard. She was a native of Virginia and came to Illinois, when young, with her parents, James and Hannah Power, who settled in Marshall County as pioneers of that section, and spent their remaining years there. After she grew to womanhood, Eliza Power was wedded to Willard Stone, who died in less than a year after marriage, leaving no offspring.

For half a century the wife of our subject walked with him hand in hand on the journey of life, and then death parted them, taking his beloved companion from the home that she had endeared by her presence for so many years, March 18, 1891. She was a noble woman, true in all the relations she sustained toward others, a devoted wife and tender mother, and a kind friend to her neighbors. She was a Christian in every sense, and was long a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Four children were born to her and our subject, of whom two are left to be the stay and comfort of his declining years: Reuben, a farmer of Nelson Township, who married Angie Webster, of Polo; and Adelaide, wife of William Steadman, farmer, grain-buyer and Postmaster at Stone Station. Of the two children who are dead, one died in infancy, and Alonzo D. died at the age of thirty years. He married Mary Ashland, who is now a resident of Rock Falls, and she bore him four children, of whom two are living.



**L**ORENZO M. GOODYEAR, although a comparatively recent addition to the agricultural community comprising Nelson Township, is recognized as one of its most prosperous general farmers and dairymen, and his farm of one hundred and fifty-six acres, on sections 12 and 13, is one of the best kept and most attractive places in the vicinity.

Mr. Goodyear is a worthy descendant of some of the old New England families of Colonial times,

but he himself is a native of the Empire State, born in Oneida County, January 26, 1820, and there his entire life has been spent until within a few years. He was brought up on a farm, early became familiar with all kinds of farm work, and when he attained manhood selected that occupation as the one best suited to his tastes and disposition, fully realizing its possibilities when pursued methodically and with an intelligent observation of the principles governing it, and heartily echoing the assertion of the sage of Chautauqua when he said that it is the "noblest of professions." He made a careful study of the best way of carrying on his farming operations, was always quick in adopting modern and improved methods, and in time acquired a comfortable property in his native county. He was always deeply interested in Western farming, especially in the modes of agriculture in the great grain-growing and stock-raising region of the Upper Mississippi Valley and of the great lake region, and in 1885 he determined to try his hand at farming on these broad, fertile prairies. Therefore he wound up his affairs in New York, and at a time when men of less energetic and active temperament are beginning to consider the advisability of retiring from business, he began life afresh in this county, purchasing his present farm in Nelson Township. The outcome of his experiment has been very satisfactory, and he regards his coming to Illinois as the best move of his life. He is very pleasantly situated, and takes great pride in the home that he has established amid the charming rural scenery of the County of Lee, and to which he is constantly adding improvements. He has a fine lot of milch cows, forty in number, which he devotes to dairy purposes, besides having other stock, and he also raises grain and other products of the soil.

Our subject is a son of Edward Goodyear, a native of Connecticut, and a cousin in the first degree to Charles Goodyear, the famous inventor or discoverer of the process of vulcanizing rubber. The Goodyear family originated in England, and some of its members were among the early settlers of Connecticut. Edward Goodyear passed his early life in his native State, and for some time during the War of 1812 he was engaged in the manufac-

ture of powder. He subsequently devoted himself to carpentering and removed to Canada, whence he afterwards went to Camden, Oneida County, N. Y., where he lived many years, and eventually closed a long and honored life at the age of seventy-four years in the home that he built up there. He was a man of undoubted integrity, a Christian in word and deed, and an active member of the Congregational Church. He married a Connecticut lady, Miss Leve Alcott, and she also had distinguished connections, the late Bronson Alcott, the venerable Concord philosopher and father of the gifted authoress, Louisa Alcott, being her first cousin. She came of good New England blood, and of a long-lived family, known for their fine qualities, steady and temperate habits. She herself was a noble woman, a Christian in every truth, and lived to an honored old age.

Lorenzo Goodyear is the third of five children, four sons and one daughter, all of whom are yet living except the youngest brother, who died in 1891. He grew up under wholesome home influences, and he has abided by the principles of honor, truthfulness and right living early instilled into his mind. He has kept himself free from all bad and vitiating habits, and has never smoked or chewed tobacco or drank spirituous liquors. He has a clear brain, and is remarkably lithe and active for a man who has already passed the seventieth milestone on life's journey. He is still light of foot and agile, and thinks nothing of climbing to the top of his wind-mill when he wants to take a view of the country. He also keeps abreast of the times and is well informed in what is going on in the world of letters, politics and business, as he is a keen observer and a great reader. In the course of life he has gathered about him many friends by his genial manner and considerate treatment of all with whom he comes in contact. He is a sound Republican in his political views, although holding himself independent as regards parties, and his sons follow in his footsteps.

Mr. Goodyear was happily married in his native township and county to Miss Mary Ransom, who was also born in that county, Vienna Township being the place of her birth. For a history

of her family see biography of Schuyler Ransom. Mr. and Mrs. Goodyear are the parents of eight children, as follows: Adelbert L., a farmer in Hancock County, Iowa, who married Miss Lucy Parkes, of New York State; Wallace E. and Walter E., twins, the former married to Miss Mary Ransom and living on a farm in this township, and the latter at home with his parents; Mary, who was employed for three years at the water cure establishment at Danville, N. Y.; Martha, wife of Willard Ball, a farmer of Wexford County, Mich.; Schuyler at home; Lucius, a medical student at Kansas City; and Leve at home with her parents.



**H**ENRY B. COBB has been prominent in the upbuilding of Lee County as one of its most successful farmers and stock-raisers. He has been a resident of Viola Township since pioneer days, and has accumulated a valuable property, including large landed interests here and elsewhere, and one of the best equipped farms in this part of Illinois. He comes from sterling New England ancestry, and is a native of that part of the country, born in the town of Tolland, Tolland County, Conn., November 27, 1834. His father, Daniel Cobb, was a native of the same State. He was a natural mechanic, who could turn his hand to anything and do it well, but he never learned a trade. He worked at various kinds of labor, and remained a resident of Connecticut until his untimely death, while yet in life's prime, in Tolland County, in 1848.

The mother of our subject, whose maiden name was Wealthy, Crandle, and who was also born in Connecticut, was left in very limited circumstances by his death, with nine children depending on her for support. She bravely shouldered her burden and provided for them as best she could, training them to habits of industry and teaching them to become independent. She went from Connecticut to Massachusetts, and lived there until 1853, when she came to Illinois. She resided for a time in Bureau County, but spent her last years in Lee County, in Viola Township. The names of her

children are Elizabeth, Roxanna, Laura, Henry B., Samuel, Daniel, Newton, Wealthy Jane and George O. The family was well represented in the war, Daniel, Newton and George all entering the army early in the conflict, and serving with honor until the rebellion was brought to a close. The first named was in Cheney's Battery, while Newton and George were members of the Eighty-ninth Illinois Regiment.

The subject of this biography was very young when he commenced to earn his own living, and he early displayed those strong traits of character that have marked his entire career and have led him to wealth. Soon after his father's death, he went to work in a cotton factory at Duckville, in the town of Palmer, Hampden County, Mass. He remained there until 1852, and then, ambitious to better his fortunes, he decided to emigrate to the "West," as this part of the country was then called, and try to secure a home for himself on the soil of the Prairie State. He traveled by the way of Long Island Sound to New York, thence by rail to Dunkirk, where he embarked on a steamer to Chicago; from that city he proceeded to Peru on the Illinois & Michigan Canal, and the remainder of his journey to his destination, Lamotte, Bureau County, was performed with a team. He worked there a few months, and then generously sent back the money thus earned to assist other members of the family to come to Illinois. In the fall of 1852, he visited Lee County and entered one hundred and sixty acres of Government land on section 13, of what is now Viola Township.

After he had bought land Mr. Cobb did not have the means to build on it or otherwise improve it, so he rented land for farming purposes until 1856. During that time he erected a small frame house on his place, and has been a resident here continuously since. The improvements on his farm at the present time rank with the best in the county. He has bought land at different times, and has upwards of twelve hundred acres of very fine land in Viola, Brooklyn and Willow Creek Townships. He has gathered together a handsome property, solely by his own wisely directed energies, as he can truly claim the honor of being a self-

made man, who has literally been "the architect of his own fortunes," for he began life when a mere boy with not a cent to his name, and had to earn his own capital before he could become independent. Fortunately, he had that within him better than mere riches which insured his success from the start, as he was of an active temperament, quick to perceive and active to perform; was steady of purpose; had a marvellous capacity to labor long and well and he had early acquired good business habits, so that he was equipped for the struggle that lay before him. Lee County has found in him a valuable citizen, who has been a power in developing her agricultural resources and adding to her wealth in that direction. He has always taken a real interest in her welfare, and has responded liberally to calls for aid in promoting internal improvements. He stands high in her financial circles, and is known in politics as a tried and true Republican, since the days when he cast his first presidential vote for Gen. Fremont.

Mr. Cobb was married in 1859 to Ellen C. Beemer, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Adam and Ann Beemer, and has found in her a cheerful helpmate and a devoted wife. They have five children: Minnie J., Lillie A., George H., Birdie and Laura L. Lillie is the wife of William Webber and the mother of three children: Blanche B., George R. and Hazel N. George H. married Sadie E. Shontz, and they have one child—Ethel Marie.



**I**SAIAH BRINK, who is extensively engaged in farming and stock-raising on sections 19 and 20, Nachusa Township, is numbered among the early settlers of the county, where he located in 1851. He was born on the 17th of October, 1817, in Columbia County, Pa., and is a son of Joshua and Rebecca (Cole) Brink. His father was born in Delaware, of German lineage, and when eighteen years of age removed to the Keystone State, where, in Columbia County, he met and married Miss Cole. She was a native of that county and a daughter of Ezekiel Cole, a miller by trade, who was born in New Jersey. Her father removed to

Columbia County, Pa., in early life and ever afterward resided in that locality.

Joshua Brink and his wife also continued to reside in Columbia County until called to the home beyond. He was nearly ninety-four years of age at the time of his death and his wife died when sixty years of age. In religious belief they were Episcopalians and were people of worth and intelligence, highly esteemed by many friends. Their family numbered nine children, of whom our subject is third in the order of birth.

In the usual manner of farmer lads, Isaiah Brink spent the days of his boyhood and youth and in the county of his nativity was joined in wedlock with Miss Elizabeth Stiles, a native of Luzerne County, Pa., and a daughter of Jerry and Elizabeth (Clintup) Stiles, who were also born in the Keystone State. From Luzerne County they removed to Columbia County, where upon a farm they lived many years. Both are now deceased. They died in the faith of the Episcopal Church in which they held membership.

Mr. and Mrs. Brink began their domestic life in the county of his nativity but at length he determined to try his fortune in the West and we find him located in Lee County, Ill., in the autumn of 1851. The following spring he joined a party of emigrants who, with ox-teams, made their way over the plains to California. Several months had passed away ere their journey was ended. At length they reached Shasta City on the Sacramento River and Mr. Brink embarked in mining but after a few months he began working at the carpenter's trade, which he followed until the fall of 1856, when he returned to Illinois, by way of the Isthmus of Panama, and New York City.

In the meantime Mrs. Brink had purchased their present homestead with money which her husband had sent her from California, and in the spring of 1857 they located thereon. Within the boundaries of the farm are comprised four hundred and twenty acres, and in return for the care and cultivation bestowed upon it the owner reaps a golden tribute. The improvements are such as one would there expect to find and the accessories are those of a model farm. Mr. Brink also owns two hundred and forty acres of land in Amboy and Marion Townships.

His possessions have all been acquired through his own efforts and his prosperity is certainly well deserved. In 1888 he became a member of the firm of Brink & Deiter, lumber manufacturers and extensive dealers in the same. They do a large business in that line and employ about twenty hands.

Three children grace the union of Mr. and Mrs. Brink: John, who wedded Lena Tolen, and resides on the home farm in Nachusa Township; Charles, also a resident farmer of Nachusa Township, wedded Mary Watters, who was born of English parentage; and Catherine, the youngest, is the wife of Perry Cromley, a farmer of Marshall County, Iowa. In social circles Mr. and Mrs. Brink rank high and their friends throughout the community are many. The lady is a member of the German Reformed Church. In political sentiment Mr. Brink is a Democrat but has never sought or desired public office, being content to devote his energies to his business interests in which he has met with such signal success.



**J**AMES H. PRESTON. The *Amboy News*, of which this gentleman is publisher and proprietor, is justly considered one of the brightest and most sparkling local papers of this county. A six-column quarto, it chronicles the latest and most interesting happenings in the social, business and political world. Since its purchase by Mr. Preston in 1884, it has grown rapidly in influence as an independent paper, and is now a welcome guest in many homes, while as an advertising medium it enjoys an established reputation.

Mr. Preston is numbered among the early settlers of this county, whither he came in 1854, settling on one hundred and sixty acres of Government land June 22. He was born in Rochester, N. Y., June 3, 1820, and is the son of James and Mary (Gorham) Preston, both natives of Ft. Ann, N. Y. The maternal ancestors of our subject resided at Nantucket and were seafaring people, who engaged in whaling. The paternal grandfather of

our subject, who bore the name of Othniel Preston, was of Irish parentage and resided in the State of New York where he pursued farming. In the Revolutionary War he enlisted as a soldier and fought in defense of the colonies. His death occurred at the age of ninety-two years.

James Preston, father of our subject, passed his entire life in York State and pursued farming first in Monroe County, whence he removed to Steuben County and there died at the age of fifty-six years. He was a soldier in the War of 1812. His wife survived him until she reached the age of sixty-two years, when she passed away. Three sons and three daughters came to bless their home, our subject being the eldest of the sons. He passed his early life on a farm and received a common-school education, which he made use of by teaching at \$12 per month and board. In 1845, when ready to establish a home of his own, he was married to Miss Nancy A. Maydole, a native of New York.

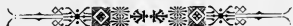
For nine years following their marriage, the young couple continued to reside in Steuben County, where he engaged in farming pursuits, also as hotel-keeper and Postmaster at Haskinsville. In 1854 he came to Illinois and pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres of land in Lee County. Between the years of 1855 and 1857 he was interested in a union store at Amboy, and later engaged in farming until 1879, when he removed to Amboy. In his politics he was a firm Republican, and served in various official positions, among them Assessor, Justice of the Peace and County Superintendent of Schools. To the latter position he was elected in 1865, holding the office twelve years by election and one by appointment. While holding that position he removed to Amboy in 1879, and has here since resided.

At the expiration of his term of service as County Superintendent, Mr. Preston traveled one year as salesman, and in 1884 purchased the *Amboy News*, which he still owns. In his political affiliations he was a Whig in former years, but later became a member of the Republican party and is now somewhat independent in his belief. Since the campaign of 1844 he has voted at every Presidential election, and during all those years



has exerted a great influence for good, both in private life and through the medium of his paper. In his social relations he is a member of the Masonic fraternity and the oldest member of Illinois Central Lodge, No. 178, A. F. & A. M. He was also a charter member of the first lodge at Amboy, I. O. O. F.

The marriage of our subject and his estimable wife has been blessed by the birth of four children, namely: Albert W., who was killed by a bull when thirty years of age; Frances, who was a teacher of unexceptional ability and engaged in her profession at the State Normal, died May 4, 1880; Addie, who is the wife of William F. Wolcott, and Charles, a lawyer at Paw Paw. Mr. and Mrs. Preston adopted a girl, whom they have named Bertie, and who receives from them every care and attention which has been bestowed upon their own children. The various members of the Preston family are highly esteemed in social circles, and at their hospitable home are wont to entertain their many friends.



**E**DWARD F. HERBST, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits on the farm of William Uhl, on section 14, South Dixon Township, is a young man of good parts and industrious habits, who has already won an excellent reputation for practical skill as a farmer and for real ability to handle his affairs so as to produce the best results. He has been operating the said farm for three years very successfully, renting it of Mr. Uhl, who is now in California. It contains one hundred and sixty acres of good farming land, and is well supplied with buildings for all purposes.

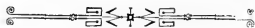
Mr. Herbst is a native of Adams County, Pa., born near Gettysburg, April 14, 1859. His father, Henry Herbst, was also a native of Adams County, and was a son of a German, who had come to the United States after his marriage in the Fatherland, and had settled on a farm in the county mentioned. He was there industriously engaged at his occupation until his death, both he and his wife living to

be old people. They were simple-hearted and true minded, and were faithful members of the Lutheran Church.

Henry Herbst was reared to the life of a farmer on the old Pennsylvanian homestead where he first opened his eyes to the light of day, and in due time he was married to Miss Elizabeth Wible, a native of the same county as himself, and a daughter of Joseph and Rebecca Wible. Her parents were descended from some of the early Pennsylvanian families, and died in their native county when well along in years. They were Lutherans in religion. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Herbst lived on a farm in Pennsylvania until after all their children had been born and had grown to maturity, and in 1884 they came to Illinois, and have founded a new home in Nachusa Township, where they are passing their declining years serenely, and in the enjoyment of the respect and esteem of all about them. From childhood they have been members of the Lutheran Church, and their lives have been guided by Christian principles

Our subject is the eldest of the nine children born to his parents, of whom eight are living. He received a good home training, and early acquired a good knowledge of general farming. In 1881 he came to Illinois, and for some years prior to coming to South Dixon Township he was engaged in farming in Nelson Township. To help him in the upbuilding of a home towards which his ambitions bend, and to which he is devoting his energies, he has been so fortunate as to secure one of the choicest of earth's blessings, a good wife, who is devoted to him and their children, of whom they have two, Harry E. and Myrtle M. Their marriage was solemnized in Nachusa Township. Mrs. Herbst, who bore the maiden name of Cora V. Kime, was born in the same Pennsylvanian County as her husband, August 29, 1864, being the date of her birth. She came to Illinois in her girlhood with her parents, George and Nancy (Hines) Kime, who are now living on a farm in Nachusa Township. They were born, reared and married in Adams County, Pa. They are greatly esteemed by the people in their community for their genuine worth. They are Lutherans in their

religious faith. Mrs. Herbst is one of a family of four children, all of whom are living. She is very capable, is an excellent housewife, and understands well how to manage her household affairs. Both she and her husband are Lutherans, and useful members of their church. He is a Democrat sound and true, as was his father before him.



**J**OHAN P. BRUBAKER, one of the well known and influential citizens of Nachusa Township, engaged in general farming on section 5, is a native of the Buckeye State, his birth occurring in the township of Grattis, Preble County, July 30, 1826, and he is descended from good old Revolutionary stock. The family is of German origin and was established in Lancaster County, Pa., at an early day. When the struggle for Independence broke out, some of its members enlisted in the Colonial army. Jonathan Brubaker, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Lancaster County and there married a Pennsylvanian lady. After the birth of their children they removed from the Keystone State to Virginia, but as the views of Mr. Brubaker were much opposed to the slave law, he left, with his family, for Preble County, Ohio, there locating about 1810. The county was then almost an unbroken wilderness and in the midst of a dense timbered region they located. It was an arduous task to develop a farm there in the midst of the forest but Mr. Brubaker resolutely set to work and ere his death had improved a very large tract of land. He left to each of his children a good home. He had been twice married and himself and both wives were members of the German Baptist Church. His family was a numerous one and among the children there is one survivor, Henry Brubaker, who is now living in Preble County, Ohio, at a very advanced age.

Jonas Brubaker, father of our subject, was born in Lancaster County Pa., in 1802. He was a youth when his parents removed to Virginia and had not yet attained his majority when they located in Ohio. He afterwards married Rebecca Phillips,

the first female white child born in Preble County, Ohio, her birth occurring in 1804. Her parents came from Tennessee, and were among the pioneer settlers of the Buckeye State. The Phillips family are of English extraction and its members were renowned as Indian fighters. They were also strong opponents of the slavery system and their efforts were ever for its overthrow. Jonas Brubaker and his wife began their married life on a farm where the lady was born and continued to reside in that vicinity until after the death of the husband which occurred June 9, 1890, at the ripe old age of eighty-eight years. He was a member of the German Baptist Church, in slavery days was a strong Abolitionist and also a warm advocate of temperance principles. He lived a life worthy of emulation and left an untarnished name. His widow is yet living in Preble County, making her home with her granddaughter. Throughout the community she is widely known and her friends are indeed many. She is also a member of the German Baptist Church.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the monotony of farm life during the boyhood of our subject. When he had arrived at mature years he wedded Hannah Wright who was also a native of Preble County, Ohio; in 1852, they came to Illinois, and Mr. Brubaker purchased a partially improved farm in Nachusa Township, Lee County, upon which he yet resides. His labors there have worked a great transformation and he has now one of the well developed and valuable farms of the community. His comfortable home is surrounded with beautiful shade trees, making it an attractive and pleasing place and a spring of never-failing water is there found.

After fifteen years' residence in Lee County, Mrs. Brubaker, who was born in October, 1828, passed away in 1867, leaving three children. The eldest, William, is now a clerk in the State Capitol of Topeka, Kan.; Marcus now dead; Barnes, was a skilled machinist and located in Cineinnati, Ohio, where his death occurred; and Laura is the wife of R. W. Eicholtz, a farmer of Nachusa Township. Mr. Brubaker was again married, his second union being with Miss Anna Sunday, a native of Adams County, Pa., who came to Illinois during

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JOHN C. LEAKE.

her maidenhood. Their wedding was celebrated in Nachusa Township and has been blessed with two children—Minnie, wife of William Barber who aids our subject in the management of the homestead; and J. Ozro, who is attending college in Dixon.

For eighteen years Mr. Brubaker has held the office of Justice of the Peace and has also been Highway Commissioner for some years. Other local offices he has filled and every position in which he has served has found in him a faithful officer who discharges his duties with promptness and fidelity. With his ballot he supports the Republican party, of which he is a staunch advocate. His wife is a member of the German Baptist Church and an active worker in its interests.



**J**OHAN C. LEAKE. The son of one of the early pioneer families of this county, this gentleman has risen to an important place among its wide-awake, progressive farmers and stock raisers. He is of English birth and ancestry, but the most of his life has been passed on the fine old homestead on section 28, Nachusa Township, which was purchased by his father from the Government fifty years ago, when it was a wild tract of land, and has been in the possession of our subject since 1863.

On the opposite page appears the portrait of Mr. Leake. He was born in Leicestershire, England, and was very young when brought to this country by his parents, John and Mary A. (Jarvis) Leake, who were of good English blood, coming from some of the old families of Leicestershire, where they were born and reared. The father was born in 1806, and was the son of a prosperous farmer and butcher of his native shire. He learned the trade of a butcher in his youth, and followed it for some years. After the birth of three sons in their old home, he and his wife decided to emigrate to America, and in 1841 set sail from Liverpool on a vessel bound for this country. They landed in New York City, and then started on the laborious

journey Westward by the most expeditious route at that time, going by the Hudson River and Erie Canal to Buffalo, whence they made the voyage on the lakes to Chicago, and from there made their way with a team to their destination in Lee County.

John Leake was at that time in moderate circumstances, but he took up a tract of Government land, now included in the farm of his son John, went to work with characteristic vigor and persistency, and not only changed what was literally a part of the wilderness into a highly productive farm, but acquired the means to buy other land, and in time had a thousand acres of valuable realty. He thus bore a prominent part in the up-building of the county, and his name is held in honor among those of its most active and respected pioneers. A useful citizen was lost to his township when death closed his career in 1873. He and his estimable wife were members of the Episcopal Church, when they were in England, but after coming to this country they united with the Methodists, and were always generous and zealous working members of that denomination to which they belonged.

Our subject early acquired an insight into the principles of farming and gained a valuable experience in that line before he began to pursue agriculture on his own account. He owns three hundred and eighty acres of highly cultivated land, and has made several valuable improvements, including a fine set of buildings, of a good style of architecture and replete with modern conveniences. His herds of cattle, horses and hogs are of the breeds that are best adapted to this country and compare with the finest in the neighborhood. He has made a careful study of his calling, is progressive in his ideas of farming and very successful in putting them into execution. A man of his strength of character and mental calibre necessarily exercises a certain amount of influence in his community, and his neighbors and fellow-citizens find in him a safe and thoughtful counselor. They have frequently called him to take charge of some local office, and he has represented Nachusa Township as a member of the County Board of Supervisors two years. In his political convictions he is a

steadfast Republican. Religiously he is of the Congregational faith, and he and his estimable wife belong to that church.

The maiden name of the wife of our subject, to whom he was married in this county, was Mary E. Hale. She was born in Ohio, and was a small girl when her parents, L. W. and Sarah A. (Crawford) Hale, came to Lee County and settled among its pioneers. Here they lived and labored for many years and built up a comfortable home in China Township, where the good old mother is still living, and at the age of seventy-three years is bright and active. The father rounded out a long and honorable life of seventy-seven years, dying on his old homestead, in July, 1884. Mrs. Leake is one of a family of six children, of whom three are yet living. She was well educated and won a high reputation as a teacher, in which profession she was engaged in this county for some years before marriage. She became the mother of four children: Charles W., Grace M., Jenne F. and T. Wilber; all are deceased excepting Wilber, a young man of much promise, who makes his home with his parents.



**ON. MICHAEL EGAN.** It is always interesting to note the career of those who have emigrated from foreign lands for the purpose of establishing homes in the United States; and to trace the steps by which they have exchanged their poverty for an honorable independence. In the life of Mr. Egan there is much to interest and instruct. Although for years he has been a naturalized citizen of our country, he has never lost his love for Old Ireland, nor his hatred of England. His knowledge of a multitude of subjects with which his versatile ability has made him conversant, is well known, and his retentive memory enables him to recite prose or poetical selections of rare beauty and great length. From youth he has always been an active and powerful man, temperate in his habits, frank and honest in his speech, and as such has commanded the highest respect, even of his political opponents.

In Kiltrush, County Clare, Ireland, Mr. Egan was born, September 26, 1821, and is the son of John and Susanna (Meskel) Egan, both of whom died in their native land. Michael learned the trade of a mason from his father, to whom he served an apprenticeship of seven years, and afterward was employed in the public works. In the spring of 1846 he came to the United States, and in New York City engaged to work for Matthias & Frevman, contractors, on a bonded warehouse. At the expiration of twenty months he removed to Springfield, Mass., where he pursued his trade for seven years in the employ of Charles McClellan. While in that city he became a naturalized citizen of the United States. During the winter of 1852-53 he was employed by J. B. Wyman to come West and work on the Illinois Central Railroad.

Arriving in Illinois in February, 1853, Mr. Egan at once commenced to work on bridges and culverts south of LaSalle, and in the following June came to Amboy and began the erection of the railroad buildings, whose construction he superintended until their completion. He continued in the employ of the company until 1876, and for four years thereafter was contracting and building on his own account. In 1880 he resumed work for the railroad company, and was made purchasing and disbursing agent of cord wood and cross-ties, and at different times superintended the work in quarries in the southern part of the State, employing two hundred men. Through overwork and exposure, he became ill with malarial fever, and resigning his position, has since given his attention to private affairs.

As Mr. Egan somewhat regained his health, he was in 1885 elected Justice of the Peace, and is now (1892) serving his second term, being also Notary Public. In early life he attended school, and had good common-school advantages, but when elected Justice he knew nothing about law. He at once applied himself to legal studies, and by close application has become familiar with the duties of his position, and his decisions are characterized by broad knowledge and shrewd judgment. His interest in Irish affairs has never flagged, and he receives Irish papers weekly, thus

keeping himself well posted in the latest news from his native land. He is a prominent member of the society known as the "Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood."

In 1844 Mr. Egan was married to Miss Ellen, daughter of John and Bridget Morrissy. After twenty-five years of wedded life, Mrs. Ellen Egan died January 27, 1869, at the age of forty-five years. She was the mother of eleven children, four of whom are deceased, while the surviving ones are as follows: John M., born March 25, 1848, at Springfield, Mass., is now President of the Maple Leaf Railroad, and resides at St. Paul, Minn.; Peter Paul, who was born June 13, 1851, at Holyoke, Mass., is State Boiler Inspector at Denver, Col.; Michael Francis, whose birth occurred February 26, 1853, at Holyoke, Mass., is Assistant Division Superintendent of the Union Pacific Railroad and is located at Denver, Col.; Alfred H., born January 27, 1855, at Amboy, resides in Kansas City, Mo., and has charge of the Belt Line Railroad; Joseph, born May 12, 1857, at Amboy, is Train Dispatcher at Mojave, Cal.; Mary, born February 2, 1860, is clerk for her brother at Dubuque, Iowa; Benjamin F., born April 28, 1862, is Division Superintendent of the Maple Leaf Railroad at Dubuque, Iowa.

In 1872 Mr. Egan was united in marriage with Mrs. Helen (Stewart) Barrie, the widow of James Barrie, and of this union two children have been born: Helen S. and William A. S. When Mr. Egan arrived in this country he naturally became a Democrat, because Whigs were opposed to home-rule in his native land, but when he became better informed on political matters, he joined the ranks of the Republican party, to which he has since adhered. In whatever he says he is very emphatic, frank and open. His fellow-citizens have bestowed upon him the highest gift within their power: election as Mayor of Amboy, in which capacity he has served several terms. He is also City Treasurer, a member of the Board of Aldermen, and at present serving on the Board of Education. In his religious belief he is a firm and devoted member of the Roman Catholic Church, and the first services of that church in Amboy were held at his house. In whatever position he has

been placed, he has served with characteristic zeal and devotion, while his record as a public spirited citizen makes him a worthy member of the social and business circles of the community.



**O**LIVER P. COURTRIGHT was born on the farm where he yet resides on section 2, Dixon Township, the date of his birth being December 26, 1850. He is an enterprising and successful agriculturist of this community and a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families. His father was John Courtright, a native of Luzerne County, Pa., and his grandfather was Elisha Courtright, a farmer of the Keystone State, who was born and reared in Luzerne County and there married Miss Sarah Kline-top, also a native of the same county. Nine children, five sons and four daughters, were there born unto them and in 1836, with their family, they emigrated Westward, traveling in a covered wagon drawn by ox-teams. When the shades of night fell upon them, they would camp along the wayside and in the morning resume their journey. After some weeks they arrived in Lee County, and made a settlement in Dixon Township. The work of civilization and progress was then hardly begun and in the development and upbuilding of the community Elisha Courtright bore a considerable part. He died on his original farm at the age of seventy-six years. His wife survived him ten years and died in 1880, in Milford, Neb., at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Carleton Mason. Both were members of the Methodist Church and were people of sterling worth.

John Courtright was the eldest of their family. He had attained his majority at the time of their emigration Westward and after his arrival in Illinois made a claim to Government land, from which he developed a good farm. There he lived and labored for many years and at length passed away in August, 1886, at the age of nearly sixty-five. He was quite a prominent and influential farmer of this community and was numbered among the honored pioneers. He experienced all the hard-

ships and trials of frontier life and in common with others in those early days had to haul his grain to market in Chicago, a distance of one hundred miles. This is only one of the many disadvantages incurred. He was a worthy citizen, had a host of warm friends in this community, and was a man of unblemished character. In religious belief he was a Methodist and in politics supported Republican principles. His wife, whose maiden name was Lydia Whitney, was born in the Province of Ontario, Canada, and at an early age was left an orphan, after which she found a home with the family of John McKinney whose sketch is given on another page of this work in connection with that of Fred McKinney. In her girlhood she came with that family to Illinois, remaining with her kind friends until her marriage. She yet survives her husband and is living on the old homestead at the age of sixty-eight years. Like him she is a member of the Methodist Church and for her many excellencies of character she is highly esteemed.

We now take up the personal history of our subject who has spent almost his entire life on the farm which is still his home. In the schools of the neighborhood he acquired his education during the winter season, while in the summer he aided his father in the farm work. He owns and operates the old Courtright homestead which has been his property for three years. He has long resided there, having never left it save when he spent four years in Jackson County, Iowa. He has the farm under a high state of cultivation. He votes with the Republican party but takes no active part in public affairs, although he feels a deep interest in everything pertaining to the welfare and upbuilding of the community. He lives a quiet, unassuming life, faithfully discharging his duties of citizenship and is recognized as one of the leading farmers of the township.

In Ashton, Ill., Mr. Courtright was united in marriage with Miss Helen, daughter of Dr. Martin. She was born in Hazel Green, Wis., but the days of her maidenhood were largely spent in Iowa. Her father is a native of Ontario, Canada. In his native province he was educated and at Mt. Morris, Ill., after which he embarked in the practice of medicine, which he followed until within the past

ten years, since which time he has lived a retired life. His wife, who was a Canadian lady, died in Iowa, in 1880, at the age of fifty years. The Doctor makes his home with his daughter. He is a member of the Methodist Church, as is also Mrs. Courtright, and with that denomination his wife was likewise identified. In politics, he is a supporter of the Republican principles. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Courtright has been blessed with an interesting family of six children: Clarence, Ora, Harry, Edward, Mama and Louis, all of whom are still at home.



**H**ON. JOSEPH CRAWFORD, who recently passed to his long rest full of years and honors, bearing with him the love and reverence of the many who knew him, was a noble type of the pioneers of Lee County, and his name will be forever linked with the history of its rise and progress from the early days of the settlement to the present time, and with all that is highest and best in the record of its social, religious and educational development. He was one of its foremost business men, its most skillful and successful financiers, as well as one of its wealthiest citizens; he was a leader in its public life, and bore a conspicuous part in the administration of the local government in various important civic capacities; and his powerful influence and generous use of his money insured the success of many an enterprise that advanced the interest not only of Dixon, where he has made his home, and of the county besides, but of other parts of Illinois, and even other States where he had extensive dealings.

A native of Pennsylvania, our subject was born in Columbia County, May 19, 1811, a son of John and Catherine (Cassidy) Crawford. When he was eleven years old his parents removed to Huntington, in Luzerne County, the same State, and he laid the foundation of a sound education in the schools of that locality. He was, however, mainly self-educated, and being naturally of a bright and studious turn of mind, and fond of books,



even before he attained manhood he had acquired a reputation for thorough scholarship and learning, and in 1831 he entered upon the profession of teaching. He was thus engaged for four years, and devoted his leisure hours to studying the art of surveying.

Thus well-equipped for life on the frontier, April 4, 1835, our subject started on that momentous journey which led him to this part of the country, with whose fortunes in the years to come his own were to be so inextricably woven, and where he was to assist in the upbuilding of a great and glorious Commonwealth. On his arrival in this State, he passed through Chicago and Dixon, and pushed on to Galena. But he had been pleased with the beautiful Rock River country, and he soon returned to locate in this valley at Dixon's Ferry, selecting a tract of land between Dixon and Grand Detour, on which he settled in the month of May, 1835. He was thus among the first pioneers of this section, as settlements were then but few and scattering, and a log cabin and flat-boat were the sole signs of civilization at Dixon's Ferry.

Immediately upon establishing himself on his farm, our subject, besides attending to its cultivation and improvement, began to utilize his knowledge of surveying, and as the country began to develop he was employed by the incoming settlers at that profession, as well as by the Government, and in time he built up a large business in that line, becoming noted far and wide for the accuracies of his surveys, which to this day are accepted as remarkably correct and the acknowledged standard in their locality. He did a great deal of important official work, as he was employed to make the original surveys for all the towns and villages on the Rock River between Rockford and Rock Island, and for many years was County Surveyor. In 1836 he was appointed Deputy County Surveyor for all the northwestern part of Illinois, his especial work being to locate and lay out roads and to plat villages. In the same year he was elected County Surveyor of Ogle County, which then included Whiteside and Lee Counties, the latter not being set off from Ogle until 1839. In 1841 Mr. Crawford was elected one of the three County

Commissioners of this county, he having been previously elected County Surveyor at the time of its organization, and he held that office eighteen years.

While following his profession as Surveyor our subject went into business very extensively as a dealer in real estate, and was so engaged for many years, being at one time in partnership with J. C. Ayers and Milton Santee. He dealt principally in farming lands, making large investments for himself and others, buying, selling and locating land in Northern Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Nebraska. In the course of time, his extensive operations brought him in a handsome fortune that made him one of the richest men of the county, and others acquired wealth through him. It was largely through his instrumentality that the Lee County National Bank was organized in 1865, when he became its President, and to his vigorous and sound policy in the management of its finances during the many years that he was its presiding officer is largely due its high reputation as one of the best conducted and most reliable banking institutions in the State. He was one of the Board of Directors of the Nachusa House Company, and was interested in various enterprises that were calculated to build up the city and county.

Our subject found much of the happiness and comfort of his life in his marriage with Mrs. Hulda (Bowman) Culver, to whom he was wedded September 16, 1852.

In Mr. Crawford was seen that rare and harmonious development of a well-balanced mind, acute intellect, and good sense; accurate judgment in all business matters and sagacious foresight were traits of his character that not only brought him success in his private pursuits, but made him peculiarly valuable as an official in the various high positions to which he was called from time to time by his admiring and appreciative fellow-citizens. In 1873 he was called to the head of the municipal government of Dixon as its Mayor, was re-elected to that office in 1874, and again in 1875. Thus forty years after he located at Dixon's Ferry, which at that time, with its one log house, could not even be called a hamlet, he found himself presiding over the affairs of a populous and flourishing

city. Several years previous to his election to the Mayoralty he had represented Lee and Whiteside Counties in the Illinois State Legislature for two terms, during the sessions of 1849 and 1850 and 1853 and 1854, and had won honor as a legislator and as an active and useful member of the Committee of Township Organization. He was prominent in educational matters as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Normal School, and he was always a generous and earnest advocate of whatsoever would tend to elevate the community.

Our subject was a Trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church for a number of years, and he never wavered in his loyalty to the denomination. He was a Christian in character and life, and he hallowed every social and religious tie by a pure and upright life. He was true in all things to the obligations imposed upon him as a man and a citizen, and it is said of him that "he never betrayed a trust."

August 11, 1891, he laid down this life to enter a higher field of labor to perfect that which was so well begun here, and though many to whom he had been a warm and steadfast friend mourn his loss, all feel that it is well with him.



**P**HARES H. LANDIS is successfully pursuing his business as a general farmer on his farm of one hundred and sixty acres, situated on section 27, Nelson Township, which is under excellent improvement, supplied with a good class of buildings, and is well stocked with cattle, horses and swine of high grades. Mr. Landis was born in Lancaster County, Pa., in the township of the same name, March 6, 1843, and is a son of John N. and Susanna (Hoover) Landis, who were also natives of that county.

The father of our subject was a son of Abraham Landis, and was born, reared, and died at a good old age on the old homestead in Lancaster County which he owned for many years, and which had been in the family nearly two centuries, the original owners, from whom he was a lineal descend-

ant, having settled on it upon coming from Switzerland in early Colonial times, and it is still in the possession of some of their descendants to this day. Our subject, as was his father, also, was born on this ancestral farm that was hewed from the primeval forests of the "Woods of Penn." The old stock were Whigs in politics, and Mennonites in religion.

After the birth of seven of their children, John N. Landis and wife came to Illinois in 1851, and settled among the pioneers of Whiteside County, locating on an eighty-acre tract of land in Sterling Township. The father was a hard-working farmer, but in the midst of a busy career his life was terminated by his untimely death in 1853, at the age of forty-four, ere he had lived in his new home scarcely two years. He was a conscientious Christian, and a member of the Mennonite Church. After the death of the father, the mother married again, becoming the wife of Emanuel Landis, who is now a retired farmer, living in Sterling. He also is a native of Pennsylvania, but was not related to his wife's former husband.

Our subject is one of the three children still living that were born to his parents. He was but a boy when he accompanied them in their journey to their pioneer home in Whiteside County. He grew to maturity there, and there gained his first experience as a farmer. In 1883 he came to this county and purchased the quarter-section of fine farming land, comprising his homestead on section 27, Nelson Township. He has every convenience for tilling the soil and raising stock to the best advantage, and is prospering exceedingly, as he deserves to do, as he gives careful attention to his business, is diligent, and exercises good judgment in his expenditures and investments. He raises a good class of stock, for which he finds a ready sale in the best markets.

To the lady who presides over his home and looks solicitously after the comfort of its inmates, our subject was married during his residence in Sterling Township. Mrs. Landis was formerly Anna E. Shuler, and she is a native of Whiteside County, born in the township where her marriage occurred, November 30, 1856, and she received her education in its schools. Her parents, George F.,

and Elizabeth (Rosenberry) Shuler, natives respectively of Germany and Pennsylvania, came to this country when single, and afterward united their lives and fortunes. The father purchased and improved a large farm of over five hundred acres of fine farming land. He and his wife, who are held in high honor as pioneers of Whiteside County, are now living retired from active life in the enjoyment of the wealth that they have gathered together by their united work. Mr. and Mrs. Landis have had eight children, who are named as follows: Frank F., Harvey S., Cora E., Bertha M., Arthur R., Ida S., Walter E. and John I. Walter E., and John I. are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Landis deserve to be, and are, greatly respected by the entire community of people among whom they have cast their lot. They are upright in their daily walk, and their neighbors know that they can be depended upon for those many nameless friendly acts that draw closer the ties of good-fellowship.



**A**NSON E. THUMMEL, who resides on section 31, Palmyra Township, is one of the extensive and successful farmers and stock-raisers of the county. Since 1872 he has resided at his present place of residence, where he owns two hundred and fifty-eight acres of valuable land, the greater part of which is under a high state of cultivation. The farm has all the modern accessories, including good buildings and the latest improved machinery, its fields are well tilled and the stock which he raises is of high grades. He makes a specialty of breeding high grade horses and swine and thorough-bred Durham cattle.

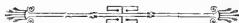
A life record of Mr. Thummel is as follows: He was born in Lexington, S. C., on the 22d of September, 1842, and is a son of Rev. C. B. and Catherine (Latin) Thummel. His father was a native of Germany, who when a young man came to this country. Previously, however, he had obtained a collegiate education in his native land and after coming to America was graduated from one of the institutions of learning of this country. Entering the ministry, he became a preacher of the Lutheran

Church and to that work devoted his life. He spent some years in the South, but afterward came North and died in Palmyra Township, April 8, 1880, at an advanced age. In the Empire State he had married Miss Latin, who was born in New York, where she made her home until her marriage. She is now eighty-one years of age, but her years rest lightly upon her, she still retaining her mental and physical faculties to a remarkable degree. She lives in Prairieville.

Mr. Thummel, whose name heads this record, was yet a lad when he came to Illinois, and in the schools of Lee County he acquired his education. Here he has made his home since 1845, with the exception of a few years spent in Iowa, and the four years in which he valiantly defended the Union at the front. When the Rebellion broke out, he enlisted in the fall of 1861, as a member of Company D, Thirty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Col. Kirk and Capt. T. L. Pratt, both of whom are now deceased. The regiment was soon sent to the South and assigned to the Second Brigade of the Second Division, Fourteenth Army Corps, under command of Gens. Buell and Rosecrans, and later under command of Gen. Sherman, with whom he marched to the sea. With his company Mr. Thummel participated in the battles of Shiloh and Stone River, the battle of Atlanta and all the other engagements of that campaign. He also fought at Bentonville, N. C., one of the last engagements of the war, where nine of his company were killed and nine seriously wounded. On the celebrated march to the sea, he passed through Lexington, S. C., his native city, and was permitted to visit the place of his birth and to call upon his old friends. Returning to Washington, he participated in the Grand Review, where "wave after wave of bayonet-crested blue" swept by the President's stand, and later came to Chicago, where he was mustered out in July, 1865, after having served almost four years. During all that time he was never wounded or captured, but was always found at his post of duty, faithful in the discharge of every task imposed upon him.

In Palmyra Township, Mr. Thummel was united in marriage with Miss Helen Powers, who was born in this county in 1845. Her education was

acquired in the public schools of the neighborhood and at Mt. Vernon, Iowa. She died at her home in this township, September 13, 1889, at the age of forty-four years, leaving five children, all of whom are yet at home, namely: Laura M., Bertha A., Blanche E., Lloyd A. and Mabel K. Mr. Thummel and his family are members of the Lutheran Church, and in politics he is a staunch Republican, who has often served as delegate to the conventions of his party. He has held the office of Supervisor, yet has never sought political preferment, although he is deeply interested in the success of his party. By nature he is genial and can readily appreciate the humorous. His success in life is all due to his own efforts and his prosperity is richly merited.



**G**RANVILLE S. DUNTON holds an important place among the principal farmers and stock-raisers of Viola Township, where he has valuable farming interests, and is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was born in Perry Township, Allen County, Ind., November 20, 1837. His father was Horace F. Dunton, who was a native of St. Lawrence County, N. Y. He, in turn, was a son of Eparaim Dunton, a pioneer of that county, who is supposed to have been born in Vermont. In 1833 he removed to Indiana, and in Allen County, that State, his life was brought to a close at a ripe old age. His wife, Abigail Ball in her maiden days, was likewise of New England birth.

The father of our subject was reared on a farm in his native county. He went to Indiana from New York when a young man, and was employed to assist in building the canal leading from Fort Wayne to Toledo. With the money thus earned he entered Government land in Perry Township, and became one of the pioneers of Allen County. He erected a log cabin for a dwelling and in that humble abode his son, of whom we write, was born. The father devoted his time to clearing a farm and tilling the soil, and resided on that place a number of years. He then sold that at a good advance on the original price, and bought a farm

of two hundred and forty acres one mile distant, and advantageously located ten miles north of Fort Wayne, where he is passing his declining years surrounded by all the comforts of a good home, the fruit of his early labors.

Like many of his countrymen, Mr. Dunton Sr. had an experience of frontier life in California during the period of the excitement over the discovery of gold. He set out on the long and memorable journey to that distant State on the 20, of March, 1850, and arrived at his destination on the 4th of the following August, having made the trip across the plains and mountains without any serious misadventure. At that time the only whites living between the Missouri River and California, were the soldiers stationed at one or two military posts, Indian and fur traders, and the Mormons at Salt Lake. Buffalo, deer and antelopes were to be encountered in large numbers. Mr. Dunton engaged in mining until 1852, and then pocketed his gains and started for his home in Indiana, by the way of the Isthmus of Panama. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Almena Timmerman. She was a native of the State of New York, and a daughter of Henry and Abbie Timmerman. She died in 1890, thus closing a wedded life of many years, wherein ten children had been born to her and her husband—nine sons and one daughter.

Granville Dunton grew to a stalwart manhood under the pioneer influences that prevailed in Indiana during his early years, and he obtained his education in the primitive schools of the time, that were taught in log houses, and furnished with rude slab seats that stood on wooden legs. Holes were bored on either side of the buildings and a slab laid on the wooden pins inserted therein served as writing desks for the larger scholars. Young Dunton resided with his father and helped him in the management of his farm until 1859, and since that year has made his home in Illinois. He began life here by renting land in Willow Creek Township, and two years later bought a tract of wild prairie, now included in his present farm in Viola Township, which was without tree or shrub and had no improvements on it whatever. He has worked hard to bring about the great

THE END



*Wm. Kennedy*

change that makes it a very desirable farm in point of tillage, productiveness and equipments. He has erected a good set of frame buildings, has planted fruit and shade trees, and has the greater part of two hundred acres of his realty under fine cultivation.

Mr. Dunton was married in 1861, to Miss Caroline Parker, who was born near Rockville, Park County, Ind. Their marriage, which has been one of mutual happiness, has brought them six children, whom they have named: Charles F., Ida May, Edgar, Lillie B., Wilbert and Harry.

Our subject takes an intelligent interest in politics, and is a loyal supporter of the Republican party. He has filled various offices of trust, as his fellow-citizens early recognized his qualifications for such positions, and have always placed reliance upon his inherent honesty and integrity of purpose and act. He has been School Trustee and Director, Highway Commissioner and Justice of the Peace, and has represented Viola Township on the County Board of Supervisors. He was a member of Company I, Fifteenth, Illinois Infantry, having enlisted February 13, 1865, at Dixon, Ill., and being mustered out October 1, 1865, at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan.



**W**ILLIAM MICHAEL KENNEDY, formerly editor and proprietor of the *Dixon Sun*, was a journalist of rare ability, who stood high in his profession and made his paper one of the foremost publications of the kind in Northern Illinois. It is therefore with pleasure that we invite the reader's attention to his portrait and the following outline of his life. He was born in County Limerick, Ireland, August 11, 1843, and was a son of Edward and Winifred (Meade) Kennedy. His father died in County Limerick in 1844, leaving a widow and one child. Soon afterward his mother brought him to America (he being an infant at the time) and first settled in Brooklyn, N. Y. A few years later she came to Dixon to make her home, and her son was reared and educated in this city.

At the age of twelve years the bright little lad took the first step towards entering a profession in which he was afterward to win bright laurels, as he then commenced to learn the trade of a printer, completing his apprenticeship in the office of the *Telegraph*. He followed his trade as a journeyman a few years, and in the winter of 1869-70 opened a job office, which he operated until the following November. He then bought the office of the *Lee County Democrat*, and in January, 1871, started the publication of the *Rock River Farmer* in connection with it, a paper devoted to the interests of the farmers. The following year he established the *Iowa Farmer*, which he subsequently consolidated with the other agricultural paper under the name of the *Western Farmer*. In October, 1871, he changed the name of the *Lee County Democrat* to the *Dixon Sun*. He published both the agricultural periodical and the newspaper until 1884, making a complete success of both, and then, owing to failing health, disposed of the *Western Farmer*, continuing to edit and issue the *Sun* until his untimely decease, April 28, 1890.

When death set his seal upon his lips and led him into the silent land, our subject was in the prime and vigor of a noble life that seemed to promise many more years of usefulness. He had become one of the leaders of thought and action in his circle as an editor of unusual power, who had given to the public a paper carefully and wisely edited in the highest interests of city and county, exercising a beneficial influence in business and politics, and helping to elevate the tone of the community; a journal that possessed excellent literary qualities, was a valuable medium of information concerning foreign and local affairs, was bright and progressive in its methods, and had a large circulation among the most intelligent people.

Mr. Kennedy was one of the foremost members of the Illinois Press Association, and took an active part in its meetings. In 1884 he delivered the annual address to his fellow-editors, assembled at Urbana, and was highly complimented for his brilliant effort on that occasion. In the same year he was honored by being elected Vice-President of the association, and in 1885 his professional brethren

gave him another proof of their distinguished consideration by making him President of the association. In politics, he was a true Democrat, but was by no means radical in his views, or a partisan in any sense. He was popular in social circles as a member of the following organizations: Friendship Lodge, No. 7, A. F. & A. M.; Dixon Chapter R. A. M.; and Dixon Commandery, K. T.

From his wife, to whom he was wedded in 1879, our subject always received encouragement in his work, and when he laid it down, on account of ill health, in 1886, she bravely took it up, and under her able guidance as a business manager, with the assistance of John Moore as editor until the spring of 1892, the Dixon *Sun* retains its old popularity as a newspaper and the high standing that it enjoyed in former days when in the hands of its late lamented editor and proprietor. Mrs. Kennedy is a lady of culture, whose bright, quick mind and pleasant ways make her a favorite in social circles. She has a good head for business; a keen insight into the best methods of carrying it on to the best advantage, and is practical and sensible in regard to money matters. She has a genuine love for art, and is one of the leading members of the Phidian Art Society. Religiously, she is of the Presbyterian faith, and a member of the church of that denomination. Two children blessed her union—Russell W., who is ten years old (1892), and Jason A., six years.

Mrs. Kennedy, whose maiden name was Inez A. Timothy, is a native of China Township, Lee County, of which her parents, Otis and Sarah Louisa (Miner) Timothy were pioneers, and where they are now peacefully spending their declining years on the old homestead that they improved from the wilderness. Her father was born in Northampton, Mass., August 30, 1812, a son of Ebenezer Timothy, who was a farmer, and spent his last days in the old Bay State. Otis Timothy was reared in Massachusetts and Vermont. He came to Illinois in 1840, and was an early settler of China Township, where he bought a tract of Government land. From the wilderness he developed a good farm, on which he and his wife live to this day. For some years there were no railways in this part of the country, and Chicago

was the nearest market, whither he took his grain and meat with teams. Later La Salle became a market town, and seemed quite convenient in those days. The mother of Mrs. Kennedy was born in Elmira, N. Y., April 1, 1820, and is a daughter of Cyrus and Eliza Miner, who were pioneers of Lee County.



CHARLES I. WILL is a fine representative of the citizen-soldiers of the United States who fought in the ranks in the late war, and to whose valor and patriotism it is due that our glorious flag waves over a free and undivided country to-day. No less have they been very serviceable in the peaceful times that have followed and this county holds such as our subject among her best citizens. He is a practical farmer, and his farm, which is in fine order, comprises a quarter of sections 17 and 20, in South Dixon Township.

Mr. Will was born in Northampton Township, Somerset County, Pa., August 15, 1845, and obtained his education in the district schools. He was but a boy when the rebellion broke out, nevertheless he was ready to do battle for his country, and when only seventeen years of age enlisted in August, 1862, in Company F, One Hundred and Forty-second Pennsylvania Infantry, which was commanded by Col. R. P. Commons, and Capt. F. A. Edmonds, and was assigned to the Army of the Potomac. The regiment did conspicuous service at the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, and also fought bravely at Gettysburg, Frankstown, in the battles of the Wilderness, at Laurel Hill, Spottsylvania Court House, Weldon Railway, Hatchies Run, Chapin Farm, Second Hatchies Run, and so on down to Appomatox Court House, the last mentioned great event being the twenty-fourth engagement in which it bore an active part, and later it was present when Lee surrendered to Grant, and at the Grand Review of the Union troops at Washington at the close of the war it was one of the leading regiments of the army. At Gettysburg it had won renown as one



of the first infantry corps to open fire upon the enemy. Our subject bore an honorable part in all these battles, early displaying soldierly qualities, and contributing to the high reputation of his regiment as a fine body of well disciplined troops, who were always on hand when any fighting was to be done, were ever cool and courageous in battle, and never feared to follow where others dared to lead. He bore the hardships and privations of army life unflinchingly, and to this day carries a bullet in his neck, which he received while in the thickest of the second battle of Hatchies Run. It was thought that he was mortally wounded, but so great were his recuperative powers that he was enabled to return to his regiment at the end of six weeks, and continued in active service until honorably discharged at Harrisburg, Pa., June 3, 1865. Thus before he was twenty years of age he had experienced all the vicissitudes and horrors of war, and had shown himself worthy of the citizenship of this great Republic.

Returning to his father's house from the battlefields of the South, our subject served his sire for more than a year, coming Westward with the family in the fall of 1865, and since then has made his home in South Dixon Township. He attained his majority several months after his arrival, and during the quarter of a century that has elapsed since that date he has placed himself among our most thrifty and prosperous farmers. His farm, of which he became the proprietor in 1877, is a fine piece of property, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of land on sections 17 and 20, and is known as the old Mossholder homestead. Its improvements are of a good class, and among them is a comfortable residence and a good barn, lately built, 36x64 feet in dimensions. Mr. Will is deeply interested in all that concerns his adopted township, and heartily supports all schemes devised for its advancement. He is an active local politician, and throws the weight of his influence in favor of the Republican party.

Our subject is a son of Hiram Will, a well-known resident of this township, who is a native of Pennsylvania. He was there married to Miss Kezia Meese, and there their children were born and reared, and when the war broke out they sent three

of their sons to the front in defense of their country. In the fall of 1865 the family came to Illinois, and made settlement in South Dixon Township, where the father and mother are yet living, aged respectively seventy-two and sixty-eight years. Mr. Will is a well-to-do farmer and large land-holder. In politics, he is an unswerving Republican. Religiously, both he and his good wife are members of the Evangelical Association.

Charles Will was married to Miss Mary E. Mossholder on the farm on which he now lives, this old homestead being the birthplace of his bride. Here she was born October 12, 1856, and it was always her home until she passed out of life February 18, 1891. She was a true, womanly woman, whose many pleasant attributes endeared her to a large circle of friends who sorrowed with her bereaved family in the loss of one who, as daughter, sister, wife and mother, had ever been tender and loyal in those various relationships. For her parental history see sketch of her brother, William H. Mossholder. Three children were born of the union of our subject and his wife, namely: Ida F., Myrtle M., and Ralph O.



**D**R. BURTON D. VAUGHN, a wide-awake and progressive young physician and surgeon of Dixon, who was born in Chatfield, Minn., has been well fitted for his life work. In the State of his nativity, he began his school life, and his early training was supplemented by a regular collegiate course. When it became time to make choice of some business which he would wish to make his life work, he determined to engage in the practice of medicine, and, with this end in view, entered the Eclectic Medical College of Chicago, Ill., from which he was graduated on the 23d of March, 1886, after having pursued a thorough course. He then located in Chatsworth, Ill., where he engaged in practice for about four years. He was residing in that town at the time when the Chatsworth railroad wreck occurred, and by his labors did much to assuage the suffering of the injured. He was among the first to

arrive on the scene of the disaster. Having been awakened by the crash, his suspicions were aroused that something was wrong and he hurried out, making his way to the place where the accident occurred. The scene was a terrible one, and he saw it in all its horror. His medical skill was at once called into action, and Dr. Vaughn proved himself equal to the emergency, doing much for the suffering and wounded.

In Livingston County, Ill., the Doctor led to the marriage altar Miss Jennie Speicher, a native of that county, who was there reared and educated and under the parental roof remained until her hand was bestowed upon the Doctor in marriage. Their union has been blessed with one child, a daughter—Bertha M. About two years ago they came to Dixon, and although their residence here has been of short duration, they have already won many friends and are held in high regard by all who know them.

Socially, Dr. Vaughn is a Knight Templar Mason. He takes quite an active interest in public affairs, especially such as will benefit the public or promote the general welfare, and in politics is a staunch Republican, but in no sense an office-seeker. In the line of his practice he is making a good success. He has associated with him in his office, to assist him in necessary ways, Henry A. Sheer. Enterprising, industrious, and possessed of a worthy ambition, he will undoubtedly make of life a success. Already he has acquired a liberal patronage in Dixon among the best class of citizens, and among his professional brethren he has taken the front rank.



**M**ARK WILLIAMS, a retired farmer living on section 22, Palmyra Township, has there made his home since 1867, and is one of the self-made men of the county who certainly deserves great credit for his success. Since locating where he now lives, he has accumulated two hundred and seventy-six acres of land, and, with the exception of a sixteen-acre tract, the entire amount is under a high state of cultivation.

The buildings, including residence and outbuildings, are such as are found on a model farm, and all the accessories are in keeping with the enterprising and progressive spirit of the owner. Of late years, Mr. Williams has laid aside the more heavy cares, his farm being controlled by his sons.

A native of Pennsylvania, our subject was born in Locust Township, Columbia County, in 1819. His father, Jonathan Williams, was a native of Virginia, and when four years old accompanied his father, Owen Williams, to Pennsylvania, the family settling in the wilds of Columbia County, at a time when the Indians were still numerous in the neighborhood. The grandfather made a home at the foot of Little Mountains and there spent the remainder of his life. He was a member of the Society of Friends and descended from a family of Welsh origin who embraced that religion. The maiden name of his wife was Martha Miller and she was born in Virginia of German descent. She, too, was a member of the Friends Church and died in Columbia County, Pa., at the age of seventy years.

The boyhood days of Jonathan Miller were devoted to farm work, and in the Keystone State he met and married Miss Eleanor Hughes, who was born in Columbia County, whither her parents had removed from Berks County in an early day. Her father, Edward Hughes, died suddenly of heart disease in Columbia County, and his wife was called to her final rest at the advanced age of four-score years. The parents of our subject also spent their last days in Columbia County, upon the home farm in Locust Township, where the father died in 1836, at the age of fifty-six years. Mrs. Williams survived him five years and passed away at the age of fifty years. They, too, embraced the faith of the Society of Friends and in political sentiment the father was a Whig. Their family numbered eleven children, five of whom grew to mature years.

Mark Williams, however, is the only one now living. In the county of his nativity the days of his childhood and youth were passed, and after leaving the parental roof he was united in marriage, in Locust Township, with Miss Ruth Anna

Davis, who after a short wedded life of five years, was called to the home beyond, leaving two children: Hannah, wife of C. H. Hughes of Palmyra Township, this county; and Columbus who is married and resides on a farm near Hastings, Adams County, Neb. Mr. Williams was a second time married in Columbia County, Pa., the lady of his choice being Miss Elizabeth Hoagland, who was born in Locust Township, March 22, 1834, and is a daughter of John and Rachel (Mettler) Hoagland, also natives of Columbia County, where her father died at the age of fifty-six years. By occupation he was a farmer and followed that vocation throughout life. Some years after his death, his widow went to Hastings, Neb., where she died in November, 1889, at the age of eighty-one. They were both members of the Methodist Church and lived consistent lives, which won them the respect of all who knew them. In politics, Mr. Hoagland was first a Whig, but on the organization of the Republican party became one of its staunch supporters. In their family were eleven children and with one exception all reached mature years and were married, while six yet abide. One brother, Lieut. Henry H., a soldier of the late war, was killed at the battle of Fredericksburg, at the age of twenty-two.

Under the parental roof Mrs. Williams was carefully reared and educated and taught the principles and doctrines of the Methodist Church to which she now belongs. She is a lady of many excellencies of character and worthy of the high regard of her many friends. By the union of our subject and his wife, have been born five children, three of whom are now deceased. Rosetta was the wife of Frank M. Coe, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work; Sarena C. died at the age of seventeen years; and Osborn G. died when three years old. Harrison, who wedded Mary Phillips, is the owner of a good farm in Palmyra Township. Ellwood Curtis now operates the old homestead. He was joined in wedlock with Mary Daved and their union has been blessed with three children: R. Ethel, Mark and Alice E. Mr. Williams and sons are supporters of the Republican party but he has never been an office-seeker, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his business

interest, in which he has met with signal success. He gives his support to public enterprises calculated to benefit the community and is everywhere recognized as a prominent and progressive citizen. Farming has been his life work, with the exception of fifteen years which he spent in Locust Township, Columbia County, Pa., as a general merchant, before his emigration to Illinois.



**G**EORGE RIKERT. The Prairie State with its vast prairies is noted throughout the Union for its splendid agricultural regions, and the tillers of the soil know just how to cultivate the land so as to bring rich and productive harvests. Such an one is the gentleman whose name initiates this life record, who is a successful general farmer in Palmyra Township, having a fine estate of two hundred and eighty acres near Prairieville, where he has lived for almost four decades. He came to this State in 1855, and lived seven years in Whiteside County. He came here a poor man, \$700 in debt, all of which he has since paid with interest, having borrowed the money in New York State. He was born in Dutchess County, N. Y., July 20, 1820, being the son of John I. Rikert, a native of the Empire State, whose parents were natives of Holland and came when young with their parents to the United States from Holland, settling in New York, where they spent the remainder of their days.

The father of our subject was united in marriage in the Empire State to Betsey Patner. She was born and reared in Dutchess County, N. Y., and is also of Holland descent. Some years after their marriage, this couple removed to Delaware County, the same State, and there they lived and died, the father passing away in March, 1845, and the mother in 1866. They were honored members of the Lutheran Church and always followed the vocation of farming, being successful in this line of business. Mr. Rikert was in his political views a Whig.

After coming to this State, the subject of this biography journeyed across the plains to Pike's

Peak, in 1860, and remained there one year engaged in mining. He then returned to this county and took up the farm on which he now resides. He was married in Greene County, this State, to Miss Phoebe Bennett. This lady was born and reared in her native county, her birth occurring October 10, 1822. She has been a true helpmate to her husband and is a loving and faithful mother. She bore her husband three children, one of whom, Hiram, is deceased. He fell off a stone fence at the age of three years and received injuries that caused his death a few days later. Those living are Emma, wife of Fred F. Klostermann, a resident of Sterling, Whiteside County, Ill., who is engaged in the stock business with his father-in-law, our subject; Mathias, a farmer in this township and a hard-working and thrifty man. He took to wife Rena Miller. Mr. and Mrs. Rikert are connected with the Lutheran Church, religiously, and Mr. Rikert is a staunch supporter of the Prohibition party, being formerly a Republican.



**A**BRAM BROWN, who is widely known and greatly respected as a man of enlightened views, of great intelligence and marked force of character, is distinguished in the annals of Northern Illinois as one of its early pioneers who has long been variously identified with the interests of this section of the country. He was for many years in the postal service at different points, and was at one time connected with the mercantile business of this portion of the State, but for the last twenty-five or thirty years he has devoted himself principally to farming in this county. He is located on a pleasant spot on section 13, South Dixon Township, where he owns a fine farm, complete in its appointments, comprising one hundred and thirty-four acres of land of exceptional fertility.

Our subject was born November 17, 1816, in the Canadian village of Temperance (on Talbert Street), in the township of Yarmouth, nine miles east of St. Thomas. His father's name was George Brown, and he was born in the State of

New York, being a kinsman of Gen. Brown, who fought the celebrated battle of Lundy's Lane with Gen. Scott. George Brown grew to manhood in the state of his nativity, and then crossed the border into Canada, where he was married to Elsie Merritt, whose brother, Hamilton Merritt, was the engineer of the Wellington Canal. The Merritts were a prominent English family that lived in Canada for some years. The Browns were a Colonial family of New York, and some of the old stock were prominent millers at Rochester for years. They were of the Netherland Dutch blood.

After their marriage, the parents of our subject began their wedded life on a two-hundred acre tract of wild land, which later became the seat of the village of Temperance. They lived on their farm at that place for many years, and not till after all their children were born did they come to the States, removing to Michigan during the McKinzie Rebellion in Canada. They settled in St. Clair County, and there George Brown died at the age of seventy-five. He had become a prominent man in that region, and was held in high estimation. His wife, the faithful companion of his early manhood, had passed out of his life while the family dwelt in Canada, her death occurring when she was in the very prime of womanhood. They were both devoted members of the Baptist Church.

In 1837 Abram Brown, who was then on the threshold of a vigorous manhood, with a splendid equipment of intellect and physique to enable him to cope with the difficulties that lay before him in the pioneer life upon which he was about to enter, came to Northern Illinois. He located at Grand Detour, Ogle County, establishing himself as a pioneer merchant of that place, and soon after he was appointed Postmaster of the little village by President Van Buren. He had charge of the post-office at that point five years, and at the expiration of that time came to Dixon in the year 1842. He was made Postmaster of that city, and retained the position under the administration of Tyler and Polk. He was subsequently Postmaster at Franklin Grove for some years during his residence in China Township. After leaving Dixon, he took up a piece of wild land adjoining Franklun

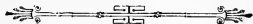
Grove, and for two years spent his time in improving and cultivating it. He raised corn, for which the market price near home was eight cents, and he could obtain forty cents a bushel for it when he took it to Chicago. The markets were poor, and he sold cows as low as \$5 a piece, and a yoke of oxen brought him \$20. He has lived to see the wondrous changes wrought by the hand of man in Lee and Ogle Counties, which he saw in all their primeval wildness; and he has noted with great interest the historical events of the past fifty or sixty years, whereby the world has been revolutionized, and these United States have grown into one of the most powerful republics on earth. He has watched closely the advance made in the arts, sciences and inventions, regarding the latter as re-discoveries of old laws, and has given much thought and study to what he calls "the greatest study on earth: man, his progress and destiny." In so doing he has freed himself from all creeds and their dictates, and from all political parties, considering their fallacies in both cases as against reason, and, in the latter case, as unpatriotic.

Mr. Brown was married in Franklin Grove, at the bride's home, to Miss Corrcia, a daughter of the late Col. Nathan Whitney, who was known and honored far and wide as an early and prominent pioneer of Lee County, whose many friends and acquaintances always spoke of him affectionately as "Father Whitney," who lived to be over one hundred years old. He is represented elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Brown was born April 10, 1818, in the township of Barry, Orleans County, N. Y. She came to Illinois with her mother and other members of the family in 1838, her father having come hither prospecting two years before, and finally settling in Franklin Grove, where his wife and children joined him in the primitive pioneer home that he had prepared for them.

Our subject and his wife are the parents of six children, one of whom, Charles A., died at the age of three years. The surviving children are as follows: Virginia, who was highly educated, and for several years was a teacher, but is now the comfort and stay of her parents in their home; Olga, who is also finely educated and lives at home; Mary,

who manages a boarding house at Dixon; Henry A., who was educated at the Champaign, (Ill.) State College, was for a time railway postal clerk, and is now a photographic artist at Dixon, and who married Jennie Johnson; and George M., a practical machinist and inventor, who runs a large furnace and machine shop at Van Buren, Ark.

A due regard for the laws of health, and strict temperance in eating and drinking, including the non-use of tobacco or liquor in any form, have been the means of preserving our subject's bodily and mental faculties in an unusual degree, when it is considered that three quarters of a century has rolled by since he first took up the burden of life in that distant village in the forest of Canada. He has been blessed in his wedded life by a true wife, who is a woman of rare intelligence, and both hold a warm place in the hearts of the people among whom their lot has been cast for many years.



**H**ERMAN MISSMAN. The farm belonging to Herman Missman, which comprises a quarter of section 29, South Dixon Township, is a fine piece of property, all under a high state of cultivation, and a good class of buildings add to the attractiveness of the place, and well-kept, graded stock find sustenance in the fields and pastures. Our subject has lived in this county since he was a boy of six years, coming here in 1856, with his parents, G. H. and Mary (Leydig) Missman, from Pennsylvania, his native State where he was born February 23, 1850, his birthplace being near Berkley's Mill, in Somerset County. His father and mother were natives respectively of Oldenburg, Germany, and Somerset County, Pa., the former born sixty-seven years ago, and the latter sixty-four years, coming of Pennsylvania Dutch stock. The father passed his boyhood in the land of his birth, and as he lost his sire when he was very young, he was early thrown on his own resources. The little lad decided to seek his fortunes in America as soon as he was old enough, and at sixteen he had secured sufficient means to put his resolve of trying his fortunes in the

United States into execution. He not only earned money enough to come himself, but paid for the passage of his mother, brothers and sisters. He first met his wife in Pennsylvania, and there married, and spent the early part of his wedded life in that State. Coming to this county, he located on a farm in Nelson Township, where he lived and prospered until his retirement from active business. He has accumulated a handsome fortune, and he and his beloved companion are enjoying it at their leisure, in one of the most comfortable of the attractive homes in Dixon, pleasantly located on Third Street, west. His honorable career is a fine illustration of what a man may accomplish, who has his own way to make in the world, by the exercise of pluck, perseverance and prudence, together with downright hard labor. He and his wife are simple and unostentatious in their manners, unselfish in the use of their money, and both are valued members of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject is one of a family of three sons and three daughters, one of the latter now dead, and of the others all are married but one. He attended the local schools in his boyhood, and on his father's farm gained that insight into agriculture that has made him successful from the start. He first owned and occupied a farm on section 24, Nelson Township, living upon it and attending to its improvement for a period of fifteen years. In 1890, he purchased his present farm in South Dixon Township. Everything about the place is neat and orderly, a good system of tillage is employed in keeping up the natural productiveness of the soil, and in the management of his farming interests our subject displays a natural aptitude for his calling.

The farm which he now owns was the scene of Mr. Missman's marriage with Miss Alice Brierton, it being at that time the home of the bride's parents, Sylvester and Elizabeth (Kelley) Brierton. They are natives respectively of Luzerne County, Pa., and the State of New York. They had come Westward when young, and had married in Dixon. They subsequently located on and improved a farm in Minnesota. Returning to this State, they settled in South Dixon Township, and from here removed to a farm in Nachusa Township, where

they are comfortably passing their declining years, both having attained the age of sixty-seven. They are members of the Evangelical Association, and are highly esteemed by all who know their worth.

Our subject and his wife have established a home that is known for its coziness and pleasant hospitality, and their two sons complete the family circle—Arthur E. and Oscar E. Mr. Missman possesses those elements of character that command respect and confidence; is of an honest, fearless nature, keeping his credit sound in all things; and he always maintains pleasant social and business relations with his neighbors and other associates. His political sympathies are with the Republican party. He has concerned himself in the public life of his township, and has held the office of Collector for some years. Religiously, both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church.



**D**ENNIS B. DOYLE, a teacher in the grammar department of the Amboy schools, is a son of Bernard and Alice (Harvey) Doyle, natives of Ireland. The former was born in 1819, and the latter in 1829. Bernard Doyle was left an orphan when quite young and was reared by an uncle, Michael Doyle, a lawyer. In 1844 and at the age of twenty-five years, he left the Emerald Isle and sailed for America, landing in New York City, where he remained about ten years. While there he was married to Alice Harvey, January 25, 1854, and one year later they came to Amboy where the young husband worked on the farm of Gen. Wyman seven years. He then entered the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad in whose employ he is still working.

The mother of our subject was born in County Armagh, in the north of Ireland and came to the United States with her sisters. She had one brother who came to this country previous to her coming who is now a resident of Lawrence, Minn. She has three sisters living: Ann, now Mrs. Burns of Amboy; Kate, Mrs. James McCoy of Marion; and Mary, Mrs. McCoy of St. Johns, New Brunswick. The parents of our subject had born to them nine

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Wilson E. Mechem



children, six of whom are now living. Two died in infancy and Joseph P. died at the age of twenty-five years. He was a jeweler by trade and one of the best engravers in Illinois. He was born at Amboy, September 25, 1863, and died November 19, 1887. He learned his trade at Aurora, Ill., serving an apprenticeship for three years. While working at Chicago in 1886, he contracted a severe cold which resulted in his death. He was married to Miss Nellie McAndrew of Louisville, Ky., July 16, 1885, at St. Paul, Minn., and was the father of one son, Joseph. The living children of this family are: Katie A., a dressmaker at Amboy; James H., a merchant at this place; Dennis B., our subject; Edward M., a boiler-maker at Seattle, Wash.; John W., a workman in the machine shops of the Illinois Central Railroad, and Alice, who is at home. This family all had good educational advantages.

The subject of this sketch was born at Amboy, November 19, 1859. He graduated from the schools at Amboy, in 1877, and taught school two years in the country and then took a business course at the Northern Indiana Normal and Business Institute. He then learned the trade of a boiler-maker at Decatur, Ill., in the Novelty Works and worked there about two years, then went to Rockford, and worked in McCarren Bros. Boiler Works. He kept books, made estimates and worked at his trade one year. In 1885 he began as a teacher in the schools at Amboy and for five years has had charge of the grammar department. He is a very thorough teacher, sagacious and persevering, and is well liked by all his pupils. The family to which our subject belongs are all members of the Roman Catholic Church, and in politics Mr. Doyle is a Democrat.



**W**ILSON E. MECHEM, a retired farmer, residing in Dixon, was born in Belmont County, Ohio, August 22, 1822, and is of Irish descent. His father and grandfather, both of whom bore the name of John Mechem, were natives of the Keystone State. The latter married Miss Sarah Evans, who was born and reared in

Pennsylvania and came of Welsh lineage. Upon a farm they began their domestic life and several years afterward removed to Ohio, settling in Belmont County at a very early day, ere the Indians had left for homes farther West. Upon the farm which Mr. Mechem there developed and improved, he and his wife spent their remaining days, his death occurring at about the age of one hundred years, while his wife had passed four-score years at the time of her death. The husband was a Hixite Quaker in religious belief and Mrs. Mechem was a member of the Baptist Church. Their family numbered thirteen children.

John Mechem, the father of our subject, was a lad of twelve summers when he accompanied his parents to Belmont County, Ohio, where amid the wild scenes of frontier life he was reared to manhood. He there became acquainted with and wedded Abigail Moore, who was born in that county unto Jacob and Elizabeth (Picklehamer) Moore. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and were of German descent. They resided in the Keystone State until some years after their marriage and spent the remainder of their lives as farming people in Belmont County, Ohio, where Mr. Moore passed away at the age of eighty years, while his wife was called to the home beyond when about sixty years of age. They were members of the Christian Church and people of sterling worth.

After their marriage John Mechem and his wife resided on farms in Belmont and Monroe Counties and subsequently spent twelve years in the West, as residents of Iowa and Illinois. Later, however, they returned to Belmont County, where Mr. Mechem departed this life at the age of sixty-five years. His estimable wife survived him until 1890, and died in Dallas County, Iowa, at the age of eighty-six. He was first a Whig and afterward a Republican in politics, and with his wife held membership in the Methodist Church. Their lives were in harmony with their professions and they well merited the warm regard given them by their many friends.

The subject of this sketch was the eldest of seven children, all of whom grew to mature years, while four are yet living. In the State of his nativity his boyhood and youth were passed in the

usual manner of farmer lads and in 1850, he sought a home on the broad prairies of Illinois. The 1st of April of that year saw him a resident of Putnam County, where he resided until the spring of 1853. During that time he wooed and won Miss Rhoda Simpson, who was born in Hamilton, Ohio, near the city of Cincinnati, November 14, 1835. Her parents, Edward and Maria (Ward) Simpson, were natives of Pennsylvania and Indiana respectively, their union being celebrated in the latter State, where they made their home for some ten years after their marriage. They then spent many years upon a farm in Putnam County, Ill., but Mr. Simpson died in Dwight at the age of ninety years. Since her husband's death, Mrs. Simpson has gone to Monroe City, Mo., where she is now living at the age of eighty-six years. She has lived a noble Christian life as a member of the Methodist Church, with which denomination her husband was also connected.

It was in the spring of 1853, as before stated, that Mr. Mechem removed with his family to Marshall County, Ill., where he devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits until 1875. That year witnessed his arrival in Lee County and upon a farm in Harmon Township, he continued to make his home for fifteen years, when on the 20th of November, 1890, he came to Dixon. He is now living retired, enjoying the rest which he has so truly earned and richly deserved. He still owns the Washington House of Dixon and has large real-estate interests the value of which is constantly increasing.

Nine children have been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Mechem and with the exception of Eliza, who became the wife of Alonzo Conner, and died at the age of thirty years, all are yet living. Henrietta is the wife of Frank Skilton, a farmer of Marshall County, Ill.; Jefferson is connected with a seed store of Chicago; Hettie married Vincent Smith and resides at Lee Centre, this county; Drucilla is the wife of Lincoln Carbaugh, of Lee Centre; Mary, Carrie, Charles and Lena are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Mechem are faithful members of the Methodist Church, in which he has served as Trustee and Steward, and has taken an active part in the work connected therewith. In politics

he is a stalwart supporter of Republican principles. His life has been a busy and useful one, well and worthily spent, and by industry, perseverance and good management he acquired a competence which now enables him to live in retirement.

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**HENRY SOUTHARD.** But few of the pioneers of Lee County have met with more genuine success as farmers than our subject, who is distinguished as being the oldest settler now living in Alto Township, in whose agricultural development he has played an important part, and where he has large landed interests, and is extensively engaged in farming.

Mr. Southard was born in the town of Windom, Greene County, N. Y., April 4, 1825, while his father, whose name was John Southard, is thought to have been born in Dutchess County, in the same State. He was a son of Henry Southard, who was a farmer, and spent the latter part of his life in Greene County. The father of our subject was reared on a farm. He accompanied his parents in their migration to Greene County, and subsequently bought a tract of timber land in what is now Sempronius Township, cleared it, and lived upon it until 1830, when he removed to Cayuga County, after disposing of his farm. He bought a tract of land fourteen miles from Auburn, which was partly improved, and a forest growth stood on the remainder of it. There were no railways there for some years, and the towns on the Erie Canal were the markets for produce.

In 1883 the father of our subject left Cayuga County for the wilds of Michigan, taking with him his wife and five children, and making the entire journey overland with a team. He bought a tract of Government land in the primeval forests four miles south of the present site of Bangor. At that time Michigan was a territory, and a literal wilderness, in which deer, bears, wolves and other wild animals, had their home. There were no railways, and the roads, where there were any, were poor. Paw Paw and St. Joseph were the nearest markets. The people lived in the most primitive

manner; the wives and daughters of the pioneers cooked by the open fireplace, and the children were clad in garments of home manufacture, the cloth being made of flax or wool raised on the place, and carded, spun and woven by the women. Mr. Southard built a typical pioneer habitation of logs, splitting shakes to cover the roof, and boards for the floor and to make a door, no sawed timber entering into the construction of the house, and the chimney was made of earth and sticks. The father died on the farm he had hewn from the Michigan forests, and left behind him a good record as a serviceable pioneer and a good citizen. His wife, who survived him some years, died in the village of Bangor. She was a native of New Jersey—Harriet Helen Height, her maiden name—and she was a daughter of Caleb and Keturah Height. She was the mother of these seven children: Henry, Oscar, Julia A., David, Charles, James and John.

Henry Southard was a lad of twelve years when his parents went to Michigan, and his education was conducted in the pioneer schools of Van Buren County, which were taught in log houses, that were furnished with rude slab benches, and had none of the modern conveniences of the school houses of to-day. He was very young when he began to assist with the farm work, and on his father's homestead he gained an experience in farming that has been useful to him in his after career as an independent farmer. In 1847 he left the shelter of the parental roof to try life in Illinois. He secured work on a farm in Kane County at \$12 a month, and continued thus employed until the following year, when he came to Lee County and bought a quarter of a section of land at Malugin's Grove, Brooklyn Township, and became one of the early settlers of that region, which was then sparsely inhabited, and deer and other game were numerous. In the absence of railways, he had to take his grain to Chicago with ox teams.

The spring of 1852 finds our subject wending his way to the gold diggings of California. He started from Lee County with two others, April 13, and made the journey across the plains and mountains with six Indian ponies and a pair of mules, arriving in the Golden State August 13. At that time there were no white settlers between the Mis-

souri River and Salt Lake, with the exception of soldiers stationed at one or two points, and some Mormons. Buffaloes were very numerous, and our subject had the pleasure of killing the first one he saw. After his arrival in California, he devoted himself to mining with good success, and five years later returned to Illinois, coming by the way of the Isthmus, and invested in eighty acres of land, which is included in his present farm. He has bought other land at different times, and is now the proprietor of seven hundred and eighty-three acres of choice land, the greater part of which is improved. He has risen to his present position as one of the substantial, well-to-do citizens of the county solely through his own efforts. He has applied himself closely to his business, devoting his whole energies to the successful accomplishment of whatever he has undertaken, carrying out his well-laid plans systematically, promptly and in a business-like manner, exercising forethought and that wise economy that knows how to spend money where it is needed as well as how to save it. He is, in short, a fine type of our self-made men, who have made a success in life, and his career is worthy of emulation by the young men of to-day, who are beginning where he began so long ago.

January 25, 1850, Mr. Southard was married to Miss Susan Reed, to whose devotion to his interests he is much indebted for the comforts of the pleasant home that he shares with her. They have five children living, namely: Charles M., Emmett M., H. Adeline, Cecilia A. and James M. Emmett married Arabella Gallagher. Adeline has been twice married, first to George Merrill and the second time to Charles Flint. Cecilia married Eugene Johnson, and they have one child, Esther Adeline. James married Margaret McNany, and they have two children, Mabel Gertrude and Florence May.

The wife of our subject was born January 29, 1826, in Hume, Allegany County, N. Y. Her father, Ahimaz Reed, was a native of Vermont, and was a son of John Reed, who was of English birth, and came to America in Colonial times. He served in the Revolution, and passed the last part of his life in Vermont. Mrs. Southard's father went to New York when he was a young man, and was a pioneer of Hume, where he was married

to Adeline Johnson, a native of Vermont, and a daughter of Hezekiah and Hannah (French) Johnson. In 1831 Mr. Reed removed to the Territory of Michigan. He went ahead, rented a farm in Kalamazoo County, and then sent for his family. They set out for their new home with a team, with which they went to Dunkirk, where they embarked, team and all, on board a vessel, and proceeded by water to Detroit, and then made their way with the team through the wilderness to their destination. In 1833 Mr. Reed located in Van Buren County, and during his residence there improved the land that he bought in a wild condition into a good farm, which he sold in 1843, in order to remove to Illinois. He and his family came hither with an ox-team, and camped and cooked by the wayside at night while on the journey. Mr. Reed settled at Big Rock, in Kane County, where he purchased two hundred acres of wild land, which he developed into a fine farm—his home until his death at a ripe age.



**J**OSIAH LITTLE. This gentleman represents the banking interests of Amboy and enjoys the distinction of being the first merchant in the place. He located here in the spring of 1854, before the completion of the railroad, and established a general store, when at that time there were only three houses in sight. His first stock, consisting of dry-goods, groceries, drugs, hardware, he hauled in wagons from Mendota. He conducted a successful business until 1867, when his store was destroyed by fire. During the following year, he embarked in the banking business and since then the bank of Josiah Little has sustained the reputation of a sound financial institution.

Mr. Little is a lineal descendant of George Little, of Newbury, Mass., who emigrated from Unicorn Street, near London Bridge, in about 1640. The line of descendants is as follows: George (1), Moses (2), Moses (3), Moses (4), Josiah (5), Edward (6), Josiah (7), and our subject, who belongs

to the eighth generation. The ancestors were upright, industrious, God-fearing men, who wielded a great influence in the communities where they resided. Edward Little, grandfather of our subject, was born in 1773 and was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1797, choosing the legal profession and settling in Auburn, Me. There by inheritance he became the owner of a large part of the surrounding territory and exerted a great influence in directing and promoting the growth of the place. He gave the land for the first church and met one-half of the cost of its erection, as well as maintained public service at his own expense for some time after its completion.

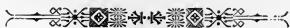
Besides the good which he did in other ways, Edward Little established and endowed an academy which continued in successful operation for forty years, when the grounds and funds were transferred by the trustees to the town, which now maintains an "Edward Little High School" and erected a statue in his honor. In temperance reforms, he was a pioneer and held radical views which he was not slow to express. His death occurred in 1849, but the influence which his upright life exerted over others is still felt in the community where for so long he resided. The father of our subject, Josiah, was born in 1801, and was educated at Bowdoin College, studying law afterward with his father, and for several years practicing his profession. Later he engaged in trade and manufacturing at Lewiston and Auburn, Me., and passed the last years of his life in his native town, Newburyport, Mass. He died suddenly August 9, 1865, at Somes Sound, Mt. Desert Island, whither he had gone on a pleasure excursion.

Josiah Little was four times married, the mother of our subject, whose maiden name was Nancy W. Bradford, being his second wife. She had two children, a daughter and our subject. The last-named passed his early life in Auburn and Lewiston, Me., and, at the age of seventeen years, completed his education at Auburn Academy. He then went to Portland and assisted his father, who was engaged in a wholesale iron business. In October, 1851, he emigrated to Southwest Missouri, where he clerked in a country store. In February, 1854, he left the place on horseback, clad with a

Missouri overcoat (which consisted of a blanket with a hole in the center) and, after riding forty miles per day for ten days, stopped at Amboy and located here permanently, as above stated.

On November 17, 1859, Mr. Little was married to Mary D. Hussey, who was born at Belleville, Ohio, August 10, 1835, and was the daughter of Amos and Jane Fredonia (Holly) Hussey. Her father was one of the pioneers of Lee County and a man of great decision of character and energy of purpose. The union of Mr. Little and his estimable wife has been blessed by the birth of five children: Josiah, Nancy Jane, Mary E., Edward H. and Mary W. The eldest daughter became the wife of Isaac Newton Perry, of La Crosse, Wis., and died leaving two children. The members of the family are identified with the Congregational Church and are welcomed guests in the most select social circles.

Mr. Little is a member of the Masonic fraternity and in his political belief is a staunch Republican. For twelve years he served as Treasurer of Lee County and his long term of service speaks in behalf of his success more eloquently than words could do. He also held various offices of a local nature and was a delegate to the National Convention in 1888, when Benjamin Harrison was nominated for the Presidency. The success which has crowned his work represents his unaided efforts, for he came West without moneyed capital. He possesses the qualities of a thorough business man as well as the gentlemanly manners and polished demeanor which make friends of all whom he meets.



**H**IRAM HETLER owns and operates a fine farm of two hundred and seventy-five acres on section 15, Dixon Township, pleasantly situated within a few miles of the city of Dixon. Its well-tilled fields indicate the thrift and enterprise of the owner and many of its improvements stand as monuments to his ability. In connection with the raising of cereals he also engages in stock dealing, having many

head of cattle and horses upon the farm, including thirty fine milch cows. The place is so complete in all its appointments, that it may well be termed a model farm, while its owner is classed among the representative agriculturists of the community.

Mr. Hetler has made his home in Lee County since 1837, having come to Illinois in that year from Columbia County, Pa., his birth-place. The family is of Holland descent. The father of our subject, Nathan Hetler, was born and reared in Luzerne County, Pa., where he married Catherine Culp, whose brother, Jeremiah Culp, a major of the late war, was killed at the battle of Antietam. Another brother owned the Culp farm on which the battle of Perryville, Ky., was fought. In 1837, Mr. Hetler and his family, in a covered wagon, made an overland journey to Illinois, camping out along the wayside at night. On the 6th of June, they arrived in Dixon and the father purchased a claim. Subsequently, he entered another claim and after placing some improvements upon it sold and purchased the farm on which our subject and a brother John now reside. He was quite successful in his business transactions and at the time of his death, in 1887, about four hundred acres of land yielded to him a golden tribute. His widow is still living at the age of ninety years, and six of the children yet abide.

The boyhood days of our subject were principally spent in the Keystone State, but after coming to Lee County, he was married in Dixon to Miss Nancy Crippen, a native of the Empire State. With her parents, Seth and Elizabeth (Smith) Crippen, she removed to Wisconsin during her girlhood and from there to Illinois, their home being now in Dixon. Three children graced the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hetler, but Ida, who became the wife of James Sandford, an attorney-at-law at Dixon, died in 1888, leaving three children. Lula M. is now the wife of Edward S. Miller, a resident farmer of Nachusa Township, and Minnie is at home.

During the late war, in 1862, Mr. Hetler enlisted as a private in the First Illinois Artillery under Col. Taylor, of Chicago, and Capt. John W. Cheney, of Dixon. With the regiment, he served

all through the campaign down the Mississippi River with Grant, and after the surrender of Vicksburg and Jackson, Miss., returned to Missionary Ridge, where another battle occurred. The regiment then went to relieve Gen. Burnside at Knoxville, Tenn., and afterwards joined Gen. Sherman at Atlanta, Ga. Subsequently, the troops were sent back to fight Hood and later held the reserve at the battle of Nashville. Mr. Hetler saw three years of active service and through it all was so fortunate as to escape injury. At the battle of Atlanta, however, his regiment barely escaped capture and had it not been for the skill and daring of Gen. John A. Logan and Col. Wolcott, would undoubtedly have been taken prisoners.

When the country no longer needed his services, Mr. Hetler was honorably discharged and at once returned to his home and family. He then resumed farming which he has since followed with signal success. In politics, he is a staunch Republican and a warm advocate of the party principles. Frequently has he been called upon to fill public positions of honor and trust and is now Supervisor of Dixon Township. The confidence reposed in him is never misplaced, and he discharges every duty with promptness and fidelity. Himself and wife attend the Methodist Church and are well and favorably known throughout this community.



**A**BRAM THOMAS, now a resident of the village of Paw Paw, is worthy of representation in this BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD as a pioneer farmer of Northern Illinois. He was born in the city of Philadelphia, Pa., July 26, 1807. His father, George W. Thomas, was a native of London, England. The father of the latter, who bore the same name as our subject, was also of English birth. He was an expert gunsmith, and was employed in that capacity by the British Government. He came to America just before the Revolution, and settling in Philadelphia, was there engaged in making guns for the Colonial army. Many years after the close of the war, he removed

to Cumberland County, in the same State, and spent his last days there.

The father of our subject learned the trade of a blacksmith in his youth. He removed from Philadelphia to Cumberland County in 1808, and bought two hundred acres land of a few miles from Carlisle. He opened a smithy and worked at his trade a part of the time, and devoted the rest of the time to his farm. He made all the nails that he used and all the horse shoes, and was a clever mechanic. He lived on his farm in peace and contentment for upwards of forty years, and then took up his residence in a village near by, in Perry County, where his life was rounded out at a good old age. The maiden name of his wife was Haekett. Her father was a native of England, and he too was a gunsmith like the paternal grandfather of our subject, and came to America in the same vessel with him. He worked with him at his trade in Philadelphia, and after the Revolution established a shop on Chestnut Street, now the principal business street of the Quaker City. From there he went to Cumberland County, and bought a farm near Carlisle, where he lived until death claimed him. The mother of our subject died on the old homestead.

Our subject was very young when his parents took him to their future home in Cumberland County, and there he received his education. The little lad early commenced to work on his father's farm, and assisted him in its management until 1846, when he left the shelter of the parental roof to go out into the world. He started Westward and proceeded with a team to Pittsburg, from there went by the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to St. Louis, and thence by team to St. Charles, Mo., where he spent the winter. In the spring of 1847, he made his way with a team to the wilds of Wisconsin, and made a claim to a tract of timber land twelve miles west of Milwaukee, which was then a small place in the midst of a sparsely settled country. Mr. Thomas built a log house on his land, splitting clapboards for the roof, and by downright hard labor he managed to clear ten acres of his claim, which he then sold for \$175, which was an advance of the cost price. Coming then to Illinois, he rented a farm in Kendall County for

two years. His next move was to Winnebago County, where he rented a farm for cash rent, and as he was unfortunate in losing his crops by the wet weather, it took all his stock to pay the rent. He rented that place only a year, and the following year worked by the day. After that he bought a farm of eighty acres in De Kalb County, paying \$75 in cash, and going in debt for the remaining \$325. Success rewarded his efforts that year, and he was enabled to pay his entire indebtedness. At the expiration of two years, he sold that place for \$800, double what he paid for it, and bought another farm of one hundred and forty acres near by, for \$1,600. For sixteen years he lived on that farm, adding to its acreage from time to time, until he had two hundred and sixty acres of well-improved land. From there he removed to Mendota, and after residing in that city a year bought a farm three miles out, and made it his dwelling place the ensuing three years. Coming to Paw Paw at the end of that time, he bought a home in this village, in which he remained six years. During that time he divided his farm into lots, which he sold at a good price. After he had thus disposed of his farm, he went to Kendall County and once again took up his abode within its limits, buying a home in the village of Bristol. He terminated his residence in that place at the end of the year, and for four years made Mt. Morris his home. He then came back to Paw Paw, and buying a farm south of the grove, he lived on it one year. Disposing of that farm advantageously, he bought a home in the village, but only lived in it two years, when he bought a farm on the Chicago & Dixon Road. In the fall of 1891, he sold that for a goodly sum of money, and once more became a resident of Paw Paw, where he is at present making his home.

Mr. Thomas was married the first time in 1837 to Miss Susanna Kuney, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Samuel Kuney. She died in De Kalb County, Ill., and these are the six children living born of her wedded life with our subject: Samuel, David, Mary, Daniel, Laura and Amanda. Her sons, George and John William, are dead. Samuel, George and David served in the late war. The second marriage of our subject, which took place June 17, 1868, was with Miss Hannah B. Cook,

a native of Campton, N. H. Her father, Zeledee Cook, was also a native of Campton, and was a son of Cutting Cook, who spent the latter part of his life in Campton as a farmer. Zeledee Cook was reared and married among his native hills. He is a farmer by occupation, and went from New Hampshire to Dodge County, Minn., where he is living on a few miles from Mantorville. His wife has died since their removal to Minnesota. Her maiden name was Clarissa Baker, and she was born in Campton, N. H., a daughter of Moses and Mary (Wyatt) Baker. Our venerable subject is a valued member of the United Brethren Church, and throughout a long and honorable life he has ever been a consistent Christian, and has always so lived as to win the trust and full respect of his fellow-men in whatsoever community he has dwelt. Mrs. Thomas is an active member of the Free-will Baptist Church, and is true to her religious convictions.



**J**MADISON SANTEE was born on the farm where he now resides, September 11, 1845. His birthplace was a little log cabin situated on section 10, Dixon Township, overlooking Rock River. The claim had been purchased by his father, James M. Santee, in June, 1837, and was then an unbroken tract of land upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made. The father there erected a log cabin, and to the cultivation of the land devoted his energies until his death, which occurred in December, 1873. The farm at that time comprised two hundred and forty acres. This locality was chosen on account of the water facilities and the timber thereon, both of these advantages being sought by the early settlers.

Mr. Santee, Sr., resided in Dixon Township, before the division of Lee and Ogle Counties, and was one of the first settlers on Rock River between Dixon and Grand Detour. He took an active interest in all public affairs and was a leading citizen of this community. He was born in Salem Town-

ship, Luzerne County, Pa., where he resided until his emigration to Illinois, and there in February, 1837, had married Miss Margaret Klinton, also a native of the same county. Soon afterward the young couple started on an overland trip along the national road to Chicago, and thence westward to Lee County, Ill. Mrs. Santee yet survives her husband and is living on the old homestead at the age of ninety years. She is a Methodist in religious belief, as was her husband, who in political affairs was a Republican.

Our subject is the youngest of a family of four children, but Caroline died in childhood and Charles fell in the late war, being shot by a rebel at Murfreesboro, Tenn., January 31, 1862. He had enlisted in 1861, as a member of Company C, Thirty-Fourth Illinois Infantry, under Capt. Dysart, and at the time of his death was Color-Bearer of the regiment. One sister, Lydia, is now living with and caring for her mother.

Under the sheltering roof of his parents' home, Madison Santee was reared to manhood, among scenes of pioneer life, and was early inured to farm labor. That occupation he has followed since attaining to mature years, and is numbered among the enterprising and successful agriculturists of the community. In Dixon Township he was united in marriage with Miss Susanna, daughter of John and Martha (Cooper) Blackman, who were natives of England, as is also Mrs. Santee. They emigrated to America when she was a child of four years and settled in Illinois. The father died in Dixon Township, in July, 1885, at an advanced age. His widow, with her two children, Edward and Estella, now resides on the old home farm, on Rock River. Their family was a large one, and eight children are still living.

Mrs. Santee acquired her education in the schools of this community, the days of her maidenhood were here spent and after she had attained to womanhood she here gave her hand in marriage to our subject. Three children grace their union: Charles, Martha and Wilbur, and the family circle yet remains unbroken. In politics, Mr. Santee is an advocate of the principles of Democracy. His wife is a member of the Lutheran Church and both are well and favorably known throughout this com-

munity, where they have so long resided. Mr. Santee is a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families, and his life has been such as to win him universal confidence and regard.



**T**HOMAS G. TAYLER, M. D. The subject of this sketch, who is a prominent physician of Ashton, was born in Shabbona, De Kalb County, Ill., September 9, 1862. His father was the late Thomas G. Taylor, a native of Edinburg, Scotland. His mother, whose maiden name was Lucy Moysey, was born in London, England. They emigrated to this county when young, and were married in Hinsdale, this State, and settled in Shabbona, where they lived until the fall of 1862.

In that year Mr. Taylor enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Infantry, in the late war, serving until February 14, 1864, when he was killed while on picket duty before Nashville, Tenn. He was at that time First Sergeant of his company, his commission as Lieutenant having been signed, but not being received by him before his death. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Tayler removed to East Paw Paw, where she remained twenty-two years. She then came to Ashton and lived two years, but is now a resident of Paw Paw.

The parents of our subject had a family of four children, two sons and two daughters, of whom our subject is the youngest. He was reared to manhood in Paw Paw Township, De Kalb County, on a farm, where he lived until 1887. His education was acquired at a seminary in East Paw Paw and at the Northwestern University at Evanston, after which he took up the study of medicine and was graduated from the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, in 1886. He began the practice of his profession in East Paw Paw, where he remained for about one year, when he removed to Ashton, where he has since resided. He enjoys a good practice and is the leading physician of the place.



OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



*Yours Respectfully  
Jacob Rosenkrans.*

Dr. Tayler was married in Ashton, October 29, 1889, to Miss Victoria Brown, daughter of James and Jane (Walker) Brown, who are natives of Ireland. Dr. Tayler and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is Steward. He belongs to the Central Illinois Medical Association and the Illinois State Medical Society. In politics, he is a Republican.

Dr. Tayler is one of the public-spirited, progressive citizens of his town and county, is influential in all matters connected with public interests, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of all with whom he is connected in business, as well as the affectionate regard of his more intimate associates. His practice is large and constantly increasing, and he is deserving of all the good fortune that may be allotted to him.



**J**ACOB ROSENKRANS came to Lee County many years ago in the full flush and vigor of early manhood, with the intention of building a home for himself. His means were limited, and in order to buy a farm, which was the height of his ambition, he had to earn money to purchase the land. He accomplished his purpose, and to-day is one of the substantial farmers of Viola Township.

Mr. Rosenkrans was born in the town of Wallpack, Sussex County, N. J., October 16, 1831. His father, Avert Rosenkrans, was also a native of that State, and was a son of Col. Benjamin Rosenkrans, who is thought to have been born in the same town as our subject, the date of his birth March 31, 1770. He had five brothers whose names were Levi, Simeon, Jacob, Aleck and John. Col. Rosenkrans was reared on a farm, and farming was his life-long occupation. He owned a large tract of land in Sussex County, N. J., and spent his last years there. At his death his body was interred in the Presbyterian Churchyard in Sandiston, that county. He was Colonel of a regiment during the War of 1812, and was a brave and fearless officer. The maiden name of his wife was Margaret Schoonover, and her death also

occurred on the old homestead in Wallpack. They had a family of fourteen children, namely: Rachel, John, Roanna, Nicholas, Avert, Levi, Maria, Abraham, Elijah, Sarah, Amanda, Lucinda, Anson and Margaret. Anson died in infancy.

Avert Rosenkrans was reared in the paternal home, early gained a good insight into farming, and when he arrived at years of discretion adopted agriculture as his life-calling. He bought a farm in Wallpack, which he occupied many years, and then selling it, bought a home in the same township, and retiring to it to enjoy his ample income, spent his remaining days therein. He was twice married, his first wife, whose maiden name was Mary Smith, dying in 1834 in Wallpack, where she spent her entire life. She left three children: our subject, Benjamin and Phebe. Benjamin was a successful farmer of Sussex County, N. J., owning a well-improved farm of two hundred and forty acres, and at his death, in 1875 left a wife and two children: Philip and Eugene. Phebe married John Swartwood, a mechanic residing in Bushkill, Pa.

When three years old our subject was orphaned by the death of his mother and was reared by his step-mother, who gave him good care in his childhood. He had nine half-brothers and sisters, namely: Martin, a successful lawyer of Newton, N. J.; John, who operates the old homestead of two hundred and eighty acres; Seeley, who is a merchant at East Stroudsburg, Pa.; Sarah, Manda, Maria, Alice, Aquilla, and Celestia, all of whom are married and reside in New Jersey with the exception of Maria, whose home is in Dakota.

In much the usual manner of farmer lads, Jacob Rosenkrans passed his childhood in attendance at the district school and doing chores on the farm. He remained at home and aided his father in the cultivation of the farm until 1856. He had heard much of the great Prairie State and the many advantages offered by its fertile soil to the active young farmer, and accordingly in the year above-mentioned he came hither when the country was still in the hands of the pioneers. Not having money enough to invest in land he worked on a farm by the month for a time, and, was finally enabled to buy eighty acres of desirable land, which

is now included in his present farm. He has added to his original purchase at different times, and now has two hundred and eighty acres of as productive farming land as lies in Viola Township. Its fields are admirably tilled and the improvements on the place are of a substantial and durable order.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Martha Stevens was solemnized February 26, 1861, and to her helpfulness, wise council and devotion to household interests, he attributes much of his good fortune in life. They have two children living, Mary and Frank. The latter is a successful teacher in the public schools. Mary is a consistent member of the United Brethren Church. Mrs. Rosenkrans is a native of Wayne County, Pa., born October 7, 1830, and is a sister of N. D. Stevens, of whom a sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. Our subject and his amiable wife are people of high character, possessing many pleasant personal attributes and none in their community are more worthy of esteem than they.

In connection with this sketch may be found a lithographic portrait of Mr. Rosenkrans.



**C**HARLES E. MOELLER was born in Palmyra Township, September 21, 1851, and is now a valued member of that class of its citizens who so materially contribute to its growth and solid prosperity by their ability as practical, thoughtful, enterprising and hard-working farmers and stock-raisers. The pleasant old homestead on section 26, where he has lived for many years, and which once belonged to his father, is now the property of our subject, and the stock that he raises upon it, together with the goodly harvests that he reaps from its well-tilled fields, bring him in a comfortable income every year.

Augustus Moeller, the father of our subject, was born in Germany, November 18, 1807, his birthplace being in the Kingdom of Prussia. He was a descendant of an ancient family of pure German stock, and several of the name were Lutheran

ministers for many generations, and filled their places with honor to themselves and to the family. The father of our subject was carefully reared and well educated in his native country, and was there married to Caroline Barthel, who was born and brought up in the same neighborhood as himself, and was of a good German family, which had been represented in that kingdom from ancient times. After the birth of five of their children, Augustus Moeller and wife decided to emigrate to America, where they hoped to do better for their offspring than was possible in the Old Country. They set forth on their long journey in 1850, taking passage in a vessel that conveyed them to Hull, England, where they embarked on an American-bound ship, which landed them at a Canadian port seven weeks later. Thence they made their way to the States, and first settled in Palmyra Township on a new and partly broken farm, which they rented and operated some ten years. Mr. Moeller then purchased the farm on section 26 of the same township, which is now owned by his son, of whom we write. Here the father spent the rest of his days, and June 23, 1887, passed from death to the life beyond at a ripe old age. His adopted township had in him a good citizen, who was industrious in his habits, was peaceful and kindly in his disposition, and a truly pious man, true to his religion as a Lutheran. In politics he was a Democrat. His wife had preceded him in death, dying on the farm in 1883, at the age of seventy years. She was a Lutheran in religion, and was a most estimable woman.

Our subject is the youngest of the family, and the only one born in this country. All of his brothers and sisters are living but Richard. The others are Theodore, a grocer on First Street, Dixon, who married Miss Ellen Seavey; Rosalie, wife of John Catta, a farmer and nurseryman in Carroll County, not many miles from Lanark; Herman, a farmer in Saline County, Neb., who married Miss Hattie Phillips; and Natalia, who lives with her brother, our subject, and carefully looks after his personal comfort. He and his sisters and brothers are all members in high standing in the Lutheran Church, and give generously to the support of the faith so dear to their fathers

since Martin Luther began the work of reformation in the church. The brothers are all staunch Republicans, standing firmly by their party, whether it is triumphant or defeated.

Mr. Moeller has passed his entire life in Palmyra Township, obtaining his education in its schools, and learning the principles of agriculture on his father's farm, which is now his, having been in his possession for the last fifteen years. It comprises eighty acres of land that have been brought to a high state of cultivation, and it is amply provided with good buildings for every purpose.



**G**EORGE ERBES is deserving of great credit for what he has accomplished since he came to Lee County, many years ago, and his career as a farmer illustrates what a man may do who works steadily and with a set purpose, as he has thereby placed himself among the solid, well-to-do men of his calling, who are carrying on the agricultural affairs of Willow Creek Township, where he has a farm that ranks with the best in its vicinity.

The village of Apenheim, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, is the native place of our subject, and there he first opened his eyes to the light, June 24, 1824. His father, who bore the same name as himself, was born in the same village, as was his father before him, who was a farmer and life-long resident of the place. George Erbes, Sr., learned the trade of a carpenter, but did not work at it long, giving his attention, instead, to various other kinds of employment. He came to America in 1855, and the short space of life that remained to him was passed in the home of his son, our subject, his death occurring in May, 1856. The maiden name of his wife was Philipena Schwabenthal, and she was also a native of that far-away German village, which was the birthplace of her husband and children. She, too, spent the latter part of her life in this country, dying in 1859, in the home of her daughter in Bureau County. Of her nine children, these four grew to maturity: George, Charlotte, Frederick and Catherina.

In the excellent schools of his native land, our subject obtained a good practical education, attending school steadily until he was fourteen years old, in accordance with the law of his country. After leaving school he worked out by the year, receiving \$28 and his board in repayment for his services for that length of time. Ambitious to do more for himself than was possible in the Fatherland, he resolved upon emigration to the United States of America, in 1853. Accordingly, he set sail from Havre, in April, in the ship, "Hilvetia," and landed in New York thirty-one days after he had embarked on the voyage. He came directly to Illinois, and took up his abode in Bureau County. When he began life there, he was in debt for a sum of money that he had borrowed to pay his fare from New York, and his first work was to earn money to discharge that indebtedness. He engaged in farming by the year, at \$110 for a year's work. He was afterward employed by the month for three years, and, carefully saving his earnings, at the end of that time he applied them to renting land in Bureau County, until 1858. In that year he came to Lee County, and the two subsequent years rented land in Sublette Township. In 1860, he came to Willow Creek Township, and the ensuing three years farmed here as a renter. He then bought eighty acres of land, comprising a tract of prairie, located on the west third of the northeast quarter of section 11, the price being \$10 an acre, with ten years' time to pay for it, at ten per cent. interest. This proved to be a fine investment, and its possession has made him independent. He has greatly increased its value by the substantial improvements that he has been constantly making, including the erection of a fine set of well-ordered buildings, and the planting of the fruit and shade trees that so profusely adorn the place. Our subject has added more land to his original purchase, and now has two hundred and forty acres of highly improved land.

Mr. Erbes was married, in 1854, to Miss Elizabeth Grossardt, who was born in the same village as her husband, December 27, 1826. Her father was Wilhelm Grossardt, and he, too, was a native of Apenheim, as was his father, William Grossardt, who carried on farming there until his

death. Wilhelm Grossardt was bred to the life of a farmer on his father's farm. He came to America in 1853, with his wife and twelve children, sailing from Havre, April 5, in the ship "Germania," and landing at New York thirty-four days later. He and his family came to Illinois, and after a short stay in Bureau County, he bought a farm in La Salle County, and he and his good wife spent their remaining days on that. The maiden name of his wife was Katherine Schwadenlant, and she was a native of Heese-Darmstadt likewise.

Mr. and Mrs. Erbes have four children, namely: George L., Frederick W., William D. and Katherine E. The family are all members of the Lutheran Church, and stand high in the community as people of intelligence and sterling worth. Mr. Erbes, as will be seen by a perusal of this sketch, is a genuine self-made man, who has made the most of his opportunities, and all who know him are heartily glad to see him prosper as he deserves.



**J**OHAN C. JACOBS, Superintendent of the Amboy Division of the Illinois Central Railroad, has held this position since October 8, 1856, and now enjoys the distinction of having served as Superintendent for a longer period than any other man in the employ of the railway company. Through the exercise of patient perseverance, he has risen from an humble position to one of great trust and responsibility, which calls into activity his keenest powers of intellect and most acute perceptive qualities. His residence in Amboy dates back to the year 1856, when he succeeded James C. Clark as Superintendent of the Northern Division of the Illinois Central Railroad, between Dubuque and Centralia, a distance of three hundred and forty-three miles. In January, 1891, a new division was formed, and the Northern Division, which was shortened, is now known as the Amboy Division of the Illinois Central Railroad, extending from Freeport to Centralia.

The ancestors from whom Mr. Jacobs is descended originally came from England. His parents, Corbin and Mary (Rice) Jacobs, were natives

of Frederick, Md., and the father was a soldier in the War of 1812. In the pursuit of his trade as a contractor and builder, he erected many fine residences, as well as a number of churches and public buildings, in the vicinity of Harper's Ferry. His entire life was passed in Maryland, with the exception of about three years, during which he made his home near Chillicothe, Ohio. A sincere Christian, he held membership in the Episcopal Church. He died September 17, 1832, when forty-five years old, and his wife passed away in 1844, at the age of fifty-four years.

The parents of our subject reared a family of six children, four sons and two daughters: Benjamin L. was first engaged as a clerk, later as a painter, and afterward became military director of railroads in the South, occupying that position until his death in 1863; John C., our subject, was the second child, and was born near Chillicothe, Ohio, November 15, 1819; Oliver C. was for some years in the employ of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, and later settled on a farm near Palmyra, Mo., where he died in 1888; Maria married Samuel Greggs, and died in Wheeling, W. Va., in 1878; Ann V. became the wife of Thomas Martin, a stonecutter in Baltimore, Md., and died in that city in 1877; William F., a graduate of William and Mary College in Virginia, became a minister in the Episcopal Church, and died at Alexandria.

In Frederick County, Md., John C. Jacobs passed his boyhood days and was but thirteen years old when, on account of his father's death, it devolved upon him to assist in the support of the family. His school days were thus brought to a sudden close, and he commenced to work on a farm, where he continued for one year at a compensation of \$15. In 1837 he entered the employ of the Baltimore & Ohio Railway Company, working on the track at eighty-seven and one-half cents per day, from which humble beginning he rose to the position of brakeman, fireman and engineer successively. In 1850 he became supervisor of trains over the mountains during the construction of tunnels at different places on the main line.

As above stated, Mr. Jacobs came to Amboy in 1856, and here accepted the position which he still retains. His pleasant home on Main Street is pre-

sided over by the lady with whom he was united in marriage, November 4, 1846. She was Miss Harriet A., daughter of Samuel H. Hough, of Middletown, Conn., and was there born January 21, 1821. Four children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs, namely: Mollie, who died at the age of twenty years; John C., who died in infancy; William F., who is trainmaster for the Illinois Central Railroad at Amboy; and Charles C., a mechanical engineer, who has been in the employ of the railway company, but is at present in charge of the electric light system at Amboy. Mr. Jacobs finds a religious home in the Congregational Church, to which the members of his family also belong.



**N**ELSON F. SWARTWOUT is at the head of an important industry as a manufacturer of tile and brick at Dixon. He is a native of Illinois, born at Rock Island, February 4, 1844, and is a worthy descendant of some of the old pioneer stock of the State. He was one of the many brave citizen-soldiers that this Commonwealth sent to the front during the Civil War.

Our subject is a son of Nelson J. Swartwout, who was born in Otsego County, N. Y., September 2, 1814, his father being Francis Swartwout. The father of our subject was reared and educated in the State of his birth, and served an apprenticeship to a blacksmith to learn that trade and that of wagon-making at Ballston Spa. In 1837 he came to Illinois, making the entire journey with a horse and carriage. He did not locate at that time in this State, however, but crossing the Mississippi found employment in the Government shop at Davenport, Iowa. He worked in that a year, and then opened a shop of his own in that city, and carried on business there for a year. He then re-crossed the Mississippi River, and took up his quarters at Rock Island, where he had previously bought property. He followed his trade in that place until 1845, and in that year came to Lee County, making the removal with teams, and bringing all his household goods along, as there were then no railways in Illinois, and he was

thereafter numbered among the most active and useful pioneers of this section. He bought a small farm at Lee Centre, and the family moved into the log house that stood on the place, and occupied it a few years until he erected a more commodious frame dwelling. He built a smithy, and engaged at his trade in connection with farming, continuing to live on that farm until 1855, when he took up his residence on a farm that he purchased at Sublette. The ensuing two years he carried on a lumber business, and at the same time made some improvements on his farm, finally devoting his whole attention to it, and made his home there until he folded his hands in death in 1868. He and his good wife were staunch Christians, and were devoted members of the Baptist Church, and reared their children in that faith.

The venerable mother of our subject now makes her home with her children, who care for her tenderly in her declining years, in grateful remembrance of her devotion to them in childhood. Her maiden name was Abigail Rieker, and she was born April 13, 1819, in one of the early pioneer homes of this State, situated in Covington. Her father, Rufus Rieker, was a native of York County, Me., where he grew to manhood and married in due season, Lydia Chitman, a native of the city of Portland, Me., becoming his trusty companion and wife. At some period in the first quarter of this century, he migrated from the Pine Tree State to that part of the country that was then known as the Western frontier. Travelling slowly, as one must need in those days, he finally arrived at the Monongahela River, and floated down that stream and the Ohio to Cincinnati, and there he penetrated the interior of the country, travelling through the wilderness to Illinois. He located at Covington, and had a hard struggle to maintain his family on his limited means in so sparsely settled a region. In 1823 he removed to Salem, Marion County, where he bought a tract of timber land, upon which he resided until 1836, when he became a pioneer of Scott County, Iowa, which was then but little inhabited, and where Davenport now is there were but two or three houses. He bought a farm two or three miles from that city, and engaged in farming there until his death

in 1847. His wife survived him until 1873, when she too passed away, her death occurring at Davenport. Our subject's parents reared three other children besides himself. Their son Abram L., who is now a clerk in the treasury department at Washington, D. C., and did good service in the war as a soldier. He was in Company D, Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry three years, and for one year was a member of Hancock's Veteran Corps. Their daughter Hattie married Frank H. Wright, of Toronto, Canada. Their son Fred R., a resident of Stillman Valley, Ill., is a minister of the Baptist Church.

Nelson Swartwout, of this biography, was only a year old when his parents brought him to Lee County, and his earliest recollections are connected with the pioneer home of his childhood. He attended school in his younger days, assisted in the labors of the farm, and at the age of twenty years, in the fall of 1864, left the parental home for the first time to join the brave boys at the front to help fight his country's battles. He enlisted in Company D, Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry, and in his experience of the vicissitudes of war, in the battle of Nashville he was wounded. He was confined in the hospital for a time, in consequence, and was then granted a furlough. At the expiration of his leave of absence, he rejoined his regiment at Goldsboro, N. C., with his ardor nothing dampened by what he had suffered, and marching with his comrades through Richmond to Washington, took part in the Grand Review. He was honorably discharged in July, 1865, with a well-earned reputation as a soldier of true courage and fidelity to the cause for which he fought.

Mr. Swartwout resumed farming when he returned home from the army, and soon bought a farm in Sublette Township. He devoted himself to its management until 1883, when he sold it, and came to Dixon to engage in the manufacture of tile and brick, which he has carried on ever since very profitably. He has kilns here with a capacity of three hundred and sixty thousand bricks and twenty-five thousand tiles. At present he is making about fourteen thousand bricks a day, and has a good market for them, as they are of

excellent quality and are durable. He is a good manager, keeps his money matters well regulated, and maintains good credit with all with whom he deals. He stands well in social and religious circles. He is a member of Dixon Post, No. 299, G. A. R.; and belongs to Lodge No. 56, M. W. A. He and his wife are exemplary members of the Baptist Church.

Mr. Swartwout was married October 5, 1869, to Miss Amelia Nettleton, who understands well how to make their home pleasant and inviting. Three children have been born to them, Walter R., Mina L. and Nellie A. Mrs. Swartwout is a native of Massachusetts, born in the pretty village of Stockbridge, among the hills of Berkshire County. Her father, Alfred Nettleton, was born in the town of Milford, Conn., and there grew to manhood. He was a carpenter by trade, and settling at Stockbridge, Mass., in 1819, he followed his calling there as a carpenter and builder. He rounded out a long life in that place in March, 1875. His wife bore the name of Maria Button, and she was a daughter of Gilbert Button. She died in 1859. Mrs. Swartwout was given the advantages of a good education, of which she laid the foundation in the public schools of her native town. She then became a student at the Hudson River Institute and Ripley Female Seminary, in Vermont, and was there fitted for a teacher. She entered upon the duties of her profession when she was eighteen years old, and taught in Massachusetts until 1865, when she came to Illinois, and was successfully engaged in teaching in Lee County until her marriage.



JACOB FISHER. The fine old homestead that was purchased by Jacob Fisher, Sr., and was only partly improved when it came into his hands, is now owned and successfully managed by his son, our subject, who has become one of the principal farmers of Willow Creek Township, where most of his life has been passed. He is a native of Ohio, and was born in



Franklin County October 1, 1851. His father was born in Pennsylvania, and there grew to a stalwart manhood. When a young man he went to Ohio, and was a pioneer of that State. He was married in that commonwealth to Ruth Carleton, and in 1853 came to Illinois, accompanied by his wife and eleven children, making the removal with teams. He located in that part of Lee County now included in Willow Creek Township, where he purchased a tract of partly improved land. There was a rude frame dwelling on the place and a log cabin that served as a stable, and he commenced at once to make further improvements. He was not destined to enjoy his new home very many years, as his pioneer labors were brought to a close by death in 1856, and he rested from his work. His widow was thus left to battle with the world alone, and rear as best she could her numerous progeny. She bravely faced the situation, and with all a true mother's devotion and self-sacrifice worked early and late to keep her children together, and cared for them until they were able to earn their own living, ten of them growing to manhood and womanhood. Well may they "rise up and call her blessed," and hold her memory in reverence. She died April 24, 1889. In the sketch of our subject's brother, Adolphus, will be found further facts of family history.

Jacob Fisher, of whom this biography is written, was but two years old when the family came to the pioneer wilds of this county, and he has been a witness of much of its growth. Since attaining man's estate, he has been a promoter of its material prosperity by the good work that he has done as a practical farmer and stock-raiser, that having been his business from the time that he started out in life on his own account, he having previously had good experience in farming from his early days, when he first began to make himself useful in doing the numberless things required of a small boy on a farm. He lived with his mother until his marriage, assisting her in the management of the old homestead. He has here a very desirable farm of two hundred and thirty-eight acres of choice land, all lying in a body in Willow Creek Township. It is under careful cul-

tivation, its improvements are of a good class, and the whole place wears an air of thrift and prosperity, indicative of wise and prudent management.

Mr. Fisher and Miss Elma J. White, a native of the State of New York, were united in marriage in 1878, and have found mutual happiness in their wedded life, that has been further blessed to them by the birth of three children: Carleton, Eunice Estella and Bertha Lulu. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and their daily lives show them to be consistent Christians. Mr. Fisher is an exemplary temperance man, and votes with the Prohibition party.



JACOB WAGNER, who resides on section 12, Bradford Township, is one of the prominent citizens of German birth who have done so much to aid in the progress of this township and county. He was born in the Fatherland, October 28, 1840. When about fifteen years old, he accompanied his parents, George and Mariah Wagner, to the United States, where they settled near Franklin Grove, in this county, and where the father died the following October.

Jacob Wagner was in the employ of A. R. Whitney, at Franklin Grove, for some five or six years, and when reaching his majority he decided to make a start in life for himself. Purchasing eighty acres of railroad land on section 12, Bradford Township, he entered on the improvement of his land, to which he has added from time to time until he now owns four hundred and eighty acres. On this he has placed good buildings, and has all the necessary appliances for carrying on a farm in the best manner.

Mr. Wagner was married, in Bradford Township, to Sophia Rice, who died in 1883. Their family comprised ten children: Martha, Charles, John, George, Anna, Jacob, Mary, Emma, Sarah and Minnie. Mr. Wagner was married a second time in Dixon, Ill., February 16, 1887, to Anna Fernau, who was born in Germany, August 26,

1849. Of this union one child has been born, Frederick C. Of the first family of children, Martha is the wife of Charles Hebenthal; Charles married Anna Bower; John was united in marriage to Mary Krug; George married Anna Sandrock, and Anna is the wife of George Kresten.

Mr. Wagner in politics is a staunch Republican, and has held the offices of School Director and Commissioner of Highways. He is deeply interested in whatever pertains to the welfare of his community, and is always willing to contribute his time and money to promote any worthy public enterprise. He has been successful in business, and he and his family are held in high esteem by their associates.



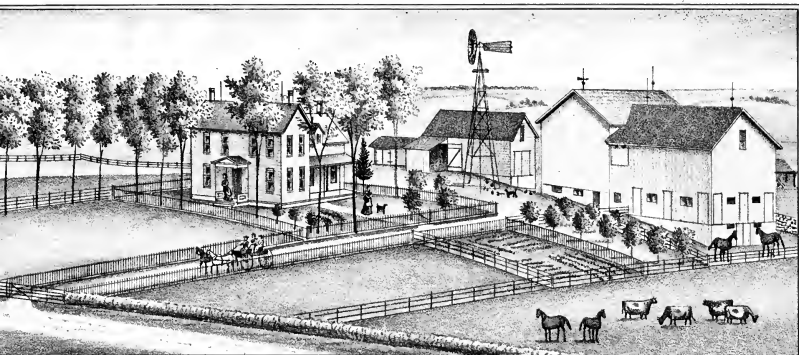
**D**AVID G. BOOK, who is engaged in general farming on section 8, Palmyra Township where he owns a highly improved farm of one hundred and eighty-six acres, claims Pennsylvania as the State of his nativity. He was born in Lancaster County, on the 18th of March, 1837, and is the third in a family of nine children, numbering six sons and three daughters, of whom four sons and the daughters are yet living. The father, John Book, was born in Lancaster County, and throughout his life has made farming his chief occupation. He is yet living at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. The family is of German origin and was founded in America by David Book, the grandfather of our subject, who, on emigrating to America, settled near Lancaster City, Pa., where he spent the remainder of his days, engaged in agricultural pursuits. He married a lady of German birth and both reached an advanced age. In religious faith they were Dunkards. John Book was married in Lancaster County, Pa., the lady of his choice being Miss Anna Geist, a native of the Keystone State, of German descent. They began their domestic life upon a farm in Lancaster County, where they continued to make their home until called to their final rest. Both were members of the Mennonite Church. Mrs. Book, the mother of our subject, died at her home

in Pennsylvania at the age of seventy-three years. She held membership with the Dunkard Church, as does her husband, who in politics is a Republican, having supported that organization since the dissolution of the Whig party.

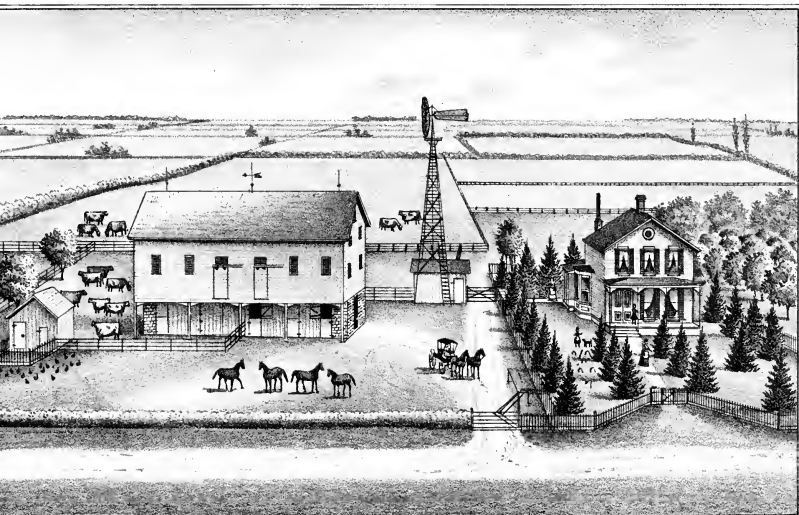
The advantages which our subject received in his youth were limited. His educational opportunities were such as the common schools afforded and these he could not attend all the time. He came to Illinois in 1852, locating in Whiteside County, where he worked as a farm hand. At length, by industry, economy and good management, having acquired a sum of money, he purchased a farm on Rock River. While residing in Whiteside County he was joined in wedlock with Miss Mary A. Weaver, a native of Lancaster County, Pa., and a daughter of Everhart, and Eliza (Hershey) Weaver. Her father was a native of Germany and when he crossed the Atlantic took up his residence in Lancaster County, Pa., where he married Miss Hershey. They spent their lives as farming people and continued to reside in that county until called to the home beyond. In her maidenhood, Mrs. Book came to Whiteside County, Ill., with her uncle and aunt, with whom she resided until her marriage.

Our subject brought his wife to Lee County in 1865, when he purchased the farm on which they yet reside. It comprises one hundred and eighty-six acres of highly improved land and along its southern boundary flows the Rock River. It is well improved with a good residence, a view of which is presented on another page of this volume. The fields are well tilled and the stock which he raises is of good grades. An enterprising and industrious farmer, Mr. Book has achieved success, and a good income derived as the result of his labors places him in comfortable circumstances. He and his worthy wife are ranked among the best citizens of this community, being well and favorably known throughout the township and county. In politics he is a Republican but has never sought or desired public office, preferring to devote his entire attention to his farm work and the enjoyment of his home.

In the family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Book were once numbered twelve children, but three, Elam,



RESIDENCE OF D. G. BOOK, SEC 8., PALMYRA TP., LEE CO., ILL.



RESIDENCE OF JOHN W. LIEVAN, SEC. 8., SOUTH DIXON TP., LEE CO., ILL

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Saloam and Benjamin, died in early childhood. Aaron, who wedded Fannie Ebersole and is now living on a farm in Whiteside County; Leander wedded Mary Fay and is an agriculturist of Palmyra Township; Ann Eliza is the wife of Henry Stauffer, a farmer of Adams County, Neb.; Franklin married Dora V. Lee, of California, where they now live; Harry is a farmer of Whiteside County; Mary Alice is the wife of Thomas Shannon, who is engaged in farming pursuits in Whiteside County; Edward, Ida May and David Guy, who complete the family, are still under the paternal roof.

Although Mr. Book has met with many reverses in life, he has used the obstacles as stepping stones to something higher, and throughout his business career he has been regarded as an honorable and upright man, worthy of the confidence of all.



**J**OHN W. LIEVAN. It is not alone on account of the marvelous fertility of its soil and other fine natural advantages, that this section of Illinois has attained its present high standard of development, as one of the richest and best improved centers of agriculture in the State; but it is in part owing to the fact that its extensive farming and stock interests are handled by men who are wide-awake, sagacious and full of resource, their equipment, mentally and physically, fitting them for their calling.

One of this class, John W. Lievan, is the subject of this biographical review. His homestead, which he devotes to grain and stock raising, and to the dairy business, is on section 8, South Dixon Township, and he also owns seventy acres of well improved land in another part of the same township.

Mr. Lievan is a native of Somerset County, Pa., born February 24, 1851, but the most of his life has been passed in this county, as he was but six years old when his father, Mathias Lievan, of whom a sketch appears on another page of this work, brought his family hither, and settled among the pioneers of South Dixon Township.

He was reared on his father's old homestead, receiving an excellent training in all that appertains to farming, and was well fitted for that occupation when he assumed its duties on his own account. He has lived on his homestead thirteen years, and has devoted himself assiduously to its improvement.

The buildings rank among the best in the locality, and include a well-built, commodious residence, a view of which appears on another page, and a large, conveniently arranged barn, 40x64 feet in dimensions, with a good basement, besides other out-houses for various purposes. This farm contains one hundred and forty acres of land well adapted to general farming, and is fully stocked with cattle, horses and swine of the best breeds, including thirty good cows used in his dairy business, of which Mr. Lievan makes a specialty. He is a man of push and energy, and an excellent manager, always maintains his credit in all financial transactions, and the community of which he has formed a part as boy and man for more than three decades, knows him to be strictly reliable in all things. Politically, he is a thorough Republican; religiously, he is of the Evangelical faith, and is a member of the church of that denomination, to which his wife also belongs.

The marriage of Mr. Lievan united him with Miss Sophia C. Bremer, of Marion Township. To them have been born two children, Pearl V. and Myrtle M. Mrs. Lievan is a native of this county, her birth occurring in Palmyra Township, August 21, 1859. She was well educated in the city of Dixon, and at Amboy High School, and is an accomplished woman of much force and decision of character. At the age of seventeen she began teaching school, and was engaged in that profession until her marriage. Mrs. Lievan is a daughter of the late Edo A. and Etta (Almels) Bremer, who were born in Oldenburg, Germany, near the North Sea, and came of good German stock. Her father was a farmer by occupation. After the birth of their three eldest children, he and his wife emigrated with their family to the United States, sailing hither in June, 1854, and coming to Illinois, made settlement in Palmyra Township. Soon after, their third child, John, died.

Some years after locating in this county, Mr. Bremer purchased eighty acres of land in Marion Township, and improved it into a good farm. In 1882 he retired to Dixon, and subsequently became an inmate of the home of our subject, and was tenderly cared for in his last days by his daughter and wife, who survive him. He died December 16, 1889, at the age of sixty-five years. He was a Lutheran in religion, and a Democrat in politics. To him and his wife were born six children, two sons and four daughters, of whom one son and one daughter are deceased. Mrs. Lievan's mother is a loved member of her household. On her last birthday, August 15, 1891, she was sixty-nine years old. She has been connected with the Lutheran Church all her life, and is one of its most conscientious and consistent member.



**CAPT. PRESCOTT BARTLETT**, an officer of an Illinois regiment during the late war, was one of the pioneers of Lee County, and occupies an important place among its leading farmers and stockmen of the present day. One of the early settlers of Sublette Township, he is still closely associated with its agricultural interests, and his handsome stone residence on section 27 is one of the most inviting homes in this locality.

Captain Bartlett was born in Conway, Franklin County, Mass., August 19, 1821, and is a representative of one of the distinguished New England Colonial families, and the blood of a soldier of the Revolution runs in his veins, his grandsire, Amos Bartlett, serving in the ranks of the Continental army during the noble struggle of the Colonists for freedom from the Mother Country. The father of our subject, who bore the same name and title as himself, was born in 1789. He was a tanner by trade. He was captain of a company of State militia for many years, and when the War of 1812 broke out, he was on hand to fight, as his father had fought, against British oppression, and raising a company of soldiers, he did his Government good service. His demise occurred while

yet he was in life's prime, at the age of forty-two years. His wife, Narcissa (Robinson) Bartlett, who was born in 1787, attained the venerable age of eighty-four years. They were blessed with six children: Narcissa, who died at the age of fifteen years; Watson R., a gunsmith by trade, who went to Arkansas to buy furs for a St. Louis firm, and died in that State; Clarissa, who married George F. Wilson, and died in Providence, R. I.; Prescott; Benjamin F., a soldier, in Company C, Seventh Illinois Cavalry, who died in Kansas in 1888; and Emerson, who settled in the State of New York. He was a jeweler, and manufactured the first regulator clocks in the United States, and made and put up a clock in the State House at Nashville, Tenn.

Our subject is the only surviving member of the family. He was reared on his father's farm amid the fine scenery of his birthplace, and resided in the old Bay State until 1844. In that year he and his brother-in-law, George F. Wilson, started Westward. The Captain had \$57 in money as his capital with which to begin life on the frontier, and Mr. Wilson had a box of books, which proved serviceable after his arrival in Chicago, although a burden to carry thither. On their arrival in that city, our subject divided his money with his brother-in-law, and the latter started a school. He met with marked success in his venture as an educator, and laid the foundation of the fortune he afterward accumulated on his return to the East, whereby he became one of the wealthy men of Providence, R. I.

Capt. Bartlett did not make a long stay in Chicago, but went to Du Page County, whence he came in a short time to Lee County, and made a claim on section 20, Sublette Township. When the land came into the market, he purchased eighty acres, and made improvements on the same. Five years later he removed to Bureau County, where he purchased a partly developed farm. In 1854 he sold that to his brother, and came to his present location, where he had four years previously bought three hundred and twenty acres of land of William Erskine for \$500. In 1855 he made an extensive tour through Arkansas and Texas, and from observations made on that journey became convinced that a civil war was imminent. The

patriotic spirit that he had inherited in full force from his father and grandfather was roused, and, like them, he was willing to sacrifice his personal interests for his country. He devoted much time to studying cavalry tactics, and in June, 1861, he enlisted in the army to help his countrymen to preserve the Union. He subsequently raised a company of ninety-eight men, which was mustered into service August 7, as Company C, Seventh Illinois Cavalry, and he was elected and commissioned its captain. In the trying years that followed, he nobly stood the test that proved the worth of his manhood, his loyalty to the cause and his good soldiery, and was often commended by his superiors for those qualities that fitted him for his responsible position as a leader.

After its organization, the Seventh Illinois Cavalry regiment was dispatched to Missouri and thence through Kentucky to Tennessee. In September, 1862, it was encamped at Tuseumbia, Ala., at which time Company C was detached as special escort to Gen. John M. Palmer, and acted as such until January, 1864. Our subject and his men were in all the hard fighting of the Rosecrans campaign, taking an active part in over one hundred battles and skirmishes, showing of what metal they were made on every occasion that called for fearlessness, prompt action and ability to cope with the enemy. Their first encounter with the rebels was at Stone River, and they conducted themselves so as to win the approval of the commanding officers. Then followed the battles of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Chattanooga, Ringgold, Ga., and many other engagements too numerous to mention. Capt. Bartlett was at one time President of a Military Commission at Memphis for six weeks. After three years' gallant service, he was honorably discharged, and returned to his home a war-worn veteran, whom his fellow-citizens honored for what he had done in defense of our flag. He quietly resumed his former pursuits, and became rather extensively engaged in raising stock, frequently having over fifty horses on his place. In 1868, he built a stone residence of a fine style of architecture, at a cost of \$12,000, and has since made other substantial improvements that have increased the value of his farm. He

has given some of his time to public life, and, besides having been Deputy Sheriff, he has held local offices, and has always displayed true public spirit, losing no opportunity to benefit his adopted township and county whenever his influence would in any way promote schemes for their advancement. In politics, his views are as much in accord with the principles of the Republican party as in the days long gone by when he fought on Southern battle-fields to uphold them.

January 4, 1849, Captain Bartlett was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Whitney, and the forty years and more that they have lived together have been fraught with the true happiness of a congenial union. Unto them have been born four children: Silas Wilton, a lawyer at Mendota; Prescott Eugene, a painter, who resides with his parents; Howard R., a lawyer at Dixon; and Cora M., wife of J. C. Stough, of Mendota. The wife of our subject is a native of Warren County, Ohio, born January 30, 1829. Her parents, Ephraim and Mary (Livingston) Whitney, were natives respectively of Maine and Ohio. They were among the early settlers of Lee Township, locating there in 1845, and there they lived to a ripe old age. The father died May 11, 1883, aged eighty-two years; the mother died in 1886, aged eighty-three years. They had six children, namely: Joseph, a resident of Linn County, Iowa; David L., of San Francisco, Cal.; Mrs. Bartlett; Phebe, Mrs. Brown, of Walden's Ridge, Tenn.; Silas D., who died in Montana, in 1887; and Rebecca C., wife of Edwin Shaw, of Colorado.



**URIAM STROUP**, proprietor of the City Black and Bus Line, of Dixon, established the hack line in 1875, and in the following year succeeded Mr. Sterling in the omnibus business. He is also the United States mail carrier from the Illinois Central and Northwestern Railroad Companies.

Mr. Stroup was born July 17, 1840, in Owego, Tioga County, N. Y., where he lived until he was twelve years of age, when he came with his parents

to Illinois. His father, Uriah, was a native of Philadelphia, Pa., coming of Pennsylvania Dutch stock. He learned the profession of an architect, removing, after his marriage, to the State of New York. He was married in Philadelphia, to Miss Anna Relyea, who was born of French parents, who settled in Philadelphia, where she was reared and educated. The parents of our subject came to Illinois, and settled in Dixon, where they spent their last years, Mr. Stroup dying when sixty-one years of age, and his wife fifteen years later. They were consistent members of the Baptist Church. Mr. Stroup was a prominent Mason, being one of the organizers of that order in this city. In politics he was an old-line Whig. Uriah Stroup, our subject, is one of three sons and five daughters born to his parents. He was married in Dixon, in 1875, to Miss Sarah Armstrong. She was born on Staten Island, and was five years old when her parents removed to Dixon, in which place she was reared and educated. She is a woman of great intelligence and ability, and is highly esteemed by all who know her. Her parents, Jacob and Mary Ann Armstrong, were natives of New York, and died in Dixon. Mr. Armstrong was a money loaner, and was associated with E. B. Stiles, in conducting a land-office, and was well known throughout this community. He was a prominent Mason, and was influential in building up that order in this city. His death occurred while in Ft. Collins, Col.

Mr. Stroup, in his youngest days, was a railroad man, and served in various capacities for nineteen years, at one time running an engine for several years. He was employed by both Eastern and Western roads, and for a long time was in the service of the Northwestern, being thus engaged when, on account of his failing health, he was obliged to change his occupation. He then took up his present business, his health having greatly improved therein, and being also very successful from a business point of view. He began in a small way, with one poor team and a single hack. He now keeps constantly employed a wagonette, two omnibuses, two hacks and a cab. Mr. Stroup has been a resident of Dixon for thirty-seven years, and is well known throughout the community as

an honest and reliable business man, and a public-spirited citizen. In politics he is a Democrat. His wife and a daughter are attendants of the Episcopal Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Stroup have been the parents of four children, two of whom, Ada and Ida, are deceased. Those living are Hattie E. and Edward, both residing at home, the former being a music teacher.



ROBERT E. NEIR has been long and worthily associated with the farmers and stock-raisers of Lee County, and though he is now living in retirement from active business at Paw Paw, he still retains his agricultural interests and has two well-equipped farms in Wyoming Township. He was born in Cumberland County, Pa., October 14, 1822. His father, Francis T. Neir, was a native of Germany, as was his father also. The grandfather of our subject married in his native land and had a family of children growing around him, when the determination grew strong within him to emigrate to America, that land of promise whither so many of his countrymen had gone, and where he thought he would be able to provide better for his dear ones than in the Old Country. Accordingly, one day he embarked with his wife and offspring on a ship bound for these shores. But he was not destined to make port here, as ere the voyage was ended, he and his family, with one exception, had passed through the gates of death to the land of the immortals. One child remained in Germany.

The father of our subject, then a lad of eight summers, was the sole survivor of the little family group that a few short weeks before had left the German Fatherland to found a new home across the sea, and thus sadly bereft of all his kin, he landed in Baltimore, orphaned and penniless, without friends or a home to go to. But he was taken in charge and kindly cared for by James Hemphill, a farmer of Cumberland County, Pa., with whom he remained until he attained his ma-



majority. He was a steady, studious youth, made the best of his opportunities to obtain an education while with his employer, and after leaving him taught and attended school alternately for some time. After his marriage he rented land and engaged in farming in Cumberland and Franklin Counties, Pa., until death ended his work. The maiden name of his wife was Margaret E. Earley, and she was a daughter of Robert Earley. She was a native of Pennsylvania and died in Franklin County, that State. She was the mother of eight children; one died in infancy.

Our subject was the eldest son of the family, and, when he was very young, he commenced to assist his father on the farm, and thus early gained a good experience in the calling which he was afterward to pursue so successfully on his own account. He remained with his parents until he was twenty years old, and then served a three years' apprenticeship to learn the trade of a cabinet-maker in Roxbury, Franklin County. He then carried on business in that line for two years and at the end of that time left his native State to establish himself at Ft. Seneca, Seneca County, Ohio, where he worked at the trade of a carpenter and joiner until 1857. In that year he came to Lee County and identified himself with its pioneers, settling in Wyoming Township on a tract of land on section 31, that he bought. He erected suitable buildings and busied himself with tilling the soil, continuing to reside on his farm until he removed to Paw Paw in 1881, where he has since lived in retirement from active labor. He is still interested in farming, however, and owns two hundred and ten acres of choice farming land in Wyoming Township, said land being divided into two farms that are under excellent tillage and are amply supplied with good buildings.

Mr. Neir has been twice married. April 22, 1847, his marriage with Miss Sarah A. Shuman was celebrated. Their wedded life was brief, as she died in 1851, leaving two children: Jefferson S. and Francis. The maiden name of our subject's present wife was Catherine Hade. She was born in Franklin County, Pa., and is a daughter of Jacob Hade, who is supposed to have been a native of that county also. He removed from there

to Ohio, and was an early settler of Seneca County, where he bought a tract of timber land, one-fourth of a mile from Ft. Seneca. He erected a log cabin and in the course of time hewed out a good farm from the surrounding wilderness and made it his home until death. The maiden name of his wife was Margaret Snyder. She died in Pennsylvania.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Neir has been blessed to them by two sons: Ray S. and Clark E. Our subject is one of the solid, self-made men of the county, whose only capital when they started in life was what lay in themselves in the shape of muscle and brain and a steadfast determination to accomplish all they could and always to do their best in whatever position they might be placed. That he has used these God-given faculties well may be seen not only in the fact that he has become one of the moneyed men of his community, but by the sincere respect and regard in which he is held by his fellow-citizens. Religiously, he and his wife are esteemed members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and are active in its every good work. Politically, he is a Republican and is ever true to his colors.



**H**ENRY W. HILLISON is one of the most successful of Lee County's native-born citizens who are devoting their energies to sustaining and extending her great agricultural interests. He is prominent as a farmer and stock-dealer, who is ably managing an extensive business in his line in China Township, and he is also known for the honorable part he has taken in the administration of public affairs and in local politics.

Mr. Hillison was born in Bradford Township, September 12, 1850. His father, Omen Hillison, who was a native of Norway, came to this country in 1838, and was a pioneer of Lee County. He first located in Lee Centre Township, but subsequently took up a claim in Bradford Township, of which he thus became an early settler. He was married after coming to this county to Miss Cath-

erine E. Reinhart, a sister of Andrew Reinhart, and their wedded life was passed on his homestead in Bradford Township, which was too early deprived of his services by his untimely death. Two children were born to him and his wife: Henry W. and Betsy J., the latter of whom is the wife of Conrad Brandau. A sketch of the mother, Mrs. C. E. Asehenbrenner, who married again after the death of the father, is given on another page of this volume.

Our subject grew to man's estate in his native township, and made his home there until his marriage in 1873, when he settled on section 25, China Township, where he has a farm of two hundred and forty acres, which, under his supervision, has become a valuable piece of property, ranking among the best improved estates in the locality. The land is well cultivated and very productive, and Mr. Hillison has erected a fine set of farm buildings, and has all the conveniences of a model farm for carrying on his operations. Besides tilling the soil, raising grain and other farm products, he is engaged in buying and shipping live stock, a business which he makes exceedingly profitable, as his keen judgment is seldom at fault in making his purchases, and he is quick to take advantage of favorable opportunities to sell at any sudden rise in prices, or when the markets are active.

The marriage of Mr. Hillison with Miss Elizabeth Roth was celebrated at Dixon, May 8, 1873. In their cozy home, five children complete their pleasant household, whom they have named John H., Christie E., William C., Reinhart A. and Celia. Mrs. Hillison is a native of Germany, born on the 18th of February 1853. Her parents, John and Barbara (Barnhart) Roth, were also of German birth. They came to the United States in 1860, and have ever since been residents of Lee County.

The fellow-citizens of our subject, appreciating the fact of his ability to handle his own affairs so as to make the most of his resources, and knowing him to be utterly trustworthy, have twice elected him to the office of Supervisor, and both terms that he was a member of the County Board he worked earnestly to secure public improvements that would not only be of advantage to the township that he represents, but would benefit the county at large.

He is a true Republican, an ardent supporter of the principles of his party, and is active in political matters. He and his wife are members in high standing of the Lutheran Church.



**T**RUMAN JOHNSON, of Viola Township, is a member of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, and is not only prominent as one of our most valued public officials, but he occupies a leading position among the farmers and stock-raisers of this region. He is of sturdy pioneer stock, his father, Smith H. Johnson, being an early settler of Viola Township, and an active promoter of its highest interests, educationally and morally, as well as affording material aid in the development of its agricultural resources.

The father of our subject was a native of Vermont, whence he went to New York when a young man, walking from that place to New York, and in that State he met and was married to Miss Ziba K. Tompkins. He bought a tract of land in Allegheny County, and resided there until 1836, when he pushed Westward into the forest wilds of the Territory of Michigan, going by lake to Detroit, and thence with a team penetrating into the interior of Van Buren County, of which he became a pioneer. He bought a tract of timber land, and made his home there some years. He was a man of superior intelligence, who knew full well the value of an education, and to him his fellow-pioneers owed the chance to give their children some schooling, for he built one of the first schoolhouses in that section of country, on his own land. There were but few signs of civilization then in those parts, and deer, bears, wolves, coons and other wild animals were frequently seen in the woods near the settlements or in the clearings made by the pioneers.

In 1843, Mr. Johnson left his pioneer home in Michigan, to found another in the great Prairie State, coming hither with his wife and four children, with teams. He located at Big Rock, Kane County, buying a tract of Government land at

that point. A few months later, in the fall of the year, he went back to Michigan, but returned to his place in Kane County the following spring, whence he came to Lee County eight years later, and was one of the early settlers of Viola Township. He bought a tract of wild prairie land on section 13, upon which he erected suitable buildings, and at the time of his death February 11, 1873, had a well-improved farm. His wife also spent her last years on the old homestead. Viola Township owes him a debt of gratitude for his generous efforts in establishing educational institutions in her midst, as, soon after settling here, he built a schoolhouse on his farm, employed the first teacher that ever taught here, paying her from his own funds. A liberal, broad-minded, public-spirited citizen, his name should be honored as that of one of our most worthy pioneers.

Truman Johnson was born in Allegany County, N. Y., April 3, 1832, and he was but four years old when his parents removed to Michigan. His early education was obtained in the schoolhouse that his father built on his land, which was a primitive structure, but answered the purpose as well as a more ornate building. The seats, which were without backs, were made of slabs, with wooden pins for legs, and had no desks in front. As soon as large enough, our subject had to work on the farm and help his father in clearing his land. He was twelve years old when the family came to Illinois, and at that time the country was very sparsely settled, deer and other kinds of game roaming at will where are now smiling farms and thriving towns. There were no railways for some years, and Chicago was the nearest market.

Mr. Johnson continued with his parents until his marriage, and he then rented land for a year. At the expiration of that time he settled on the old homestead in Viola Township, which he now owns and occupies. It comprises one hundred and twenty acres of very fertile, highly cultivated land, abundantly provided with all the improvements of a well-equipped farm. Mr. Johnson has three hundred and twenty acres of land besides his home farm, two hundred and forty of which are in Reynolds Township, and the remainder in Viola Township. He has acquired his property partly by judi-

icious investment, by skillful cultivation of the soil, and by excellent judgment in carrying out his plans.

In writing the outline of the life of our subject, we should be doing him but scant justice if we omitted his war record. He enlisted in February, 1865, in Company I, Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, and started from Chicago to join the army in North Carolina. He was taken sick at New York, which detained him there about a month, and he was then sent to Newburn, N. C. In a short time he was despatched from there to Alexandria, Va., where he joined the command and proceeded with it to Washington, and was in that city at the time of the Grand Review of the Union troops. He then started with the troops for the Western frontier, but was again taken ill at St. Louis, and entered the hospital, from which he was honorably discharged in July, 1865, and returned home to resume the calling that he had abandoned at his country's call.

Mr. Johnson's assistance has often been sought in the guidance of public affairs, and he has held almost all the important local offices. He has served as School Trustee, School Treasurer and School Director; has been Constable, Collector and Justice of the Peace; and in 1890 he was elected to represent Viola Township on the County Board of Supervisors for a period of two years. He was formerly a Republican in politics, but is now Independent.

Mr. Johnson was married January 29, 1860, to Miss Mary E. Malugin, a representative of some of the oldest pioneer families of Illinois. Ten children complete the household of our subject and his wife, named as follows: Harvey, Addie, Rosa, George, Walter, Frank, May, Dollie, Maud and Wilber.

Mrs. Johnson was born at Malugin's Grove in the pioneer home of her parents, Zachariah and Mary (Ross) Malugin. Her paternal grandfather, Jonathan Malugin, was one of the early settlers of Sangamon County, this State, whither he had come from Tennessee. He lived there some years, and then came to Lee County and spent the remainder of his life here. His son Zachariah was reared in Tennessee, and came to this State with his parents

in early manhood. He was living in Sangamon County at the time of the Black Hawk War, and as a soldier during that contest with the Indians came to Northern Illinois with his regiment. He was attracted by the beauty of the country, and in 1833 carried out his resolution to settle here by becoming a pioneer of Lee County.

Mr. Johnson made a claim to the grove which has since borne his name, and which was then isolated and lonely, for his nearest neighbor on the west was Father Dixon, at Dixon Ferry, and the nearest settlers on the east were the Ross family at Ross Grove, De Kalh County. He did not find them too far away to be neighborly with, however, and presumably made good use of his time in visiting them, as that same year he married one of the Ross girls, and in the log cabin that he built on his claim he and his bride commenced housekeeping together. His life was cut short by his untimely death in that home in December, 1841, and Lee County was deprived of the services of an active and valuable pioneer. His wife survived him many years, and finally died in 1880 at a venerable age. She was a native of Virginia, and a daughter of Joseph and Jane (Norman) Ross. Further mention is made of her parents in the sketch of O. P. Johnson, which will be found elsewhere in this book.



**N**ELSON POWELL, a successful farmer and stock-raiser, whose home is on section 7, Palmyra Township, is a native of this State. His birth occurred on the 13th of March, 1854, in Sterling, and he is a worthy representative of one of the early families of Northern Illinois. His father, Nathaniel Powell, was born and reared in Saratoga County, N. Y., where he wedded Miss Abbie Brown, also a native of that locality. She was his second wife. By his former union, he had one daughter, Dora, who became the wife of George Howe and now resides in Nebraska. By the second union were born two sons: Charles and Nelson. The parents came to Illinois in an early day and settled in Sterling, where their deaths oc-

curred in the fall of 1855. They both died the same night of typhoid fever. Their elder son, Charles, was then reared by his uncle, Nelson Powell, in the Empire State, and is now a resident of Monroe County, N. Y., where he engaged in the butchering business.

Our subject was only seven months old when he was left an orphan, and by a relative he was reared. From his native county he removed to Lee County, and the farm which he now owns was given him by his uncle, Jacob Powell, who secured large tracts of land from the Government in a raw state. Jacob Powell became one of the well-known and prominent citizens of this community. He owned very large landed interests, and, by judicious investments and sagacious sales, became quite wealthy. He started out with only a few hundred dollars, but at his death, in 1888, was worth \$100,000. Mr. Powell had come to Illinois from Saratoga County, N. Y., his birthplace. In Whiteside County he wedded Mrs. Eliza Brown, who is now living on the old homestead in Sterling Township, at the age of sixty-six years. Both the husband and his wife were Spiritualists in faith, and in his political views, Mr. Powell was a Republican.

The education of our subject was begun in the public schools of Sterling and completed by a business course in Des Moines, Iowa. Farming and stock-raising have been his life work, and in this he has been very successful. He now owns and operates two hundred acres of valuable land, the greater part of which is under a high state of cultivation, and, in consequence, yields to him a golden tribute. For the past three years he has also engaged extensively in stock-raising, making a specialty of sheep, and now has a fine flock, numbering two hundred head of a high grade. The appointments of his farm are all in keeping with his practical and progressive ideas, and the neat appearance of the place indicates the supervision of a careful manager who thoroughly understands his business.

In Kasson City, Dodge County, Minn., Mr. Powell led to the marriage altar Miss Cecelia Corseaden, who was born in the Empire State, but was reared and educated in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

She became a teacher and for some years successfully followed that vocation. The union of our subject and his worthy wife has been blessed with two children, a son and daughter, Leroy and Nellie J. The Powell household is the abode of hospitality, and the members of the family rank high in the social world. Mr. Powell exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party, and his wife is a member of the Episcopal Church, while he is a Spiritualist.



**C**ORNELIUS FREDERICK VAN PATTEN is well-known as one of the principal farmers and stock-raisers of Viola Township, where he has a large and well-conducted farm, provided with first-class improvements. He was born in Glenville, Schenectady County, N. Y., January 6, 1826, and is a son of Frederick Van Patten, who was a native of the same township as himself. He, in turn, was a son of Simon Van Patten, who is supposed to have been born in Holland, and to have come to this country when he was young. He was a thrifty farmer, and was engaged at his occupation in Glenville Township, where he died in the course of time. He was for many years noted as a teacher of vocal music, and carried on that profession while superintending the management of his farm.

The father of our subject passed his boyhood on the old farm in Glenville, and devoted his entire life to agricultural pursuits in his native township. The maiden name of his wife was Sarah Bartlett. She came of distinguished Colonial ancestry, and was a native of New England, Brattleboro, Vt., her birthplace. Her father, Charles Bartlett, was born in England, but came to America in Colonial times, and settled in Brattleboro, Vt. He was greatly interested in the events that led up to the Revolution, took sides with the Colonists, and was an ardent patriot. He displayed his devotion to his adopted country on various occasions, and bore an active part in the famous tea party that resulted in throwing the tea from the English

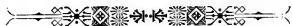
vessels overboard into the waters of Boston Harbor. After the war closed, he spent his remaining days peacefully in the pretty Vermont town where he had first located. The mother of our subject was a woman of superior intelligence and education, and taught school in her early womanhood until she was married. She died on the farm in Glenville where she had passed her wedded life. She bore her husband ten children, of whom these nine grew to manhood and womanhood: Simon B., Jemima, Nathan B., John, Ira, Nicholas, Swart, Hester and Cornelius F.

The latter, who forms the subject of this biographical review, grew to man's estate in his native town, and was there educated. He was early instructed in all kinds of farm work, and although he was young when his father died, he was perfectly competent to take charge of the farm, and did so until he was twenty-six years of age. Then, as his services were no longer needed in that direction, he was engaged at various employments for three or four years. In 1856, he made a new departure, having determined to improve his fortunes, if possible, by farming on the marvellously fertile soil of Northern Illinois, and after couing here he engaged in tilling land on shares at Shabonna Grove, De Kalb County. Some seven years later he bought eighty acres of land in the town of Milan, the same county, and farmed it the ensuing four years. At the expiration of that time, he came to Viola Township, and purchased a quarter of a section of land that is now included in his present farm, that contains three hundred and sixty acres of as fine land for agricultural purposes as can be found in this locality. Its fields are under the best of tillage, its pastures afford sustenance for many sleek and well-kept cattle, horses and hogs of good breeds, which are raised on the place and bring in a good yearly income. The buildings are neat, roomy and substantial, and everything about the farm is in good order.

Mr. Van Patten was married in 1855 to Miss Mary J. Young, a native of the same New York town in which he was born, and a daughter of Frank and Margaret (Dickerson) Young. She is a most estimable woman, and in her the Methodist

Episcopal Church has an active Christian member. These are the names of the fifteen children that complete the family of our subject and his wife: Margaret, Childs, Frank, Sarah, Ella, Sherman, Cora, Addie, Hannah, Ida, Seth, Stella, Olive, Edith and Cornelius F.

Mr. Van Patten is a typical self made man, as he has arisen to his present position solely through his own efforts. He has strength of character, a firm will, good, round-about common sense, and a good capacity for planning and executing whatever work he wishes to carry out. For many years he was a good Democrat in his politics, but he is now a member of the Farmers' Alliance. He attends the church to which his wife belongs, and is a liberal supporter of whatever will benefit the township.



**J**OHAN CROMBIE has passed the most of his life as boy and man in Lee County, and has attained an honorable place among its farmers and stock-raisers. He has a farm on section 25, China Township, that is in a fine condition, owing to his excellent management, has a good class of improvements, and its carefully tilled fields and rich pastures yield him a desirable income.

The town of Byron, Genesee County, N. Y., is the birthplace of our subject, and February 26, 1830, the date of his birth. He is descended from hardy New England stock, and both of his parents, Moses and Louisa (Morse) Crombie, were born among the granite hills of New Hampshire, Cheshire being their native county, and Dublin the town where the father first saw the light of day. A portion of their married life was spent in New York, but they passed their last days in this State. They were among the early pioneers of Northern Illinois, coming here in the first years of its settlement. They lived some two or three years in what is now the village of Grand Detour, Ogle County, but in 1840 they settled near Amboy, in this county, whence they subsequently removed to Lee Centre, and there death found them well advanced

in years. Those worthy people reared a family of three children, of whom our subject is the eldest.

John Crombie was but a boy when his parents came to this State, and the remainder of his youth was passed chiefly in this county, in Lee Centre Township, and, with the exception of five years in Iowa, he has been a resident of this county ever since. He has made farming his life work, and was engaged at that calling in Lee Centre Township for some years after his marriage. In the winter of 1862-63 he removed with his family to Wheatland, Clinton County, Iowa, and was a resident of that county some five years. At the expiration of that time he returned to Lee County, which from old associations, and for what he considered better advantages, both as a place of residence and for the pursuit of his vocation, had superior attractions for him. He then located in China Township, and in the years of toil that have since followed has made his farm attractive as a home, and valuable as a finely improved piece of property. It has an area of one hundred and seventy-two acres, on which he has erected a good set of buildings, and evidences of thrift and unceasing care are seen on every hand.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Sarah E. Warnick took place July 4, 1854, in Lee Centre Township, and neither contracting party has seen cause to regret the important step taken on that glorious "Independence Day" that lies back in the past thirty-seven years, as it has brought them much that is pleasant. Among its blessings are the six children that have been born unto them, namely: George M., who married Miss Polly Landon; Charles, who died in childhood; Nancy L., the wife of Fred L. Ayers; Mamie, Adelaide S., and Alice M. Mrs. Crombie was born in Steuben County, N. Y., July 7, 1834, and is the youngest of the five children of James and Nancy (Gardner) Warnick, who were natives respectively of Montgomery County, N. Y., and of Swansea, Mass. They were pioneers of Lee County, whither they came from their former home in Steuben County, N. Y., in 1849, and were residents of Lee Centre Township many years, her death occurring there, while he died in the home of his son in Edgar County.

Mr. Crombie is a man of sound understanding, and has clear, common-sense views on all subjects with which he is familiar, while his many excellent personal traits have commended him to the people among whom he has lived so long, and they have often placed him in responsible public offices, feeling sure that he would discharge the duties thus imposed upon him in the most satisfactory manner. He has been Constable, Justice of the Peace, Assessor, Collector and School Director, and in those various capacities has always acted with wisdom and discretion, and has favored whatsoever would be of benefit to the township. In politics, he is a strong believer in the doctrines of the Democratic party. Socially, he is identified with the Masonic fraternity. Mrs. Crombie shares the respect in which her husband is held, and she is a devoted member of the Congregational Church.



**E**MANUEL BRIERTON, a successful farmer of Dixon Township, living on section 26, has the honor of being a native citizen of the county. He was born on his father's farm in the town of Nachusa, July 10, 1846, and is the youngest child of Joseph Brierton, an honored pioneer of this county. His father was a native of Yorktown, Mass., and his grandfather, John Brierton, was born in England and came of pure English lineage. In that land he married Jane Brewster, and ere the Revolutionary War crossed the Atlantic to America. When the Colonies attempted to throw off the British yoke of tyranny, he aided in the struggle for independence. In his later life he left Massachusetts and went to Pennsylvania, where he died at an advanced age. By occupation, he was a farmer, and both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Church. In their family were eleven children, all of whom lived to be quite old, but are now deceased. With the exception of John, who engaged in merchandising for many years, the sons made farming their life work.

Joseph Brierton, father of our subject, was the eldest of the family and the last to pass away. It was during his boyhood that his parents removed

to the Keystone State, the family settling in Luzerne County, where he began serving an apprenticeship to a distiller in 1801, but he only worked at that trade for about two years. Subsequently, he learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed more or less for a long period. In the early part of the '40s, emigrating Westward, he settled in Lee County, and purchased eleven hundred acres of land, which he highly improved, and as it rose in value he became quite wealthy. This county was the scene of his labors from that time until his death on the 7th of August, 1889, at the very advanced age of ninety-seven years. He was a man of prominence in the community and was widely known throughout the county. In politics, he was an inflexible adherent of Republican principles, which he advocated on account of the abolition sentiment they embodied, and in religious belief was a Methodist. Mrs. Brierton bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Garrison, and their marriage was celebrated in Luzerne County, Pa., where she was born and reared. She died at her home in Lee County, in 1870, at the age of sixty-nine years, after a noble and well-spent life. She, too, was a faithful member of the Methodist Church and many warm friends sincerely mourned her death.

No event of special importance occurred during the boyhood of our subject to vary the monotony of farm life, for in the usual manner of farmer lads his childhood days were passed. At the age of eighteen he enlisted in the late war as a member of Company C, Seventh Illinois Cavalry and for one year was in the service, but much of the time was confined in the hospital from pneumonia and a sunstroke. This so impaired his health that he engaged only in skirmishing and other light duty. On his return he continued to reside in Lee County until 1879, when he went to St. Louis. For one year he was foreman of Capt. Thompson's cane plantation, and for the three succeeding years was connected with the implement house of J. A. Field, of St. Louis. He then returned to his native county and has since given his attention to agricultural pursuits. In 1889 he purchased an improved farm of one hundred and eighty acres on section 26, Dixon Township.

A marriage ceremony performed in that town-

ship united the destinies of Mr. Brierton and Emma Coltren, a native of the Buckeye State, who came to Illinois, when about two years old, with her parents, Elisha and Mary (Osborne) Coltren, who located at Palestine, and afterward settled on a farm near Amboy. They then came to Dixon and some years later went to Russell County, Kan., where Mr. Coltren died, near Bunker Hill, in 1888, at the age of eighty-eight years. By occupation, he was a farmer, which business he followed throughout his life. His wife, who survives him, resides with her son Orin in Nachusa Township, at the age of seventy-four years.

Eleven children grace the union of Mr. and Mrs. Brierton and the family circle yet remains unbroken. In order of birth they are as follows: Alice, Edna, Henry, Frank, Joseph, Tyler, Pearl, Blossom, Myrtle, and Daisy. This family is well and favorably known throughout the community, and the Brierton household is the abode of hospitality. In politics, our subject is a warm supporter of Republican principles and is a valued citizen of the community where he has so long made his home. He takes a just pride in the growth and upbuilding of his native county, in whose history he has been identified for forty-five years.



**D**ANIEL CURRAN, senior member of the firm of Daniel Curran & Sons, mason contractors of Dixon, is one of the leading citizens of Irish birth residing in Lee County. He was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, March 29, 1839, and is a son of James and Bessie (Cady) Curran. His mother died in 1846, after which his father was again married, and in 1849 brought his family to the United States, crossing the Atlantic from Liverpool to New York City in the sailing vessel "Kingston," which dropped anchor in New York harbor after a voyage of five weeks and three days. They lived in New York City four years and then came at once to Illinois, where Mr. Curran and his wife are yet residing on a farm on the Rock River, near the city of Dixon.

Although he is now more than eighty years of age, he retains much of the vigor which characterized him in earlier life, being still hale and hearty. Himself and wife are members of the Catholic Church.

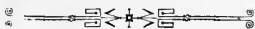
We now take up the personal history of our subject, who is so widely and favorably known throughout this community. From an early age he has made his own way in the world, and well deserves to be numbered among the self-made men of the county. In Dixon he learned his trade of a mason with the firm of Robinson & Means, and after his term of apprenticeship had expired, went to New York City, where he entered the employ of John Hankinson, with whom he worked for six years. His long continuance in the service of one man attests the quality of his excellent workmanship and his fidelity to the interests of him he served.

During his residence in the East, Mr. Curran led to the marriage altar Miss Catherine Donahue, who came to this country from her native land, Ireland, during her girlhood. She died at her home in Dixon, in 1872, leaving five children: James, who wedded Miss Mary Swan, of California, and is now a brickmaker and contractor of Bakersfield, Curran County, Cal.; Charles, who wedded Alice McGraw, and is associated in business with his father; William H., who is employed as yardman in the service of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company at Sumner, Cal.; Thomas F., a member of the firm of Curran & Sons; and Anza B., wife of John McGraw, who is engaged in merchandising in Osong, Ill. Mr. Curran was again married in Dixon, his second union being with Miss Mary Lyons, a native of Vermont, who came to this State during her childhood with her parents, Edward and Bridget (Hines) Lyons, both of whom are now deceased. They were natives of the Emerald Isle and crossed the Atlantic after their marriage. Some years they spent in the New England States and then came to Lee County, Ill., where they died, the father at the age of sixty-five years and the mother in her sixty-first year. They were members of the Catholic Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Curran have two children: Patrick G. and Daniel A., and have lost five. They are



members of the Catholic Church, and in political sentiment our subject is a Democrat. The firm of Curran & Sons, located at the corner of Ninth Street and Nachesa Avenue, have a liberal patronage, and rank among the leading contractors of Dixon. Daniel Curran has a high reputation as a skilled workman and has superintended many of the best buildings in this city, which now stand as monuments to his ability and enterprise. The faithfulness with which he fulfills his part of the contract has won him the confidence of all, and the esteem accorded him is well merited.



**G**EORGE HUNT has been a useful and highly respected citizen of Lee County for thirty-five years. He has devoted himself principally to farming during all these years and is entitled to a worthy place among the pioneers of China Township, where he has improved a good farm, comprising a part of section 22. He was born in Leicestershire, England, March 14, 1815. He grew to a stalwart manhood in the land of his birth, and having learned the trade of a blacksmith, he followed it there until he was twenty-four years old. He then turned his back on his old English home and crossed the ocean to this country. For several years he was engaged at his trade in Oneida County, N. Y., and at the same time kept a country tavern in the town of Marey. In the spring of 1856, he wound up his affairs there, having decided to try agricultural pursuits on the fertile soil of the great Prairie State.

Mr. Hunt chose Lee County as his future home, and, buying a farm on section 22, China Township, has ever since been a resident of this part of Illinois. He has been engaged chiefly in farming and owns eighty acres of valuable farming land, which is under admirable tillage, is provided with suitable buildings, and is a very desirable and well-kept place.

During his residence in Oneida County, N. Y., Mr. Hunt was married, April 19, 1847, to Elizabeth Moseley, who was a native of the same English shire as himself, born March 11, 1824. For

forty years and more she walked by his side, was to him a cheerful helper, encouraged him by her presence and wise counsel, and left nothing undone that would contribute to his comfort and well-being. December 16, 1888, death crossed the threshold of the home where they had lived so long together, and the beloved wife fell into that sleep that knows no waking this side of eternity. She was a Christian and a devoted member of the Church of England, in which faith she had been bred.

Industry and frugality, combined with good judgment and honesty of purpose and act, have brought our subject due reward, and he is well fortified against want and the necessity of hard labor. His sterling merits, his kindly nature, and his neighborliness have gained him a warm place in the hearts of his fellow-citizens. He has sensible opinions on all subjects with which he is familiar, and in his political views is not bound to any party, but is independent.



**J**OHAN L. SHAW, a retired farmer and resident of Lee Center Township, this county, is highly esteemed as one of the old pioneers of this State, and a man who has witnessed and aided in the growth and prosperity of the county which he made his home at an early day. He was born in Ontario County, N. Y., May 19, 1816, where he grew to manhood and resided until the fall of 1844, when he came with his wife to Hancock County, Ill., remaining there until the spring of 1846, when he removed to Lee County and settled in Bradford Township. Here he took up a claim on which he lived for over twenty years, later removing to another farm in the same township. After residing in this township for upwards of thirty years, he removed to Belvidere, this State, where he lived a retired life for some eight years, after which he returned to Lee Center, where he now resides. He has followed farming throughout his life, and now owns eighty acres in this township.

Mr. Shaw was married in Orleans County, N. Y.,

September 27, 1844, to Miss Tryphena Merrill, who was born in Paris, Oneida County, N. Y., July 30, 1821. Her parents, Chauncy and Hannah (Austin) Merrill, were natives of Rutland, Vt., and Bristol, R. I., respectively. They were married in Otsego County and died in Darion, Genesee County, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaw have had two children, Ellen A., who is the wife of Giles A. Hodges, and John M., who died when four and one-half years old. Mr. Shaw has held some of the local township offices and has been School Director. In politics he is a Democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw are inclined to be liberal in their religious views, and are people who make the best of everything and enjoy life, thereby making it happier for everyone who comes in contact with them. Mrs. Shaw is a most estimable woman and has many warm friends, who enjoy visiting this couple at their comfortable home.



**M**ELLE L. BUSINGA, who is now living in retirement in one of the finest homes in Franklin Grove, acquired his wealth by extensive and well-directed farming operations, and is still identified with the agricultural interests of Northern Illinois as the owner of many acres of choice farming land in Ogle County.

Our subject was born in Hanover, Germany, April 3, 1831, and he was the only member of the family to come to the United States. His father was a rich man, but he twice lost his fortune by a disease attacking his large herds of cattle. Our subject was reared on a farm in the Old Country, and continued to live in the Fatherland until 1855, when he came to America in the full flush and vigor of early manhood. He landed in New York after being on the ocean in a sailing vessel fifty-one days. He at once came to Illinois, and first stopped at Freeport, where he found himself not only without funds, but in debt, to the extent of two dollars, to a friend of whom he had borrowed the money in

Chicago. He was, however, equal to the emergency, with his capital of health, strength, readiness of resource, and ability to work; and so zealously did he apply himself to searching for a situation after his arrival in that town at three o'clock in the afternoon that he had secured one before nightfall, and was busy performing his appointed labors when the hour for the evening meal came. Two months later, he hired out to work in Ogle County at thirteen dollars a month, and was engaged there six summers, being in the employ of Jacob Piper, who is still a resident of that county, for five summers. In the winter seasons he availed himself of the opportunity to attend school and to gain a more complete knowledge of the English language and advance his education generally.

While he was working for others in Ogle County, Mr. Businga managed to save seven hundred dollars of his earnings, and with that good start as the result of six years' hard work, he began his independent career as a farmer in Ogle County soon after his marriage in 1860, buying forty acres of land in Leaf Run Township, which was simply broken, and investing in one hundred and seventy more acres, which he improved. In 1871 he sold that place, and removing to Winnebago County, purchased a quarter of a section there, for which he paid sixty-five dollars an acre, and made it his home for some time. He subsequently bought two hundred and forty acres in Ogle County, to which he added an adjoining one hundred and sixty acres in 1882. He made elegant and substantial improvements on the Ogle County farm, putting five thousand dollars into commodious buildings, and resided there two years. Then, in 1884, he let his son take charge of the farm, and coming to Franklin Grove, purchased one of the finest places within its precincts. He still owns his three hundred and twenty acres in Ogle County, but he disposed of his Winnebago County farm at the rate of eighty-one dollars an acre, a great advance on the cost price. Mr. Businga is public-spirited as a citizen, generously using his money where it will do the most good for the material advancement of the community, and exerting his influence to promote its higher interests. He is a truly religious man, a high estimation being placed upon his character as

a conscientious Christian, and is one of the most active working members of the Presbyterian Church of which he is an Elder.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Lena Nellen was duly solemnized in the autumn of 1860. The sorrow that falls sooner or later on every household has been mingled with the joys of their wedded life, as two of their three children have died, one dying in infancy, and their daughter, Nettie T., dying in 1869, in her fifteenth year. A son is spared to them to bless their declining years, Sigel, who was born May 26, 1862. He married Miss Lizzie Kirk, and they have two children—Floyd C. and Claude A.

Our subject's estimable wife was also born in Hanover, Germany. She came to the United States with her family. Her father, Nels F. Nellen, settled in Stephenson County, near Freeport, among its pioneers. She has four brothers and sisters, as follows: Bruno, a resident of Ogle County; Matila, who married L. Bruns, and died in Hardin County, Iowa; Fokka, who was a sailor and was lost at sea; and Grace, who married the Rev. John Reints, of Kansas.



**RUFUS H. MELLEN.** It would be difficult to find within the city of Amboy a more pleasant home than the residence occupied by Mr. Mellen, which is located on East Main Street and surrounded by grounds comprising fifteen acres. In retirement from the active duties which formerly engaged his attention, he is enjoying the fruits of his labors, and in his beautiful home, with the loving care of his family to contribute to his happiness, he is passing his declining years in peace and contentment. In the course of a long and honorable business career, many varied business experiences have been his, and heavy losses have occasionally met his enterprises, but the losses have been more than retrieved through shrewd investments, so that now he has sufficient of this world's goods to free his old age from the cares of poverty.

The ancestors of Mr. Mellen originally came

from Scotland (the family name being MeMellen) and were among the first settlers of the Massachusetts Colony. By occupation they were farmers, and were industrious and honorable members of society. Grandfather William Mellen was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and, in connection with farming, was extensively engaged in fruit-growing, and made as much as four hundred barrels of eider annually. The father of our subject, John L., pursued farming, and after his son came West, made him a visit, and being pleased with Amboy, remained there seventeen years, until death claimed him at the age of eighty-two years.

The mother of our subject, whose maiden name was Mary Hyde, was born in Hampshire County, Mass., and there died. Her union with John L. Mellen brought to them eight children, only three of whom attained to their majority: Mary J. married Samuel Davis, and died in Massachusetts; Franklin H. was a soldier in the Eighty-ninth Illinois Infantry, and was mortally wounded at the battle of Stone River. Our subject is the only surviving member of the family and was born in Hampshire County, Mass., February 5, 1818, receiving his education at the Wilbraham Academy in his native town, Greenwich. In his early manhood, he engaged in teaching school, and was also a music teacher, traveling in New Jersey in the pursuit of the same employment.

In connection with his father, our subject was interested in a farm in Massachusetts, and during the summer season he tilled the soil, but made the most of his money during the winter when the farm was buried with snow and he was educating the children and teaching singing school. In 1854 he started to see the Great West, and coming to Amboy on a prospecting tour, was well pleased with the young town and invested some money in village lots. In the spring of 1855, he removed his family hither, and, erecting mills, engaged in the manufacture of lumber, sash, doors, etc. He was appointed Postmaster in 1861, and in that connection began selling books and stationery, and later added musical instruments.

After continuing for some time alone, Mr. Mellen associated his son Walter with him in partnership, the firm being R. H. Mellen & Son, and con-

tinued in that way for some years. The business is now conducted by the son. For twenty-one consecutive years, Mr. Mellen retained the office of Postmaster, and in that position was very popular with his fellow-citizens. During the course of a long and active life, he has met many famous men, among them being personally acquainted with President Lincoln. His first ballot was cast for Gen. Harrison for President in 1840, and since the formation of the Republican party he has been one of its staunch supporters. Besides holding the office of Postmaster, he has been City Clerk and Alderman, and has been prominent in the public life of the county.

In 1842 Mr. Mellen was married to Miss Laura E. Patten, who was a native of Hampshire County, Mass. Their union has been blessed by the birth of four children, namely: Ella Frances, wife of D. W. Slaughter; Walter Clayton; Florence Virginia; and Mary Georgianna, wife of Howard S. Hazen. Since he was fifteen years old, Mr. Mellen has been a member of the Congregational Church, to which the other members of the family belong. Not only has he witnessed, but has assisted in, every change which has worked out the wonderful transformation apparent in Lee County to-day, compared with its condition forty years ago. No one takes greater pride than he in the prosperity of Amboy, and not only is he liked by the rich and fortunate, but by the young and needy, and those who are struggling for recognition.

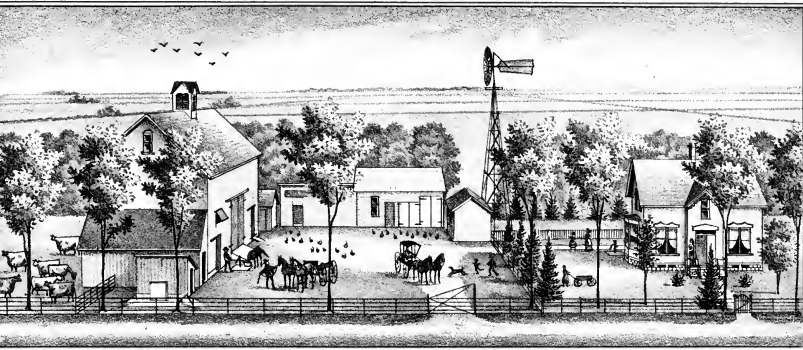


**O**LE J. PRESTEGARD, an extensive farmer, residing in Alto Township, stands among the most able and progressive men of his class in Lee County. He was born in Odde, Hardanger, Bergenstift, Norway, April 23, 1841. His father, Jorgen Oleson, was a native of the same place. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, and after marriage settled on the Prestegard farm, and therefore, according to the custom of that country, his name became Prestegard, which name his children bear. He was a resident of Norway until 1869, when he came to America and settled in Alto

Township, where he died at a ripe age in 1886. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Gunild Buer, and she was a daughter of Helje and Gunild Buer. These are the names of the six children that she reared to lives of usefulness: Ole J., Gunild, Helje, Guro, Bertha and Jorgen.

The subject of this sketch commenced to work when very young, and at thirteen years of age the stout, self-reliant little lad began life as a sailor in a fishing vessel. He was employed in fishing off the coast of Norway until 1864. Ambitious to see more of the world and to make his way to a competence under more propitious circumstances than in the hard life he was leading before the mast, in that year he left his native land and sailed for America in the good ship "Victor Emanuel." A voyage of five weeks brought him to Quebec, but he did not tarry in the Queen's dominions, hastening instead to the States, coming directly to Chicago, where he landed June 1. He then made one trip on a lake vessel, and the following six weeks was employed in a lumber yard in Chicago. After that he came to Lee County, and began his new life here as a laborer in the harvest field at \$2 a day. When the crops were gathered in he found employment at \$21 a month for three months, and later worked by the day or job, turning his hand to anything at which he could earn an honest living.

In the spring of 1865 Mr. Prestegard, in company with another man, purchased eighty acres of prairie land, of which twenty acres were broken, and that constituted the entire improvements. During the same year his partner died, and the following year he purchased his interest in the tract of the heirs, and erected a frame house on the place. He was actively engaged in farming until 1871, when he removed to the village of Lee in order to engage in the lumber business, which he carried on until 1887. Then returning to his farm he has since devoted his energies entirely to agricultural pursuits. He has bought other tracts of lands at different times, and his farm now comprises three hundred and twenty acres of well improved land. In 1888 he erected his present residence, a view of which appears on another page. It is a commodious brick house, of a modern style

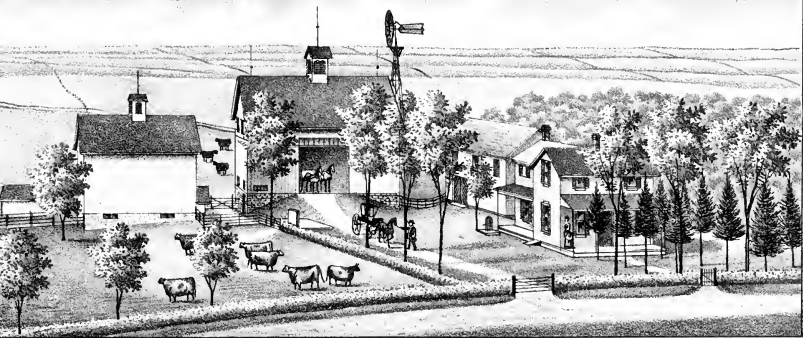


RESIDENCE OF OLE J. PRESTEGARD , SEC. 35, ALTO TP, LEE CO., ILL .



TENANT HOUSE, SEC. 11.

SON'S RES. SEC. 14.



RESIDENCE OF MERIT SMITH, SEC. 17, PALMYRA TP, LEE CO., ILL

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of architecture, conveniently arranged and well appointed. He has a large frame barn and other buildings, which rank with the best in the township.

Our subject found a wise and able helper in his marriage in December, 1868, to Jound Peterson Maakestad, who is all to him that a true wife can be. She was born in Hårdanger, Norway, and is a daughter of Lars and Segri Peterson Maakestad. She came to America with her parents in the same vessel with her husband. Their marriage has been productive to them of twelve children, three of whom are deceased and the following survive: Gunild, Lars, Jorgen, Sarah, Anna, Peter, Olaf, Bernat and Henry.

The family are all members of the Lutheran Church, and their standing in the community is high. Mr. Prestegard is a true Republican in politics, and is loyal in his citizenship to his adopted country. He has a thoughtful, intelligent mind, has always been a reader, and is well informed on all matters of general interest, while the appearance of his fine farm demonstrates his ability as an enlightened farmer.



**M**ERRITT SMITH, who resides in Palmyra Township is one of the extensive land owners of the community, his farm comprising four hundred and eighty acres on sections 17 and 18. Much credit does he deserve for his success in life as it is due entirely to his own efforts, being the result of his industry, perseverance and good management. He was born in Sandwich, Carroll County, N. H., October 2, 1833. The Smith family is of Irish origin and was established in New Hampshire during Colonial days.

The father of our subject, John Smith, was born in the old Granite State and in the neighborhood of Sandwich lived and labored for many years. He died at the age of seventy-seven and left to his family an untarnished name. At the age of eighteen he had united with the Methodist Church and was ever afterward one of its consistent and faithful members, living a life of uprightness and in-

tegrity; in politics he was a Democrat. His wife, whose maiden name was Phebe Clough, was also born in Carroll County, N. H., and was of Scotch descent. She held to the faith of the Methodist Church and died one of its consistent members when in the prime of life. The family of this worthy couple numbered nine children, of whom two sons and two daughters are yet living.

Our subject is the only member of the family living in Illinois. He was a lad of only nine summers when his mother died and at an early age he began to earn his own living. Without the aid of capital or influential friends, he started out in life for himself and deserves all the more credit that, by his own unaided efforts, he has arisen to the eviable position which he to-day occupies. For seven years he labored hard in Massachusetts, and though his wages were small, in that time he saved \$1,100. He now determined to try his fortune in the West and with that sum in his pocket came to Lee County, Ill., in 1853. The only money he ever inherited was about \$125, left him by his grandmother in New Hampshire. This was invested in a buggy and harness to be shipped him from the East but the vessel on which it was shipped was lost in Lake Michigan and he therefore reaped no benefit from his inheritance.

When he arrived in the county, Mr. Smith began the development of a farm from the unbroken prairie and as the result of his labors has now a valuable home. Every improvement upon the place is the work of his own hands and stands as a monument to his thrift and enterprise. One of the finest set of farm buildings in the county is included among the improvements. Of the four hundred and eighty acres embraced within the boundaries of the farm, almost the entire amount yields to the owner a golden tribute in return for his care and cultivation. To stock-raising, Mr. Smith also devoted considerable attention, making a specialty of Polled Angus cattle and Poland China hogs and horses of superior breeds. A view of his homestead may be found on another page.

In Palmyra Township, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Eliza B. True, who was born in Holderness, Grafton County, N. H., January 13, 1835, and came to Illinois in 1854, with her father

and step-mother. Levi S., and Lydia M. (Rogers) True, the parents of Mrs. Smith, were natives of the Granite State. Her father was born October 30, 1807, and wedded Miss Rogers who was born on February 2, 1813, and died March 9, 1849. For a second wife Mr. True chose Sarah A. Sinclair, whose birth occurred on August 17, 1818. On coming to Illinois, Mr. True devoted his energies to farming in Palmyra Township, until his death, which occurred January 29, 1887, at the age of four-score years. His wife had passed away April 13, 1884. In politics he was a supporter of Democratic principles.

The able and untiring assistance of Mrs. Smith has been an important factor in the success of her husband, their united efforts winning them prosperity. They have a wide acquaintance throughout this community and those who know them esteem them highly for their sterling worth. In politics, Mr. Smith is a staunch Republican who warmly advocates the principles of that party and keeps himself well informed concerning the issues of the day. In the family of our subject and his worthy wife is but one son, Eugene B., who is now a successful farmer of Palmyra Township. He married Lillian Stager and after her death was united in marriage in Stephenson County, with Ida Rager. Unto them has been born a daughter, Eugene B.



**J**OSEPH ATHERTON, M. D., of Paw Paw, was trained for his profession in one of the best medical schools in the country, and has won for himself an honorable name among the intelligent and well-educated physicians of Lee County in the course of a successful practice. He is a native of the town of Scranton, Luzerne County, Pa., May 16, 1858, being the date of his birth. His father, Boyd Atherton, was a native of the same place, and was of the pioneer stock of the State.

John Atherton, the grandfather of our subject, was also a native of Scranton, while his father,

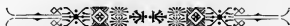
who bore the same name as himself, was born in Massachusetts in Colonial times. He was reared in the old Bay State, and in his youth learned the trade of a blacksmith. He migrated to Pennsylvania during the Revolutionary War, and was an early settler of Luzerne County. He was living there at the time of the famous Wyoming massacre, and his brother Jonathan fell a victim to the cruelty of the Indians. He followed his trade as a blacksmith, and was a resident of Scranton until his death. The grandfather of our subject was also a blacksmith, and engaged in that calling his entire life, which was spent in the place of his birth. The maiden name of his wife was Catherine Ward, and her last years were passed in Scranton.

The father of our subject was reared to agricultural pursuits, and always followed farming. He was a life-long resident of Luzerne County, and died in 1876. The maiden name of his wife was Melana Drake. She was born in Luzerne County, and is a daughter of Samuel and Parthenia (Dilno) Drake. She now makes her home in Pittston, in her native county. She reared but two children—Joseph and Parthenia, the latter of whom is the widow of Austin Hughes, and resides in Pittston.

Dr. Atherton laid the foundation of a liberal education in the public schools of his native county, and subsequently pursued an excellent classical course of study in the High School at Pittston, from which he was graduated with the Class of '76. He was thus well prepared to enter upon his medical studies, and became a student in the University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, from which he was graduated in the Class of '79. The great Prairie State seemed to him to afford an excellent field of labor for an ambitious young physician, and coming to Lee County, he established himself at East Paw Paw. He remained there until 1886, when he removed to Paw Paw, where he has practiced continuously since. He is devoted to his profession, and has steadily gained in the favor of the people among whom he has settled, as one whose sound knowledge of medicine, and whose caution and wisdom in his treatment of serious cases, merit their confidence. The Doctor is a member of Anchor Lodge, No. 510, I. O. O. F., and his pleasant personality makes him a favorite in social circles.



Dr. Atherton was married, in 1880, to Miss Etta Card, a native of De Kalb County, and a daughter of Charles H. and Julia (Greenman) Card. They have a home that is attractive, not only in its cozy appointments, but for the courteous and pleasing hospitality of which it is the center. Two children complete their household, Boyd and Carl.



**D**ARIUS SAWYER. It is a generally conceded fact that the farmer enjoys a greater amount of personal freedom than any other man who is engaged in the busy and almost endless task of accumulating money. There is something about life in the country, where one is surrounded by nature, that seems to bring a quietness and peace found nowhere else.

Our subject, who is at present a prosperous farmer of Lee Centre Township, was born in Waterbury, Vt., on the 17th of April, 1816. The August following, his parents left Vermont and emigrated to Ohio, settling in Clarke County, where they lived nine years. At the end of that time they moved to Licking County, where they remained for the same length of time, and in October, 1834, they left the Buekeye State and spent the following winter at Terre Haute, Ind., and in Edgar County, Ill. In the spring of the following year, the family came to this county, settling in Lee Centre Township.

Mr. Sawyer came to this place with his parents when he was eighteen years old, assisting his father on the farm for the following four years, and in March, 1839, he was married in Lee Centre Township to Miss Sophronia Parker, a native of Syracuse, N. Y. She has borne her husband ten children, nine living to manhood and womanhood: Charles F. is a farmer in Russell County, Kan.; Horace P., who was a member of Company I, Forty-sixth Illinois Infantry, died on the Red River, in Louisiana, after the close of the war, in 1865; Sarah G., who is the wife of John A. Livingston; Darius M., who is a farmer in Lee Centre Township; Florence is the wife of Francis K. Livingston; Mattie, who died when about eighteen

years old; Rolla F. is in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad, in the shops at Amboy; Alice F., the wife of Samuel B. Starks, and Abi.

The mother of this family passed from this life in Lee Centre Township, July 25, 1883. The father was again married October 6, 1887, to Mrs. Jane E. Tinker, who bore the maiden name of Jane E. Borge and was the widow of Edward B. Tinker. She was born in Hartford County, Conn., in the town of Windsor, May 3, 1834.

The subject of this sketch learned the trade of a blaeksmith, which he followed for several years in connection with farming. He now owns a handsome estate of one hundred and forty aeres, with good improvements. He has held the township office of Highway Commissioner, and in his political views is a Republician, and previous to the formation of that party was an old-line Whiig. He is one of the leading members of the Masonic fraternity.

The mother of our subject died in Lee Centre Township, in 1837, and was the first of the early settlers here who died. Her husband moved to Marshall County, Ohio, and there died in 1872. This couple were the parents of eleven children, ten of whom grew to mature years. Three of the sons were in the late war: Joseph, who was killed outright; George W. met his death at the siege of Vicksburg, and Alonzo died in Marshall County, Iowa, during the war.



**J**OHN SCHOENHOLZ came to this country many years ago before he attained manhood. He was without money when he first made his appearance in this State. He acquired a competency and was well fortified against poverty, as by his industry in tilling the soil he earned a place among the well-to-do farmers of Lee County, and had a highly improved farm in Willow Creek Township, that was well stocked with horses, cattle and swine of fine grades.


Mr. Schoenholz was born in Bavaria, Germany, December 31, 1839, and died December 9, 1891. His parents, Jacob and Elizabeth Schoenholz, were

natives of the same locality as himself, and the father followed his trade as a weaver in the winter season, and the remainder of the year was engaged in farming. In 1861 he emigrated to this country with his wife, and for two or three years he resided near Hennepin, but the last part of his life was spent in this county. The mother of our subject is still spared to her children, and is now seventy-eight years old. She has reared five children to lives of usefulness, namely: Lena, wife of John Yetter; Jacob, John, Nicholas and Phillip.

The worthy parents of our subject gave him such advantages of obtaining an education as the excellent schools of his native land afforded, to which they sent him regularly until he was thirteen years old. The following two years he attended the Sunday-school in the village near his home, where the higher branches were taught. As soon as old enough, he began to assist his father and obtained a good drilling in farm work. He remained with his parents until he was eighteen years old, and he then boldly determined to try life in America, the land to which so many of his countrymen had gone and found prosperity. He set sail from Havre, and after a voyage of forty-seven days landed at New York. He went directly to Buffalo, and after remaining there a few weeks, came to Illinois, arriving here a stranger in a strange land, and with no money. He, however, was well equipped for the struggle before him, as the blessings of a strong physique and good health were his in a full measure, and he was industrious in his habits, with an excellent capacity for turning off work easily and well. The first two years of his life in the Prairie State were passed in and about Hennepin, Putnam County, where he was employed on a farm. After that he came to Lee County and worked by the month the ensuing two years. He had carefully saved his earnings and was then enabled to be more independent by farming on his own account on rented land. He was successful in that venture, and in four years' time had enough money to buy eighty acres of wild prairie at \$16 an acre, located on section 5, Willow Creek Township, the same being included in his present farm. He steadily devoted himself to developing a farm, erected a good set of frame buildings, placed his land un-

der cultivation, planted choice fruit and beautiful shade trees, that have not only increased the value of his place but have added to its attractiveness, and he increased the acreage of his farm by buying other land, and to-day it comprises three hundred and five acres of well-improved realty. He carried on general farming, and the cattle, horses and hogs that he raised were from good blooded stock.

Mr. Shoeholz, undoubtedly, was much indebted to his wife for her ready and cheerful helpfulness in the work of making a home. Their married life began in 1861 and was blessed to them by the birth of these four children: Emma, Philip, Julia and Frank. Mrs. Schoeholz was Ann Maria Yetter in her maiden days, and she is, like her husband, a native of Bavaria. She is a sister of John Yetter, of whom a sketch appears elsewhere in this work.



THOMAS J. HILL is a general farmer and dairyman, who is successfully managing extensive agricultural interests in South Dixon Township, where he makes his home on a finely improved farm on section 29. Mr. Hill is descended from one of the old families of Pennsylvania, that originated in Germany, but came to this country in Colonial times, and he is a native of the Keystone State, born in Luzerne County, March 15, 1844, the fourth child and third son of the seven sons and four daughters of Nathan and Judith (Bilhimer) Hill, who were also natives of that county, as were their parents before them. In 1854, they broke up their old home in Pennsylvania, and, with their family, sought to establish a new one on the wild prairies of Lee County. They began their pioneer life on an unbroken farm in South Dixon Township, and here the father ended his days, dying in 1876, at the age of fifty-nine. He was a man of marked force of character and much native ability. He prospered in all his undertakings, became one of the wealthy men and large land-owners of the county, and at his death left a valuable estate of eight hundred acres of land,

nearly all of which is under cultivation and well-improved. He was always true to his obligations in every relation, was faithful to his duties as a citizen, and was first, last and always a Democrat. A man of true piety, he was a devout member of the Lutheran Church. His faithful companion, who contributed much to his success in life, still makes her home on the old homestead.

Thomas J. Hill, of this biographical review, was a child of ten years when his parents brought him to share their new home amid the pioneer scenes of Lee County. His father's farm was a good training ground on which he became thoroughly acquainted with agriculture in all its branches and and was well-equipped for his work when he began farming on his own account. He purchased his first farm in Dixon Township, and settled on it in 1880. It is still in his possession, and is a very desirable piece of property, with its one hundred and thirty acres of carefully tilled land and its substantial improvements. He occupied that place until 1891, and then took possession of the farm on which he now makes his home in South Dixon Township, on section 29. This has two hundred and five acres of very fine farming land, and it is fully supplied with commodious and conveniently arranged buildings and good machinery for every purpose. Mr. Hill keeps it well-stocked, and among his finely graded cattle are twenty-five cows of the best breed for dairy use, as he does quite a business in that line. He carries on his farming operations systematically, is quick to adopt new methods, when he sees that they are feasible and adapted to his farm, and is, in a word, an enlightened farmer.

He is a Democrat in national politics, believing the affairs of the Government safest in the hands of that party, but in local matters he exercises his right to vote for whom he pleases.

On the farm that he now occupies, occurred one of the most important events of Mr. Hill's life, his marriage with Miss Mahala C. Seybert. Their union has brought to them eleven children, two of whom are dead—one who died in infancy and Leonard, aged seven months. Those who are still spared to bless their parents are Dora A. and Cora E., twins, the former the wife of Barney Bush, of

Dixon, and the latter the wife of Lorin L. March, a farmer of Naehusa Township; Hortense E., Julius E., Nathan, Olive B., Jasper R., Gertrude and Eva, all of whom are at home with their parents with the exception of the two first named.

Mrs. Hill is a native of the same Pennsylvania county as her husband, and was born in the same township as he (Salem Township), February 10, 1844. She is a daughter of Wallace and Desire (Hill) Seybert, now living retired at Dixon, who are people of wealth, well known in this county. An account of them appears in the review of the life of their son, Charles Seybert, on another page of this BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD. Mrs. Hill was a small child when her parents took up their residence in Beach Haven, in her native county, where she grew to womanhood. She was given good educational advantages, and besides attending the public schools at Beach Haven, was a student at a graded school at Wilkesbarre and also at New Columbus. She was eighteen years of age when the family came to Illinois, in 1862. She is a woman of much spirit and character, and as a daughter, wife and mother, is true to the obligations imposed upon her by those various relations.



**D**ANIEL C. MILLER, the present Clerk of Reynolds Township, also occupies an important place among the farmers of Lee County who have been instrumental in developing one of its leading industries and have made this section of the State a great agricultural centre. Mr. Miller, though of German ancestry, is a native of Canada, his birth taking place April 6, 1845, in the County of Brant, Province of Ontario, of which his grandfather was an early settler. He is a son of Jacob and Esther (Van Sickle) Miller, and an account of his parents will be found in the sketch of his brother Rinear.

Daniel Miller was but two years old when the family came to Illinois for the first time, but, notwithstanding he was so young, he has always retained some remembrance of the wild condition of the county surrounding their new home at that time

when there were no railways in Illinois, and much of the land was owned by the Government, while deer, wolves and other wild animals not now encountered in this region were plentiful. As soon as large enough, he was put to work on his father's farm, and continued to help in its management until his father died. At the time of his marriage he settled on a farm in Reynolds Township that he has ever since owned and occupied. When it came into his hands, it was a mere tract of wild prairie, and no attempt at cultivation had been made upon its virgin soil. Our subject has wrought a wonderful change in the years that have since passed, and now has a valuable and highly productive farm, upon which he has erected suitable buildings for every needed purpose, planted fruit and shade trees, and has the greater part of the three hundred and twenty acres well improved.

Mr. Miller was married in March, 1866, to Miss Margaret Schultz, and among the blessings that have come to them are their ten children: Minnie, Lorine B., Ella M., Bird, Clark C., Francis, Maud, Cora M., Lena F. and Olive. Minnie married Joseph Miller, and Lorine married Ida Codney.

Mrs. Miller was born in Lycoming County, Pa., and her father, Isaac Schultz, was a native of the same State, as was his father before him, the family coming originally from Germany in Colonial times. Her grandfather was a farmer, and, so far as known, spent his entire life in Lycoming County. Mrs. Miller's father was there reared and married, Margaret Stackhouse becoming his wife. He bought a tract of land in Lycoming County, and there he and his bride began life together. In 1853 he sold his farm in Pennsylvania and came to Illinois. He settled among the pioneers of Lee County, buying land near Malugin's Grove, and resided there until 1871, when he went to Floyd County, Iowa, and bought a tract of land one mile south of Marble Rock, and there he and his wife dwelt until they closed their eyes in death, she dying in 1877, and he in August, 1884.

Mr. Miller is a man of scrupulous fairness and honesty, as all who know him are aware, and he is trusted implicitly by all with whom he associates, or with whom he does any business. He is a

streight-forward Republican, and has held local offices, and whether in public or private life will do all that he can to further the interest of the community. He was United States Census Commissioner for Reynolds Township, in 1890, has served as Highway Commissioner, and so satisfactory have been his services as Township Clerk, he is now filling that important office a second term.



**J**OHN M. ABELL. Lee County was well represented at the front during the late war, and among the bravest of her citizen-soldiers were Jabez and John M. Abell, father and son, the latter of whom is the subject of this brief biography. He is now one of the prosperous farmers of this county, and he owns and occupies the old homestead on section 36, Viola Township, where his boyhood days were passed, the farm being the one which his father purchased from the Government in the early years of the settlement of this section, when he came here as one of the first pioneers to locate in this region.

Our subject was born December 25, 1844, at St. Charles, Kane County, while his father was born near Aylmer, Province of Ontario, Canada. He was a son of Daniel Abell, who was, it is thought, born in the State of New York, and was one of the descendants of an old English family that settled in this country in early Colonial times. He removed from New York to the Province of Ontario, and was one of the pioneers of the country around Aylmer. The land that he bought was heavily timbered, and he spent his remaining days in clearing and tilling it. He and his wife were Quakers.

The father of our subject learned the trade of a carpenter in his native country, and continued to reside in Canada until 1840, and then, accompanied by his wife, he came to Illinois, making the long and tiresome journey through the intervening wilderness with a team. He located at St. Charles, Kane County, and was engaged in carpentering there for a time. He afterwards lived in Ogle

County until his removal to this county in 1848. He was among the first to select what is now Viola Township as a suitable location for a home, and he bought and entered a tract of Government land on section 36. He devoted his energies to its improvement until 1862, when he went forth to help fight the battles of his adopted country, enlisting in Company I, Eighty-ninth Illinois Infantry. He served nearly a year, and was then honorably discharged on account of disability, from which he never fully recovered, and his death some time afterward on his farm was in a measure due to that. He sacrificed his life for the Government under whose banners he had fought just as much as though he had died on the battlefield. The mother of our subject, who now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Annis Craddock, in Willow Creek Township, bore the maiden name of Susan Miller, and she was a native of Canada.

He of whom we write was very young when he was brought to this county, and his earliest recollections are of Viola Township, in the days of its transition from a wilderness to a well-cultivated, rich, agricultural center. At the time the family settled here, and for some years afterward there were no railways in Illinois, and the farmers were obliged to haul their grain with teams to Chicago to market. Our subject can remember when deer and other kinds of game, that are not now seen here, were abundant. He attended school in his youth, and obtained a practical training in all that pertains to farming on the old homestead.

Fired with youthful patriotism, our subject left school in January, 1864, to take his place in the ranks with the brave boys in blue, his name being enrolled as a member of Battery G, Second Illinois Light Artillery. He went with his regiment to the South, and saw active service in the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Missouri. He was with his regiment in all its marches and campaigns, until after the war was brought to a close, and won a fine record as a gallant and fearless fighter. After his honorable discharge with his comrades in September, 1865, he returned to his old home and quietly resumed farming, taking charge of the homestead, which has since become his. The excellent con-

dition of his farm, with its highly cultivated, neatly fenced fields, and its substantial improvements, shows that he is a good farmer, and is well deserving of the prosperity he enjoys. He is a hard worker and a good manager, is prudent and thrifty, and at the same time is open-handed and uses his money freely, not only to advance his own interests, but to benefit others. His fellow-citizens have confidence in his honor and ability, and have called him to positions of trust in various capacities. He has been a member of the School Board, has been Assessor, and has represented Viola Township on the County Board of Supervisors, and in all cases has striven to promote the best interests of the community. In politics, he is as true to the Republican party as he was in the days when he was supporting its principles on Southern battlefields. His army record is commemorated by his connection with the Grand Army of the Republic, as a member of William Thompson Post.

Mr. Abell was married in February, 1862, to Miss Leonora Lazarus, a native of Brooklyn Township, Lee County, and a daughter of Silas and Mary (Pierce) Lazarus. Our subject and his wife are the parents of eight children, namely: Charles J., Philip S., Harrie H., Laura L., Cecil, Millie, Stella and Robert L.

**L** EVI E. HART, who owns and operates two hundred and forty acres of land on sections 25 and 26, Nachusa Township, claims Pennsylvania as the State of his nativity. His birth occurred in Venango County, on the 30th of August, 1846, his parents being Erastus and Ruth (Wilcox) Hart. They were both natives of Genesee County, N. Y., the former born December 14, 1809, and the latter on the 15th of December, 1812. Their marriage was celebrated in Venango County, Pa., March 15, 1831, after which they located on a farm, where were born unto them nine children, our subject the only son. He has three sisters yet living: Alvisa, wife of S. M. Lupper, a farmer of Venango County, Pa.; Jennie, wife of

Samuel Smith, a resident farmer of the same county; and Lura, wife of James Williams, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Ringgold County, Iowa. The year 1865 witnessed the emigration of the parents to Lee County, Ill. Mr. Hart purchased land in Nachusa Township, and to its improvement and cultivation devoted his energies until his death, which occurred October 4, 1868. He was a worthy and faithful citizen, a prominent member of the Methodist Church, and his house was always the home of the preachers of that denomination. His wife resided with her son until her death, December 8, 1891, at an advanced age. She, too, was a member of the Methodist Church, and had lived the life of a noble Christian woman.

In the county of his nativity, Levi Hart spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and on his eighteenth birthday, in 1864, enlisted for the late war, joining the Fourth Pennsylvania Cavalry, which was then stationed in front of Petersburg, where he remained with his regiment until after the surrender of Lee. The war being then brought to a close, he received his honorable discharge in Harewood Hospital, in Washington, D. C., where he had been sent on account of illness. For nine months he was actively engaged in service and proved a faithful soldier. He participated in the Grand Review at Washington and then joined his family in Illinois, whither they had come a few weeks previous.

Mr. Hart has had control of his present farm for twenty-three years and it has been his property for some years past. The land is under a high state of cultivation and the place is well supplied with good farm buildings, such as one expects to see on the place of a model farmer. In connection with the raising of cereals, he also engaged extensively in the dairy and creamery business, which he established in 1872, and carried on until quite recently, keeping from forty to fifty cows for this purpose. He now represents the Condensed Milk Company, and has twenty cows. Mr. Hart possesses good business ability, and by his enterprise and good management has become a substantial farmer of this community.

In Dixon Mr. Hart led to the marriage altar Miss Emeline Hinds, a native of Susquehanna

County, Pa., born June 21, 1846. Her father, Almond Hinds, was born in the same county, where he grew to manhood and married Miss Jane Fowler, a native of Greene County, N. Y. Both were of English descent. In 1855 they left the East for Illinois, locating in Dixon, where Mr. Hinds followed his trade of shoemaking for some years, but later lived retired. He died in Dixon at the age of sixty-eight. His wife still survives him and is living in that city at the age of sixty-five. In religious belief she is a Baptist, and to that church Mr. Hinds also belonged.

Mrs. Hart is the youngest of four daughters, all of whom are yet living. The eldest, Agnes, is the widow of Jerome Holbrook, and resides in Dixon; Mary is the wife of Almond Doolittle, of Chicago; and Laura is the widow of John McIlvane, also of Chicago.

In the public schools of Dixon, Mrs. Hart acquired her education. She is a lady of intelligence and culture, and by her marriage has become the mother of two children: Sybil and Leon. Mr. Hart exercises his right of franchise in the support of the Republican party, of which he is a staunch advocate, and in his social relations he is a Mason and a member of the Modern Woodmen.



**F**REDERICK KEISTER was a member of an Illinois regiment during the Civil War, and fought nobly for his adopted country. He is now serving it equally as well in his capacity as a tiller of the soil, his farm of forty-five acres of well-improved land lying on sections 20 and 21 Nelson Township. He was born in Hanover, Germany, December 31, 1844. His parents, Augustus and Verenia Keister, were also natives of the Kingdom of Hanover. They were there married, and, after the birth of five children, emigrated to this country, where they hoped to do better by their family than was possible in the Fatherland. They sailed from Bremerhaven in the spring of 1856, and six weeks and four days later landed at New York. They immediately came Westward as

far as this State, Dixon being their destination. They were very poor at that time, but were strong and capable, and after some years the father made his first purchase of land in 1865, on section 21, Nelson Township, he having previously farmed as a renter. He has prospered, and now owns a good farm of two hundred acres, free from encumbrance. He and his wife are people of sterling merit, and in them the Lutheran Church finds two of its most faithful members.

Our subject came to this county first in 1856. He subsequently saw four years of hard service in the South during the Rebellion. After that he came back to this township, and has been a resident here since 1865, with the exception of a few years spent in Nebraska. He has owned his present farm eight years, and has toiled hard to put it into the fine condition it is in to-day.

Mr. Keister has been twice married. His first wife was Ellen Woolford, who was born in Maryland, and came to Illinois in 1864 with her parents, and is now deceased. She was quite young when the family removed to this State. She was married to our subject in 1870, and died in 1880, leaving three children: Carrie, Fred and Anna. Mr. Keister was subsequently married to Miss Ida Page in Jordon Township, Whiteside County. She was born in Dixon, and passed the early years of her girlhood in that city until she went to Whiteside County, where she lived until her marriage. Her parents, Henry and Phoebe (Groh) Page, died when middle aged on the farm in this county. Mr. Page was a German by birth, and came to this country when a young man. He was married in Lee County, Ill., Mrs. Page being a native of Pennsylvania. Mr. Keister and his wife have had three children: Walter, now deceased, Harry and Jesse Leroy. Mr. and Mrs. Keister are members of the Lutheran Church, and their thoughtfulness for others, true neighborliness and social qualities give them an important place in the community. Mr. Keister is in full sympathy with the doctrines of the Republican party. He holds the office of Justice of the Peace of the township very acceptably.

We should be doing but scant justice to our subject, did we not refer to his career as a soldier. Shortly after the late war broke out, he entered the

Union Army, with the patriotic motive of helping to fight the battles of the Government under whose institutions he had come to live. His name was enrolled as a member of Company A, Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry, which was under the command of Col. Kirk and Capt. W. C. Robertson. His regiment was organized in September, 1861, and was dispatched to the front to join the Army of the Tennessee. Mr. Keister was scarcely more than a boy when he enlisted, but his fidelity to the cause, his efficiency and promptness in the discharge of his duties, and his bravery, made his services as valuable as those of many a battle-scarred veteran, and on numerous occasions the youth won the commendations of his superiors. He was in many important engagements, scaling the heights of Missionary Ridge in the famous battle fought there, accompanying Sherman on his march to the sea, assisting in the capture of Atlanta, and again facing the enemy at Bentonville, N. C., and finally taking part in the Grand Review at Washington in May, 1865. Through all those terrible years he miraculously escaped unwounded, but in the forced march from Raleigh, N. C., when the infantry had to trudge forty-five miles a day in the intense heat, and suffering from a scarcity of water, he succumbed to a sunstroke near Richmond Va., May 15, 1865, from the effects of which he has never fully recovered. He was honorably discharged with his regiment in July, 1865, and since leaving the service has been pensioned by a grateful Government for what he suffered in its defense.



ANDREW J. BRUBAKER is one of the oldest established merchants of Dixon, having successfully engaged in the mercantile business in this city for a period of thirty-two years. He is a native of Huntingdon County, Pa., and first opened his eyes to the scene of his birth, January 15, 1830. His father was Benjamin Brubaker, also a native of Pennsylvania, born in Lancaster County. He was a son of J. Brubaker, a Pennsylvanian by birth, and a life-long farmer,

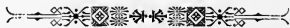
carrying on his occupation in Lancaster County. The father of our subject was reared on a farm in his native county, and continued to reside there for some years after his marriage to Elizabeth Kauffman, a native of Pennsylvania. He then took up his abode in Huntingdon County, and was there until 1847, when he sold his property, in order to remove to Illinois, coming hither with his wife and ten children by the way of canal to Pittsburg, and from there on the Ohio, Mississippi and Illinois Rivers to Peru, whence they proceeded with a team to their destination in Ogle County, arriving after a three weeks' journey. Mr. Brubaker bought a farm near Polo, on which he lived a few years, and then he removed to the village of Polo, where he lived retired with his wife until death called them hence.

Our subject received an excellent education in the schools of Huntingdon County and was well trained at home by his worthy parents in all that goes to make a self-reliant, efficient, straightforward man. He accompanied his parents and the other members of the family to their pioneer home, when they located in Ogle County, this State, and in 1841, at the age of seventeen years, he came to Dixon, and entered upon his first experience of a mercantile life as a clerk in the employ of J. B. Brooks. He continued with that gentleman in the same capacity until 1859, and by that time had become thoroughly acquainted with every detail of the business, so that he was fully prepared to begin his independent career as a merchant in that year, in partnership with William H. Van Epps and Mr. Ferguson, under the firm name of Brubaker, Van Epps & Ferguson, they being successors to the father of Mr. Van Epps. Afterwards Mr. Ferguson withdrew from the firm, which was then changed to Wm. H. Van Epps & Co.

Mrs. Van Epps, after the death of her husband, sold her interest in the establishment, in 1881, to John R. Carpenter, and the firm changed to Brubaker and Carpenter. He has a store that is neat in its appointments, and is well stocked with a first-class line of goods, and he commands a good trade, numbering among his customers many people who have dealt with him for years. He stands well in financial circles as one of the solid business

meu of the community, who is always fair and above-board in all his transactions, has made his money honorably, honesty and truthfulness being conspicuous traits of his character, and his fellow-citizens place implicit confidence in his word. He is an earnest Christian and has used his influence to elevate the moral and religious status of the community. In him and his estimable wife, the Presbyterian Church has two valued members, who contribute cheerfully of their means toward its support. He has served as Trustee of the church, and for several years was leader of the choir, which under his inspiration furnished the congregation with soul-stirring music. In politics, Mr. Brubaker has been a devoted Republican ever since the formation of the party, and his first Presidential vote was cast for J. C. Fremont. Socially, he is a member of Friendship Lodge, No. 7, A. F. & A. M., and was Treasurer for a number of years; and of Benevolent Camp, No. 56, M. W. A., of which he was a charter member, and its first banker.

Mr. Brubaker was married in 1857 to Miss Sarah Mulligan, a native of Boston, Mass., and she has made their home cozy and attractive. They have taken to their hearts an adopted daughter, Grace by name, who has never lacked the tender care and affection of a father and mother since she came to them.



**E** J. RYAN, a successful grocery man of Dixon, has been engaged in business in this city in his present line since the 13th of March, 1885, and has met with prosperity in his undertakings. He keeps a first-class store, complete in all its appointments, and from the beginning his trade has rapidly increased until he now has a large paying patronage. In order to enlarge his facilities, he has just built a new storeroom on Hennepin Avenue that is conveniently arranged and will be opened as a first-class grocery store soon. By courteous treatment of his customers and fair and honest dealing, he has worked up the excellent trade which he now receives and which he justly merits.



Mr. Ryan claims Connecticut as the State of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Torrington, Litchfield County, on the 15th of July, 1846. His parents, Philip and Anastacia (Londergon) Ryan, were natives of the Emerald Isle, born in County Tipperary, where their marriage was celebrated and where they became parents of four children, all having been born in this country. On emigrating to America, they located in Connecticut, and their last days were spent in Norfolk, where the father died at the age of eighty-four years and the mother in the sixty-seventh year of her age. Both were active members of the Roman Catholic Church. Five of their children are yet living, two sons and three daughters. Three of their sons wore the blue during the late war. Our subject enlisted in the one-hundred-day service as a member of Company K, Eighth Massachusetts Infantry, and John was also in the one-hundred-day service. Another brother, Timothy, who was an attorney at law by profession, served his country as an Orderly-Sergeant and laid down his life for the Union. He now sleeps on Southern soil.

Mr. Ryan, the subject of this notice, when a youth began working in the hosiery factory in Massachusetts, where he learned the business and was employed in that line for some years. He then determined to seek a home in the West, and prior to coming to Dixon had resided for some time in St. Joseph, Mich., being connected with the firm of Cooper, Wells & Co., hosiery manufacturers, as manager of the yarn department. His previous training had well fitted him for the position and he was a trusted employe of the firm for some years.

On the 17th of June, 1884, Mr. Ryan led to the marriage altar Miss Mary Kronewitter, their union being celebrated in Mishawaka, Ind., her native city. Her parents, Nicholas and Margaret (Winekauf) Kronewitter, still reside in that place. They are both natives of Bavaria, Germany, where they resided until after their marriage when they crossed the Atlantic and took up their residence in St. Joseph County, Ind. With the Roman Catholic Church both Mr. and Mrs. Kronewitter hold membership and Mr. and Mrs. Ryan are prominent members of the church of that denomination in

Dixon. Unto them were born two children but both died in infancy. At local election, Mr. Ryan is independent, voting for the man whom he thinks best qualified, but on national questions he supports Democratic principles. Although numbered among the comparatively late arrivals in Dixon, he and his wife have won many warm friends in this locality and are held in high respect by all who know them.



ANDREW RICHEY is a prosperous farmer of this county, owning and occupying a fine farm that is located partly in the village of Paw Paw. He comes of an old pioneer family of Stark County, Ohio, where he was born near the town of Fulton, March 14, 1830. His father, John Richey, was a native of County Donegal, Ireland, and was a son of James Richey, who is supposed to have been born in the same county, as he was there reared and married. He came to this country with his family in 1797, and was one of the first settlers of Wayne County, Ohio. He secured a quarter-section of land in the midst of the primeval forests, and there hewed out a home, in which he lived in peace and contentment the remainder of his life. He was a staunch member of the Presbyterian Church, and reared his children in that faith.

The father of our subject was a lad of fourteen years when he came to America with his parents. He went to Pennsylvania after he attained manhood, and was a resident of Beaver County until after his marriage. He subsequently returned to Ohio, and entered a tract of Government land in Stark County, near the town of Fulton, and in the log cabin which he erected on the spot, his son of whom we write was born. After he had built this shelter, the father returned to Beaver County, Pa., and in the following spring, accompanied by his wife and the two children that had been born to them there, he went back to Ohio with a team. At that time and for some years after, deer and other wild game were abundant, while Indians still lingered in the forests that had so long been their

home. There were no railways or canals for a time, and Cleveland, forty miles away, was the nearest market to which the pioneers could take their produce to sell. Busy years of downright hard labor followed his settlement in that region, but when he folded his hands in death Mr. Richey left as the result of his toil a well-cleared and finely improved farm. In his work, he had the active assistance of his wife, who survived him many years. After his death, she came to Illinois, and in June, 1890, passed away at the home of our subject at the venerable age of ninety-three years. Her maiden name was Ellen Nixon. She was born in Lancaster County, Pa., and was reared in Beaver County. She was the mother of eleven children, eight of whom are still living. Robert, Thomas and James served with honor in the late war, and Thomas died in battle while bravely fighting for his country. John is a physician in Crawford County, Ohio.

The subject of this brief biographical review passed his early years amid the pioneer scenes of his birthplace, and was educated in the early schools of his native State. The first that he attended was taught in a log house, furnished with slab benches, and a slab against the wall served as the only desk in the room. Just as soon as large enough, he began to help on the farm, and in due time acquired a thorough practical understanding of agriculture in all its branches. He was never separated from his parents until their death, being their mainstay and comfort in their declining years. He lived on the old homestead in Ohio until 1865, when he came to Lee County and purchased a farm in Brooklyn Township. In 1874 he sold that place and bought the farm that he now occupies, a part of which lies in the village of Paw Paw. Its improvements are of a substantial order, and he is continually adding to them, and increasing the value of his property from year to year.

During his residence of a quarter of a century or more in this section of Illinois, Mr. Richey has acquired an assured position among the most reliable and respected men of his calling, who are diligently upholding and extending the great agricultural interests that are so important in maintaining the prosperity of the county. He is

a man of sound and sensible views on all subjects with which he is conversant, and in his political opinions is an unswerving Republican, and has been ever since he cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. Fremont, the first candidate of the party.



**M**AJ. JAMES A. WATSON, who wore military honors in the Civil War as an officer of an Illinois regiment, was for many years a prominent business man of Dixon, where he is now living in practical retirement from an active life, meriting and receiving the respect due to a man of his character and position.

Maj. Watson was born April 1, 1812, in the State of New Jersey. His father, George Watson removed from there to New York, and settled in Seneca County, where he resided a few years and then went to live in Wayne County. He worked on the Erie Canal when it was in process of construction, and continued his residence in Wayne County until 1843, when he took up his abode with his son David in Calhoun County, Mich., and remained with him until his death. The maiden name of his wife was Hannah Van Shoyic. She was a descendant of one of the old Holland families that peopled New York in the early years of its settlement, and she died in Wayne County, that State.

The subject of this sketch left the parental home at the age of ten years to live with a cousin, and remained with him until he was fifteen years old. He then started out even with the world, and from that time has earned his own living. His first employment was as a driver on the tow path on the Erie Canal, and he made three trips from Clyde to Albany in that capacity. He then turned his attention to learning the trade of a carpenter, and after a three-years' apprenticeship, during which time he became an expert mechanic, he commenced business on his own account as a contractor and builder near St. Catharines, Canada, where he

remained six years. In 1839 he returned to the States, and settling in Calhoun County, Mich., was a pioneer of that region. He bought a tract of heavily timbered land three miles from Marshall. At that time there were no railways in that county, and the abundance of deer and other wild animals was evidence that the pioneers had made but little headway in their efforts to reclaim the land from the wilderness.

The Major followed his trade in Michigan until 1845, when he made a new departure, coming to Illinois, making the journey hither with a team, and casting in his fortunes with the brave, hardy and intelligent pioneers that had preceded him in this section of the country. He took a contract shortly after his arrival to build bridges over the Illinois and Michigan Canal, and later took another on the Chicago and Galena Railway, now the Northwestern Railway, the first road completed out of Chicago. In 1852 he came to Dixon, as a contractor on the Illinois Central Railway, and has ever since been an honored resident of this city, with the exception of the time when he was at the front helping to fight his country's battles.

In 1862 Major Watson volunteered for service in the army, enlisting in Company A, Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry, and was at once commissioned as Captain of his company. Two months later he was promoted to be Major, and served with his regiment in that capacity until the close of the war. His promotion was due solely to his merit, as from the very beginning it was seen that he possessed the native energy, the firmness, executive capacity and dauntless courage so necessary for a leader of men, and his subsequent career in the various important battles in which he fought justified his selection for a position of trust and honor. He did good service in the hotly contested battles of Perrysville, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge and Look-out Mt., accompanied Sherman on his Atlanta campaign, and was active in all the important engagements with the enemy from Chattanooga to Atlanta, and did his share of the fighting that took place in the siege and capture of that city. After that he was present at the battles of Franklin and Nashville. He suffered all the hardships

and privations that our heroic soldiers bore so uncomplainingly, and was twice wounded—once at Buzzard's Roost, when he and a number of others were injured by the falling of a tree that had been shot off, and once by a spent shot before Atlanta. After the war closed, he was honorably discharged with his regiment.

Returning to Dixon from the battle-fields of the South, our subject resumed his business as bridge builder, which he carried on until 1873. In that year he was appointed commander of the United States boat No. 4, used in making necessary repairs on the Illinois and Michigan Canal. The Government found in him a most efficient official, who during the whole period of eight years that he held the position was faithful in the discharge of his duties. Since that time he has lived practically retired in his pleasant home at Dixon, where he has many warm friends that he has gathered from a large circle of acquaintances during the many years he has been known throughout this county.

Maj. Watson has been twice married. In 1836 he was wedded to Miss Catherine Van Riper, a native of New Jersey, and a daughter of John Van Riper. She died in 1846, leaving these four children: Hester, wife of George Millen, a resident of Rome, Italy; Jennie, who married Charles Sweet, of Benton Harbor, Mich.; Josephus and Henry. Josephus served with credit in the same regiment with his father during the Rebellion, and continuing in the service in the regular army after the war ended, he lost his life in Arizona while in the service. The second marriage of our subject, which took place in 1853, was to Mrs. Susan (Clute) Loveland. By this union there are two children living: Fred and Samuel. The former is superintendent of the Riverside Shoe Co., of Dixon. The latter is a commercial traveller and resides at Fremont, Neb. Mr. and Mrs. Watson's only daughter, Nettie, married Theodore Hyde, and died in September, 1888. Mrs. Watson has two children by her former marriage living: Kittie, the wife of Dr. H. E. Paine, and George, a real-estate dealer, of Dixon. Her son, Willet O., was a brave soldier in the late war, and died in 1890 from a disease contracted while in the service.

Mrs. Watson was born in Schenectady, N. Y.,

and is a daughter of Wessel and Sarah (Sultz) Clute, who are represented in the sketch of F. C. McKenney. Mrs. Watson's first husband, Richard B. Loveland, was born in Bainbridge, N. Y., and was a son of Otis and Melitable (Parker) Loveland. His father kept a hotel at Bainbridge for several years. He came to Dixon in 1837, and the latter part of his life was passed in this city. His son, Richard, was sixteen years old when he came to Dixon to accept a position with his brother-in-law, Smith Galbraith, and for a time he was overseer of a corps of men engaged in clearing the rocks from the river at Rock Falls, it being then the intention to make Rock River navigable. He subsequently secured the contract to carry the mail from Madison to Milwaukee, and as he also carried passengers between the two cities the business was remunerative. He continued in that until Frink & Walker's stage route was established, and he then turned his attention to the grocery trade. He was successfully engaged in that business until death closed his promising career in 1851, at the early age of thirty-one years, and Dixon was deprived of one of its most enterprising business men, who, if his life had been spared, would doubtless have been an important factor in promoting its growth and financial prosperity.



**E**VANS C. THOMAS, a retired farmer residing at Franklin Grove, was born in Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., November 9, 1813. He is a son of Silas and Rebecca (Campbell) Thomas, who, soon after his birth, removed to Niagara County, N. Y., where the mother died, leaving three children: Mary, who married William Duncan, died in Genesee, Ill.; Samuel, who resides in Florida, and our subject.

Evans C. Thomas of this sketch married Mary Ann Nichols, who was a native of Niagara County, N. Y. The young couple removed to Oakland County, Mich., in 1836, where our subject was engaged in clearing land, splitting rails, etc. Three years later he came to Lee County and passed the first winter in Franklin Grove. The following

spring he purchased a claim near the Grove and there resided until 1871, and then removed to the village of Franklin Grove. On locating here, he became the possessor of two hundred and sixty acres of land, but now owns only one hundred acres. The father of our subject came West, and departed this life in 1876.

The first wife of Mr. Thomas died in 1842, having become the mother of three children, two of whom, William H. and Ruba, are living. In 1845 he married Harriet A. Whitman, who was born in New York State, and died in 1867. By that union were born ten children, eight of whom are living, namely: Julia, Martha, Mary, Belle, Ann E., Lillian, Evans W. and Abraham. In politics, our subject is a Republican.



**S**AMUEL PETER HOYLE. This gentleman, who is one of the progressive farmers of South Dixon Township, has a beautiful and well-improved estate located on section 35, and which includes one hundred and twenty acres. He was born on his father's old homestead in this township, June 10, 1865. He was given a good education in the common schools, residing with his parents until reaching his twenty-second year, since which time he has lived on the farm which he now owns and occupies, and which adjoins the old homestead. He is a progressive and industrious young man and is the youngest son of John Hoyle, now residing in Eldena, for a further sketch of whom the reader is referred to the biography of Joshua P. Hoyle, found elsewhere in this book.

Our subject was married in South Dixon Township to Katie Ulrich, who was born June 6, 1866, in Sandwich, De Kalb County, this State. She is the daughter of Joseph and Maggie (Hunt) Ulrich, now residing in Marion Township, this county, but who were natives of France and Ireland, respectively. Mrs. Hoyle is the eldest of the parental family of five sons and two daughters yet living, and was reared and educated in Marion Township. By her union with our subject, she has become the

mother of one son, John J. Mr. and Mrs. Hoyle are highly esteemed in the community in which they reside, and in her religious faith the wife is a Catholic. Mr. Hoyle is a Republican in politics and is thoroughly in sympathy with all good measures.



**E**BENEZER M. PETTINGER is contributing to the general prosperity of Lee County by his work as a farmer in Willow Creek Township. A native of Passaic County, N. J., he was born March 23, 1840. His father, Cortland Pettinger, was also a native of New Jersey, his birthplace being in Somerset County. He passed his early life in his native county on a farm, but he was married in Passaic County, and carried on his occupation there until his untimely death in 1846. His wife survives him, and now makes her home in Morris County, N. J., where she was born. Her maiden name was Sarah Thorpe, and she is a daughter of Samuel Thorpe.

Our subject was reared in his native State, and lived with his mother until he grew to manhood. In 1863 he determined to seek his fortunes in the middle Western States, and for a year and a half lived in Linn County, Iowa. He then recrossed the Mississippi, and coming to this county has since been identified with the industrious, shrewd and business-like men who are carrying on the immense agricultural interests of Northern Illinois. For a while he was employed on a farm by the month, and then for twenty years he rented the farm in Willow Creek Township on which he now resides. This is provided with suitable buildings, its fields are neatly fenced and well tilled, and the place bears evidence of good care. Mr. Pettenger is an excellent farmer, is a good citizen, his neighbors know him to be reliable and trustworthy, and his family find in him a kind husband and a devoted father.

Mr. Pettenger was first married in 1867 to Miss Emma Barnhart, a native of Lee County, and a daughter of Henry Barnhart. Their married life

was but brief, as she died the following year. Our subject was again married, April 4, 1870, Miss Lucy Blair becoming his wife.

They have five children living: Lewis, Albert, Reuben, Morris and Levi. Death has crossed their threshold and removed their eldest, Wesley, who died in 1890, aged twenty years, and their youngest born, Winfield, who died in 1890, at the age of two years. The youth just entering manhood, and the little child that gladdened the hearts of parents and brothers for so brief a time, have but passed from their home to a broader and better life beyond, where they still live and love:

“Lost, 'tis true,  
For the light that shines for you;  
But in the light ye cannot see,  
Of undisturbed felicity—  
In a perfect paradise,  
And a life that never dies.”

\* \* \* \* \*

“Weep awhile, if ye are fain,  
Sunshine still must follow rain;  
Only not at death, for death,  
Now we know, is that first breath  
Which our souls draw when we enter  
Life, which is of all life centre.”

Mrs. Pettenger is a native of this county, born at Malugin's Grove, and a daughter of Robert Blair, a pioneer of this part of Illinois. Her father was born in Somerset, N. J., and was a son of another Robert Blair, who was a native of Ireland. The father of the latter was also named Robert, who was born either in Scotland or in Ireland, and was of Scotch ancestry. He was one of five brothers that came to America in Colonial times. Mrs. Pettenger's grandfather was a clerk in one of the Government departments at Washington, D. C. Some years later he went to Ohio, and after a residence there of some years, he came to Illinois, and for a time lived in Canton, Fulton County. From there he went to Galesburg, and subsequently came to Lee County to spend his declining years with his children.

Mrs. Pettenger's father was twelve years old when his parents moved to Ohio, and he there grew to manhood, and became a miller. He went from Ohio to Indiana, and was married at Ft. Wayne, to Luey Dunton, a native of Jefferson

County, N. Y., and a daughter of Ephraim and Abigail (Ball) Dunton. In 1843 the Blairs came to Illinois, and after living at Galesburg two years came to Lee County in 1845, and was the second family to settle at Twin Grove, where the father entered a tract of Government land, upon which he built a log house for shelter. At that time the surrounding country was in a sparsely settled condition, and deer and other kinds of game were plentiful. There were no railways for some years, and the settlers had to go to Chicago to market their grain and to obtain necessary household supplies.

Mr. Blair improved a farm and lived on it some years, and then removed to Malugin's Grove, where he erected and operated a gristmill for a time. After the death of his wife in 1856, he went to live with his daughter, Mrs. Robert Armstrong, and was an inmate of her home until his death in 1881.



**G**EORGE A. HARMS. This young and enterprising farmer is the owner of one hundred and ten acres situated on sections 3 and 4, Palmyra Township, and seventy-two acres in another part of the township. A thrifty and judicious farmer, he has met with unusual success in tilling the soil, and has brought his property to a high state of cultivation. He was born in this township near where he now lives, on his father's old homestead, July 6, 1852, and was the oldest child in his father's family. He was reared and educated in his native place and has always resided here, having nothing cosmopolitan in his nature. His father, Anton Harms, who was born in Oldenburg, Germany, in August, 1800, was descended from good old German stock, and when he was young emigrated to this country, and after some time came to Illinois, with the intention of securing a good home. He left his wife and family at Buffalo, N. Y., and before he returned from his Western tour his wife died.

Bringing his children with him, the father of our subject again came to Illinois and made a

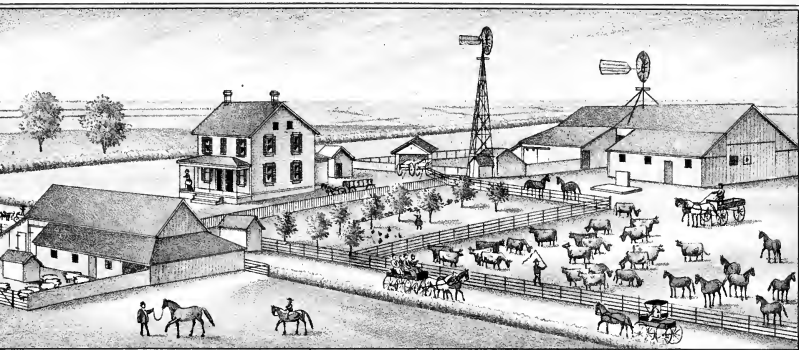
permanent settlement in Palmyra Township, this county. In this place he was united in marriage with Anna M. Hector, a native of the same place as her husband. She made the journey across the water when a young woman and came direct to this State. After marriage the parents of our subject lived in this township the remainder of their days, the death of the father occurring July 15, 1878. He was the possessor of four hundred acres of land in this township, advocated the principles of the Democratic party, and with his wife held membership in the Lutheran Church.

Our subject was married in this township to Miss Harriet Brauer, who was born in this county, August 30, 1860, and was reared and educated in Nelson Township. Her parents, Louis and Louisa (Tole) Brauer, natives of Germany, came to America before their marriage and met in Nelson Township. They lived on a farm in that township until the death of Mr. Brauer, when past middle life. The wife and mother now resides in Palmyra Township. She is a faithful and conscientious member of the Lutheran Church, as was her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Harms are the parents of two children—Elsie A. and Paul B. They are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church, and in politics he is a stalwart Republican.

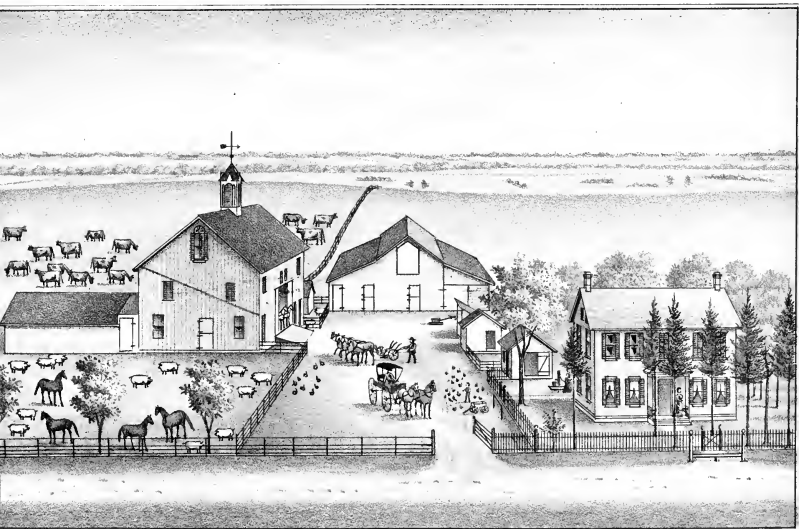
The cozy residence in which Mr. Harms and his family are domiciled is one of the most convenient and substantial in the community, and a view of it, with its pleasant environments, appears elsewhere in this volume.



**G**ILBERT MESSER. All honor is due to the noble pioneers of this county who braved the hardships of frontier life, endured many privations and sacrificed much in order to redeem the land from the wilderness and establish comfortable homes for themselves and their families. It is to their patient and persistent labors that the growth and prosperity of this section of the country were laid on enduring foundations. Some of these men are still living among us, although four or five decades may have passed by since their



RESIDENCE OF G. A. HARMS , SEC. 3, PALMYRA TP, LEE CO, ILL.



RESIDENCE OF E. H. RICKARD , SEC. 5, PALMYRA TP, LEE CO, ILL.

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settlement here, and they are among our most valued citizens. One of these, whose name appears at the head of this biography, may well lay claim to respect as one of the old settlers of the county, in whose development he has borne a part for a length of time lacking scarcely a year of half a century. The land in South Dixon Township that he purchased of the Government so long ago he has transformed into a farm that is classed among the very best in this locality in point of tillage, productiveness and a high state of improvement.

Our subject is a sturdy representative of the sons of New Hampshire who have become adopted citizens of Illinois. He was born in the old Granite State, May 7, 1812, his birthplace being in the town of Hopkinton, near the town of New London, in Merrimac County. His ancestors, who were of Scotch origin, were some of them among the early settlers of New Hampshire, which was the native State of his grandparents on both sides of the house, and of his parents, Richard and Ruth (Giles) Messer, his mother, a native of Merrimac County, being also of Scotch descent. The Messers and Giles were mostly farmers for generations, as far back as anything is known of them. When scarcely past the prime of life, Richard Messer died in Merrimac County, where he had always lived, and an honest-minded, industrious and well-respected citizen was lost to the community by his untimely death. His widow subsequently married Austin Cheney, and continued to reside in her native county until her demise, at the age of three-score years and ten. By her second marriage, she became the mother of thirteen children, of whom Giles Cheney is the only survivor. He is married and lives at Plaistow, N. H.

Our subject was the only child born to his father, and he was very young when the latter died. He was reared by his mother and step-father amid the beautiful scenery of his native county. A healthy, self-reliant, independent spirit, thrift, capability, and a sturdy common-sense in business matters, traits so common to the New England character, were his by the right of birth, and to them he owes his good fortune. In his youth he learned the trade of a blacksmith after his

school-days were over, and followed it in a general way for some years before he left his native hills to try life on the prairies of Illinois. He came to this State in 1843, and, as we have seen, was well fitted to cope with the trials of pioneer life. He at first established a smithy in Dixon, but that was only a preliminary step until he could obtain some land and settle down to farming. He soon purchased a tract of school land in South Dixon Township, and the deed which gave him the title to it, which was signed by Gov. French, is still in his possession. He has here nearly two hundred acres of choice farming land, which he has developed into a fine farm, upon which he has placed modern improvements, his well-built, commodious buildings being supplied with every convenience, and comparing with the finest in the neighborhood; his neatly fenced fields are under an admirable system of tillage, and the rich pastures are capable of sustaining a great deal of stock. Besides this place, Mr. Messer has some valuable timber land in Dixon Township, and he is one of the substantial men of his community. Although he is a quiet, unassuming man, the people among whom he has dwelt in peace and amity these many years hold him in warm regard, as they have always found in him a true friend, ever considerate and pleasant in his manner, and they have a high opinion of his personal character, knowing him to be a man of principle and sound integrity. In politics, he is a sound Republican.

While a resident of his native State, Mr. Messer was married, in Francistown, to Miss Eliza Cary, and for more than half a century they have traveled life's highway together. Mrs. Messer was born February 22, 1809, in Hillsboro County, N. H., near where she was married, and she there grew to womanhood in the pleasant home of her parents, Charles and Martha Cary, who were natives of New Hampshire. The Cary family belonged to the old settlers of the State, and were of common ancestry with the poets, Alice and Phebe Cary. Charles Cary was a butcher, and followed that trade the most of his life, living to be quite an old man. His wife survived him several years and attained the venerable age of ninety-three

years. They were of Scotch blood. They were Congregationalists in religion, as were the Messers also. Our subject's wife was one of a good-sized family, of whom she and her two sisters, Mrs. Abby Clarston and Mrs. Sarah Bigsby, residents of New England, are the only survivors. She is a member in high standing of the Presbyterian Church, with which she has been connected for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Messer are the parents of eight children, of whom these two are deceased: Charles, who died young, and Martha J., former wife of C. Clogston, who died in 1880. The remaining children are: Dennison, a harness-maker in Dixon, who married, but has lost his wife; Eliza A., widow of William S. Dodge, who died in California; Ruth A., now at home with her parents, who is a successful teacher, and for four years taught at Sitka, the capital of Alaska; Anna, widow of Capt. George W. Fitch, who was accidentally killed at Englewood, Chicago; George G., a successful farmer of South Dixon, residing on the old homestead, who was a Sergeant in Company A, Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry, and though he fought bravely with his regiment in every campaign in which it took part throughout the war, escaped unhurt; and Frank, who is a progressive, well-educated young man, and assists in the management of his father's farm.

Mr. Messer's son-in-law, William S. Dodge, was a man of much prominence in his life-time and was well known as an historian, writing on topics connected with the war, his connection with the commissary department during that time giving him peculiar advantages for collecting facts concerning the Rebellion. He wrote the history of the old Second Division and of the Seventy-fifth Illinois Regiment, and he was the author of the "Drummer Boy of Shiloh." Capt. Fitch was also prominently connected with the war as a brave officer. He was Captain of a colored regiment, and at one time was captured and shot by the guerrillas in a hard fight with them. They left him for dead on the field, with six others, who were shot outright, lying around their gallant leader. He revived, and was taken by a negro to the Union lines. He, however, carried the bul-

let in his head the remainder of his life, and at times it affected him. After the war he became a lumberman, and was engaged in that business when his career was cut short by his untimely death.



ISAAC B. BERRY is worthy of all honor and respect as one of the pioneers of Northern Illinois, who was identified with its early growth, both as a skillful mechanic and a practical farmer. He came to Lee County in 1862, and for several years devoted himself exclusively to agricultural pursuits in Wyoming Township, where he still owns a good farm, although he now makes his home in the village of Paw Paw, having retired from active business.

Our subject was born March 24, 1813, his birthplace being two miles from Onondaga Hill, and two and one-half miles from Syracuse, N. Y. James W. Berry, his father, is thought to have been a native of New Jersey. The grandfather of our subject removed from that State to New York, and settled three miles below Ft. Edward, near the North River, where he resided until his demise. The father of our subject was reared on a farm. He removed to Onondaga County about 1812, and was one of its early settlers. That was before the time of railways and canals, and the removal to his new abode in the wilderness was made with teams. He leased land, and was a resident there until 1828, when he settled in Oswego County, buying a tract of timber in the town of Volney, and clearing a farm from the forests primeval, making his home there until death closed his eyes in the sleep that knows no waking this side of eternity. The maiden name of his wife was Margaret Baldwin. Her parents were pioneers in the vicinity of Ft. Edward. She too passed from death to the life immortal on the old homestead in Oswego County.

Isaac Berry gained his education in the rude pioneer schools of his native county, the first school that he attended being taught in a log

building, that was furnished with slab seats, supported by wooden pins, and a board against the wall serving as the only desk for the pupils to write on. When he was a youth, there were no railways or canals, and the farmers had to haul their produce to Albany with teams. He was a small boy when he first began to make himself of use on the farm, and he continued to help his father until he was nineteen years of age. Then his natural taste for mechanics led him to adopt the trade of a carpenter, and in order to gain a thorough mastery of his chosen calling, he served a three years' apprenticeship at Oswego, which was then but a village. The first year he received \$96 in payment for his work, and the second year \$315. After he completed his apprenticeship, he did journey-work in his native State until 1838, when he boldly resolved to try his fortunes in the flourishing village of Chicago, which at that time had a population of about four thousand people, and making his way thither, he was for a time actively employed at carpentering. He became a citizen of the place, and voted at the first city election, in 1837. Business was very dull there that year, and he took a contract to build a hotel at Warrenville, in Du Page County. He was pleased with that part of the country, and cast in his lot with its pioneers, buying, in 1838, a claim to a tract of Government land one mile from Warrenville, securing his title to it as soon as the survey was completed and the land came into the market. At that time deer and wolves were plentiful, and there were other wild animals there also, showing that the country was but little advanced from a state of nature.

Mr. Berry worked busily at his trade at Warrenville and Naperville, and contributed much to the upbuilding of those places, and at the same time he superintended the improvement of his land. He was a resident of Du Page County until 1862, when he came to Lee County, and has been identified with its farming interests ever since. He bought a farm, pleasantly located in Wyoming Township, and vigorously engaged in tilling the soil and raising stock for some years. In 1867 he rented the farm, and the ensuing six years lived in the village of Earlville. At the expiration of

that time, he returned to his farm, and spent the next nine years upon it very profitably and pleasantly. He then rented it, and coming to Paw Paw, has since lived there in retirement, in the enjoyment of the income that is the fruit of his industry.

Mr. Berry has been twice married, his first wife, to whom he was wedded in 1847, being Mary Louise Ward, a native of New York State, and a daughter of Dr. Levi and Lillis Ward. She departed this life in December, 1849. Our subject's marriage to his present wife was solemnized in 1856. Mrs. Berry was formerly Harriet E. Rogers. She is a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of David B. and Eliza (Jones) Rogers. Mr. and Mrs. Berry have two children living: Mary Louise, wife of David Dale, of Wichita, Kan.; and Mary E., wife of W. A. Pratt.

Our subject's course throughout a long career of usefulness has been such as to justify the trust in which he is held, as all who have ever had dealings with him have recognized his inherent honesty and truthfulness, and all who are acquainted with him know that he possesses other excellent traits of character that go to the making of a good man, a loyal citizen, a kind neighbor, and a devoted husband and father. In politics, he stands with the Republicans. Religiously, both he and his good wife are members of the Presbyterian Church, and are strong in the faith.



**S**TEPHEN WILTSE, who was one of the pioneers of Wisconsin, has done important pioneer work in Lee County since he took up his residence here, as his valuable farm on section 13, Reynolds Township, was a tract of wild, unbroken prairie land when it came into his possession, nearly twenty years ago, but now ranks with the best in point of cultivation and improvement.

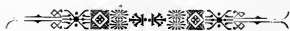
Mr. Wiltse was born in Duaneburgh, Schenectady County, N. Y., November 8, 1817. His father, Henry Wiltse, who was a native of Vermont, went to the State of New York when a young man. He

learned the trade of clothier and dyer, but after his marriage he engaged in farming, buying a farm in Duanesburgh. In 1847 he sold his property there, and moving to Wisconsin east in his lot with the early settlers of Racine County, where he died the following year. The maiden name of his wife was Susan Ladd. She was a native of Duanesburgh, N. Y., and spent her entire life there. Her father, William Ladd, a farmer, was a resident of that town many years, passing the latter part of his life there. The parents of our subject reared fifteen children, of whom he was the eighth in order of birth. He spent his boyhood on the home farm on which he was born, and obtained his education in the local schools. He remained an inmate of the parental home until he was twenty-one and then began his independent career as a farmer on rented land in Duanesburgh. In 1847 he determined to take advantage of the cheap lands of Wisconsin, and with his wife and two children started for that State. They journeyed by the Erie Canal to Buffalo, and by the lakes to Racine. At that time Racine County was scarcely more than a wilderness, in which deer, wolves, bears, wild turkeys and other game roamed at will, while there were but very few settlements throughout its length and breadth.

Mr. Wiltse bought a tract of heavily-timbered land in the forests, five miles north of Racine, and building a log house for a dwelling, he at once set about the hard task of clearing his land. Timber then had but little value, and large logs that would now command a great price were rolled together and burned. He felled the greater part of the trees on his land and in time had an excellent farm, upon which he lived for the space of seventeen years. In 1864 he disposed of his property in Wisconsin, and, coming to Illinois, bought a farm on section 6, Malta Township, De Kalb County. In 1870 he sold that at an advance on the original cost, but did not immediately buy another, as he thought that perhaps the value of the land would depreciate from war prices. He rented instead until 1872, when he came to Lee County, and purchased the land on section 13, Reynolds Township, that forms his present farm. He has placed the entire tract of two hundred and forty acres

under a high state of cultivation, has planted fruit and shade trees, erected a substantial house, stables and other buildings, and as an active, capable, wide-awake farmer, has proved to be a valuable addition to the farming population of this section of the county.

Mr. Wiltse and Miss Sylvia Sisson united their lives and fortunes in the sacred tie of wedlock, July 3, 1841, and in the half-century that they have been together they have been devoted to each other and have been faithful to all the obligations of a true marriage, of which theirs is an example. They have lived in amicable relations with their neighbors, who have always found them open-hearted, responsive to appeals for sympathy or help, and genuine friends at all times. Their hospitality is well known, and strangers have often been the recipients of their bounty. They have five children: Susanna, Willard, Amelia, George and William, to whom they been wise and tender parents, and who may well "rise up and call them blessed."



**B**RITTAJN J. AGLER is a progressive and wide-awake farmer and stock-raiser, residing on section 10, Wyoming Township, one-half mile north of the village of Paw Paw, who, besides his landed estate in this vicinity, has valuable farming interests in Nebraska, and is managing his property with excellent judgment and practical skill, carrying on his agricultural operations after the best modern methods.

Mr. Agler was born in Lycoming County, Pa., April 15, 1848. His father, Jerome Agler, was a native of the same State, and was a son of Jeremiah Agler, who is also supposed to have been a Pennsylvanian by birth. He was a blacksmith and wagon-maker, and carried on business as such in Lycoming County. He was a man of much enterprise, and manufactured all the lumber that he used, operating a sawmill and dry-house in connection with his other business. He spent his last years in that county, where he was well-known and greatly respected. He reared quite a large family.

Jerome Agler assisted his father in the shop and mill even when quite a young lad, and later was employed on a farm. He thus acquired a taste for agricultural pursuits and made farming his life work. He married in Lyeoming County, and resided there until 1849, when he came to Illinois and identified himself with the pioneers of Lee County, which at that time was but sparsely settled and much of the land was still in the hands of the Government. He was accompanied hither by his wife and seven children, and the entire journey, which consumed eight weeks' time, was made by land. The father bought a tract of land in what is now Wyoming Township, where deer, wolves and other wild animals were roaming at will over the prairies, or through the timber on the banks of the streams. His first work was to build a small frame house, for which he hewed the frame and rived the shingles by hand. He resided on that land three years, and then sold it, with the intention of returning to the East, but he changed his mind, and for awhile rented land until he bought forty acres on section 23. He lived there for several years, and actively engaged in its improvement, but in 1875 he disposed of it, in order to take up his residence in Nebraska, where he purchased a tract of wild prairie in Wayne County. He devoted his time to the improvement of a farm, and at the time of his death, March 23, 1885, had his land under good tillage, had erected the necessary buildings and had everything in good order about his place. At his decease, the county was deprived of the services of a practical, hard-working pioneer who had done what he could to develop the country.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Sarah Brittain, and she was a native of Lyeoming County, Pa. She died February 1, 1880, at the home of a son in Lee County, while here on a visit. Her father, William Brittain, was a native of Pennsylvania, and was of English antecedents, his ancestors having been among the early Colonial settlers of the Keystone State in the days of William Penn. He was both a shoemaker and a farmer, and carried on those callings in Lyeoming County, where he spent his last years. There were nine children born to the parents of our subject, of

whom all are living except Maggie, who died at the age of thirty-five years. The others are: Almira, William, Mary E., Joseph W., John E., Sylvester C., Brittain J. and Martha. Joseph and John did gallant service in the late war.

The subject of these lines was but one year old when his parents brought him to Illinois, and he was reared and educated in Wyoming Township. When he was large enough to be of use, he was set to work on the farm, and thus early acquired the necessary experience to make a good farmer. He made his home with his parents until his marriage, but prior to that he began his independent career as a tiller of the soil on rented land, and about one year after he married he bought forty acres of land of his father. He soon sold that, however, to purchase two hundred and forty acres in Wayne County, Neb., intending to take up his residence there, but the raid of the grasshoppers in that region changed his plans, and the ensuing four years he rented his father-in-law's farm in this county. At the expiration of that time he bought a quarter of section 2, Wyoming Township, and lived there until 1885. He then rented the farm, and for six months visited Dakota and Nebraska. Returning to Paw Paw the following fall, he again located on his farm in the spring, which he occupied until 1889, when he bought the place on which he now resides on section 11, of the same township, within a convenient distance of the village of Paw Paw. He now owns two hundred and forty-five acres of choice farming land in Wyoming Township and a quarter of a section in Wayne County, Neb.

Mr. Agler was married September 21, 1873, to Miss Mary E. Pulver, in whom he has a wife who makes his interests her own, and looks well to the comfort of her household. She is a daughter of James F. and Sarah Pulver, and was born in the town of Florida, Montgomery County, N. Y., April 18, 1852. Her marriage with our subject has brought them two children: James J., born April 13, 1875, and Fred W., September 7, 1879.

Our subject is endowed with an ambitious, energetic spirit, is an excellent manager, and in all his undertakings exercises a due amount of prudence and discrimination. In his politics, he is a Repub-

lican, sound and true. He and his wife are greatly esteemed by their neighbors and all who know them, and Mrs. Agler is an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which she is a member.



**C**HARLES A. GUYOT, who owns and operates one hundred and sixty-nine acres of valuable land on section 9, Palmyra Township, where he has made his home continuously since 1861, was born in the West Indies in Guadeloupe, August 11, 1820. The family is of French origin. The paternal grandfather, John Francis B. O. Guyot, was born in Normandy, in the city of Rouen, and came of good French stock. He was educated for a military life and assumed the duties of an officer in Normandy, where for years his family had figured prominently in public affairs, but his eye-sight failing him, he was sent to Guadeloupe, West Indies, where he married the daughter of a prominent planter, Miss Desbonns, whose parents had gone from Turenne, France, to the West Indies in the early part of the seventeenth century. John Francis B. O. Guyot, on leaving France, gave up his title for he believed in Republican principles. He died in Guadeloupe in 1798, at the age of forty-eight years after a thirteen years' residence in the West Indies. While yet a young man in his native land he had organized a French company, of which he was made Captain, to aid the American Colonies in their struggle for independence and fought in many battles, including the one at Yorktown. After his death his widow came to the United States with her two children, one of whom died soon afterward and located in Philadelphia, Pa., hoping to secure a pension in recognition of her husband's services. This was granted her and she continued to reside in Philadelphia until her death, which occurred at an advanced age.

John F. O. Guyot, the father of our subject, was one of the two children above mentioned. He was born in Guadeloupe, West Indies in 1790, and when a boy was sent to Madison, N. J., to be edu-

cated. He afterward returned to the West Indies, where he carried on a large sugar plantation, having under his control from one hundred and seventy-five to two hundred and thirty slaves. At the time of his death he owned a large property and about one hundred and seventy negro slaves. He married a lady of the West Indies, Augustine Lyon, who was born and reared in the French possessions of those islands and came of French Huguenot ancestry. Her father was born in the south of France and was a French merchant, who at the beginning of the present century emigrated to Guadeloupe. His political views were Republican and, in 1815, he had a quarrel with one of the supporters of monarchy, which ended in a duel in which both he and his antagonist were killed. He was then in the prime of life. Mrs. Guyot survived her husband some years and died in 1857, at the age of fifty-five.

We now take up the personal history of our subject, in whom the people of Lee County are most interested. When a lad of nine years he was sent to France to be educated and remained in the schools of Paris until eighteen years of age. He was educated in French, Latin, Greek and classics, after which he returned to his father's plantation in the West Indies, managing the same until the slaves on those islands were emancipated in May, 1848, when in consequence all business relations were materially changed. Soon afterward he came to this country and the following year made an overland trip to California, where he engaged in mining on the Yuba and Feather Rivers, until 1852. He experienced many of the hardships and dangers of such a life, on one occasion was lost in the mountains and at another time engaged in fighting Indians in New Mexico. Returning to Illinois, he purchased his farm in Palmyra Township, which he operated until 1856.

Soon after his return from California Mr. Guyot married Miss Sarah Graham who was born and reared in New York City but was educated in Troy, N. Y. Her father, Capt. Graham, now deceased, was for many years captain of a ship and was prominent in marine circle. He died in New York. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Guyot were born seven children, five of whom are yet living: M. Blanche,

at home; Charles L. who wedded Elizabeth Lawrence and resides on a farm in Palmyra Township; Emil O., Hugh L. and Edward J. The deceased are Mary L. and Charles A.

When Mr. Guyot left his farm in 1856 he returned to the West Indies and carried on his sugar plantation until 1861, when he again came to his farm in Illinois and has since devoted his energies to its cultivation. He owns one hundred and sixty-nine and a half acres, the greater part of which is under the plow and in return for his care and labor yields to him a golden tribute. He has made a success in this, his life work. A well educated man, he keeps himself informed on all the question of the day and is ranked among the best citizens of the community.



**W**ILLIAM AMBLER is a worthy member of the farming community of Lee County, who has aided in carrying on the agricultural interests of this section for more than thirty-one years, and in that time has improved a choice farm in Willow Creek Township. He was born ten miles east of Romuey, Hampshire County, Va., June 2, 1828. His father, who was named John Amhler, is thought to have been a native of the same county, while his father, David Amhler, is believed to have been born in Fauquier County, Va. He was a pioneer of Hampshire County during some part of the last century, and improved a farm from the wilderness, upon which he resided many years. He finally emigrated to Pendleton County, Ky., and made his home with his son, the father of our subject, until his demise at a ripe old age. The maiden name of his wife was Mollie Monroe, and she was also a native of Virginia. She was a daughter of Dr. John Monroe, who was a Virginian by birth, and was of Scotch antecedents. The grandmother of our subject died in Hampshire County, Va.

John Amhler passed the early years of his life in his native county, and was there married. In 1858 he removed to Pendleton County, Ky., bought land

there, and in the course of time developed it into a fine farm, upon which he dwelt in comfort and contentment until death closed his life at a ripe age, in 1875. He was twice married. The maiden name of his first wife, the mother of our subject, was Elizabeth Price, and she is thought to have been a native of Marshall County, Va. She died in Hampshire County, that State. After her death, Mr. Ambler married a second time, taking as his wife Lizzie Lindabood, and there are two children living of that marriage. Thirteen were born and reared of the first marriage.

Our subject grew to manhood amid the pleasant scenes of his native county. When he was but fifteen years old, he commenced to work at the saddler's trade, and he subsequently taught school, farmed, or carried on his trade in Hampshire until 1850. In that year, he went to Kentucky, going by rail to the Ohio River, and thence with team to Falmouth, Pendleton County, where he worked at his trade one year. At the end of that time, he returned to his native county, and continued to live either in West Virginia or in Kentucky until 1859, when he came to Illinois, attracted thither by the many advantages the cheap lands and rich soil of this State offered to a thrifty and industrious farmer. He rented the farm that he now owns in Willow Creek Township, and four years after bought it at \$20 an acre. He has greatly increased its value by the erection of substantially-built buildings, and by placing the land under a high state of cultivation, and on every hand one sees evidences of neatness and good management.

A capable wife, to whom he was married in 1857, has done much for our subject in her hearty cooperation with him in his work. In her maiden days, Mrs. Ambler's name was Frances A. Burd, and she was born in Hampshire County, Va. She is a daughter of Peter and Julia Ann Burd, who are represented in the sketch of William Burd, which appears on another page of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Ambler are held in high consideration by their neighbors, who know them well as kind, charitable and obliging people, ever ready to help others in trouble. They have two children, Ladema Florence and Julia Price. Ladema is the widow of William H. Smith and the mother of two children,

Myrtle Floy and William Arthur. Mrs. Ambler and her elder daughter are valued members of the German Baptist Brethren Church. Julia Price married William G. Durin, September 16, 1891, and now resides in Willow Creek Township.



**J**AMES NEALIS, a capable, prosperous farmer, who is the proprietor of a well-improved farm in Reynolds Township, was born in the County of Donegal, Ireland, May 12, 1836. His father, George Nealis, was a native of the same county, as was also his grandfather, James Nealis. The latter came to this country in 1836 with other members of the family, and spent the remainder of his days in Pennsylvania. His six children, four sons and two daughters, all became citizens of the United States.

The father of our subject spent the first part of his life in the land of his birth, and was there married to Nancy Coyle, whose native place was likewise in County Donegal. In 1836 Mr. and Mrs. Nealis emigrated to this country, where they hoped to have better opportunities to rear and educate their children than were afforded by their own country. They located in the wilderness in what is now Hampshire County, W. Va., where Mr. Nealis bought a tract of land partly covered with timber, ten miles east of Romney. He devoted his energies to clearing his land and tilling the soil, and in due time had developed a good farm, on which he makes his home. He has had the misfortune to lose his beloved wife and companion, who crossed the waters with him to aid him in building up a home in a strange land. She was the mother of nine children that grew to maturity.

When the family came to America, James Nealis was but an infant, and has no recollection of other than his adopted home. He began very early to assist his father in the farm work, and continued to live with his parents until his twenty-second year, when he came to Illinois to take advantage of the many facilities offered by its rich soil to a practical, energetic farmer. He began life here by working on a farm at \$15 a month. He

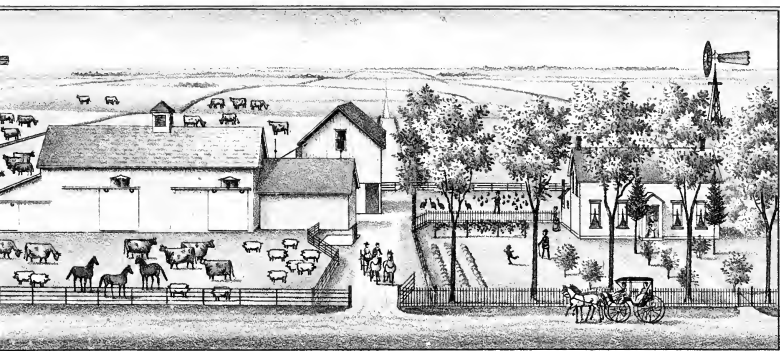
was very industrious and prudent, saved his earnings, and at the end of two years was enabled to buy forty acres of wild land in Willow Creek Township, the price being \$16 an acre. He actively entered upon its improvement, and lived on the place six years, then sold and bought the farm that he now owns and occupies. This comprises two hundred acres of well-improved land, amply provided with good buildings, pleasantly located on section 35, Reynolds Township. A view of the place appears on another page of this volume.

A part of our subject's prosperity is attributable to the valuable assistance he has received from his good wife, whom he secured in the person of Mrs. Mary A. (Davison) Miller, to whom he was wedded December 25, 1870. They have one son, James M. Mrs. Nealis was born in Kingston, Province of Quebec, Canada, a daughter of Abraham and Mary Davison. She was reared in her native country, and was first married after coming to Lee County, to Abram Miller, who was also born in Canada. After coming here he purchased a farm near Compton, where he resided for a time after marriage. He then removed to Twin Grove, where he bought a farm, which Mrs. Nealis still owns. He resided there until his death in 1868, which deprived his community of a useful and worthy citizen. Mrs. Nealis reared three children by her first marriage: Josephine, who married Charles Griffin, and died near Sheffield, Iowa, in December, 1886; Oliver, who married Stella Wiley; and Joseph, who married Minnie Miller. Both sons reside on the Twin Grove farm.

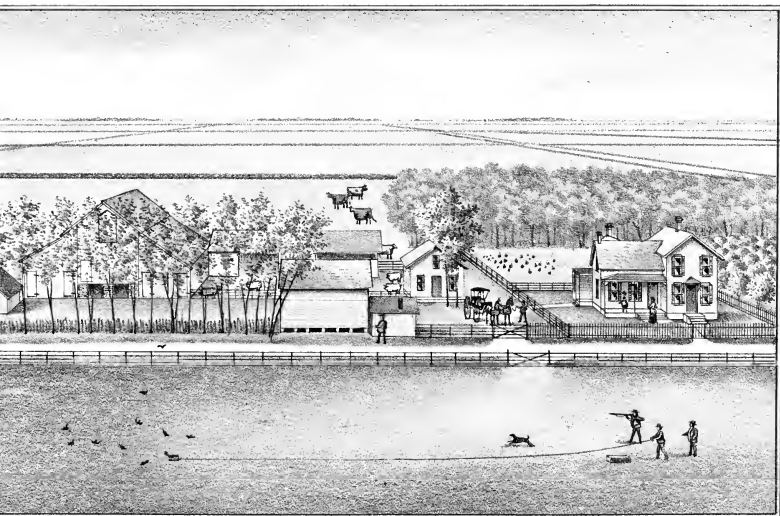


**W**ILLIAM GRAVES occupies a leading place among the farmers and stock-men of this part of Lee County, where he has made his home since boyhood, as he is a man of enlightened and progressive views, carries on his operations systematically and in a thoroughly business-like way, and keeps pace with the times in the introduction of new and approved methods. He and his associates have changed China Township from an uncultivated waste to a finely developed





RESIDENCE OF FRANK W. BRAUER, SEC. 4., PALMYRA TP, LEE CO., ILL.



RESIDENCE OF JAMES NEALIS, SEC. 35. REYNOLDS TP, LEE CO., ILL.

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farming region, and his farm on section 15, with its extensive and valuable improvements, is one of the many choice farms for which this township is justly noted.

Mr. Graves was born in Broome County, N. Y., February 19, 1839. He comes of sterling New England stock, and his parents, William and Sarah M. (Bostwick) Graves, were both natives of Massachusetts. He died in Broome County, N. Y., and she in Amboy, Ill. Our subject is the second in order of birth of the nine children born to his parents. He passed the early years of his life in his native county until 1852, when he came to Yorkville, Kendall County, this State, a sturdy, self-reliant lad of fourteen years, and for a year he was a resident of that place. In 1853 he joined his mother in Lee County, she having come hither with three of her children, and settled on section 15, China Township. Our subject grew to man's estate here, and early entered upon his career as a farmer and stock-raiser, to which he has always been devoted, and he has risen to a place of prominence among his fellow-farmers. He is now the owner of three hundred and forty-eight acres of excellent, well-cultivated land, and he has erected a good class of farm buildings, and made other improvements, has his pastures well stocked with cattle, horses and swine of fine breeds, and everything about the place is indicative of watchful care and superior management.

Mr. Graves and Miss Martha A. Thomas were united in marriage February 15, 1870, in China Township. Mrs. Graves is a native of this county, born in China Township, March 17, 1848, a daughter of Evans and Harriet (Whitmore) Thomas, early pioneers of this county, of whom a sketch is given in the biography of Evans Thomas. Mr. and Mrs. Graves are the parents of these four children: Grace, the wife of Harry Williamson; Lewis E.; Mamie and Hazel.

Our subject has much originality and decision of character, an evenly-balanced mind, and his fellow-citizens find him wise and helpful in counsel. They are appreciative of these traits, and knowing full well that he is a safe man to trust, and has the requisite qualifications for civic positions, they have elected him to one of the highest

offices within their gift, selecting him to represent China Township on the Lee County Board of Supervisors, and he has held that office for three years. He has been School Director, and as such has assisted in raising the standard of education in this vicinity, so that our schools compare with the best in the county. His politics are of the Republican order, and he is unwavering in his loyalty to his party.



**T**OBIAS SWEITZER is a young man of sterling merit and much ability, who for the past six years has had control of the Genck farm on section 35, Nelson Township, which is the property of his father-in-law, John Genck, and he is keeping it up to the same high standard that it had attained when it came under his management. He was born in the township of Berlin, Somerset County, Pa., March 9, 1857, but he was reared and educated in Westmoreland County, in the same State. His father, Cornelius Sweitzer, was also a native of Somerset County, and was born of Pennsylvania parents, who were of German descent, his ancestors having been among the early pioneer farmers of his native county. He grew up on a farm, and later learned the trade of a blacksmith. He was married in Somerset County to Mary Shaulis, a daughter of Henry Shaulis, a Somerset County farmer who died there when past ninety years old. He married a Pennsylvania lady, who also died in Somerset County. Both were members of the Lutheran Church.

Cornelius Sweitzer and wife lived for some years in Berlin Township after their marriage, and then removed to Mt. Pleasant, in Westmoreland County, and there Mrs. Sweitzer died in 1871, at middle age, leaving behind her a worthy record as a good woman, and one of the saintly Christians of the Lutheran Church, of which she was for many years a member. Mr. Sweitzer carried on his business as a blacksmith in that county until 1875, when he came to Lee County with his children, and here he began to farm in Nelson Township, where he was a second time married, taking as his wife

Mrs. Lena Tolen, *nee* Osway. She was a native of Germany, who came to this country when a young woman, and was first married in Ogle County, to Mr. Tolen, who died in Dixon after the birth of their two children. In 1887 Mr. and Mrs. Sweitzer removed to Daysville, Ogle County, where Mrs. Sweitzer died in middle life, leaving three children by her last marriage, all of whom are living.

Tobias Sweitzer had not attained his majority when he came to this county from his old Pennsylvania home in 1877, he being then in the full flush and vigor of early life, and all but one year since then he has been actively engaged in farming in Nelson Township. The farm that he is now operating is finely improved, is amply supplied with buildings of a good class and with all kinds of modern farming machinery. He has two hundred and forty acres under his control, and is cultivating the soil after the best methods known to the present generation. He is a most excellent manager, is orderly and systematic, and is prompt and sagacious in carrying out his plans. He is a man of a truthful, sincere disposition, who early made a favorable impression on the people among whom he had come to settle, and he maintains a high personal standing in his community. Politically, he is with the Democrats; religiously both he and his amiable wife are Lutherans.

Our subject was married on the farm that he now occupies, which was the home of his bride, Miss Amanda Genck. As much of her life has been passed on this old homestead, Mrs. Sweitzer is well known, and her pleasant social qualities make her popular with her large circle of acquaintances and friends. Her happy marriage with our subject has brought them two children, Claude and Howard. Mrs. Sweitzer was born in Nachusa Township in 1866, but was reared and educated in Nelson Township, whither her parents, John and Barbara (Smith) Genck, had removed when she was a small child. They are natives of Byron, Germany, but came to the United States when young people, and were afterwards married in Illinois. They subsequently established themselves in Nachusa Township, whence they came a few years later to Nelson Township, and settled

on a new, unbroken farm on section 35. Mr. Genck improved two good farms at this point, erecting good farm buildings, and supplying them with all the modern conveniences. He has three hundred and sixty acres, the most of which is finely cultivated, and the whole forms a valuable property, worth several thousand dollars. Mr. Genck has thus raised himself to be one of our wealthy men, and is enjoying his riches, for although he is past sixty-eight years of age, he is by no means an old man if his activity of body and mind are taken into consideration. He is at present visiting friends and kinsmen in Pennsylvania. Politically he is a Democrat, and religiously, a member of the Lutheran Church. His beloved wife, who was also a faithful member of that church, departed this life June 7, 1890, at the age of three-score years.



**F**REDERICK A. TRUMAN is among the foremost of the men of brain, business ability, liberality and progressive public spirit, who have been instrumental in promoting the growth of Dixon, and of the county at large. He had not attained his majority when he entered the business circles of Northern Illinois as early as 1861, and from that time he has devoted his energies to various business enterprises, has borne an active part in the management of municipal affairs, and his name is associated with many important movements that have enhanced the prosperity of city and county.

Our subject is a native of the town of Owego, Tioga County, N. Y., the date of his birth August 13, 1843. His father was Edward D. Truman, who was for a few years prior to his death a prominent business man of Dixon. He was also a native of Owego, and was a son of Asa H. Truman, who was born in Livingston County, N. Y. He was for many years a leading merchant of Owego, establishing himself in business in that town before the era of railways, and for some time his goods were freighted by team from Ithaca. He died at Owego at a ripe age.

The father of our subject commenced clerking when a mere boy, and when he attained manhood engaged in business on his own account in his native town. In 1857 he wound up his affairs there, and, coming to Dixon, opened a land and loan office, in which he conducted a successful business. His untimely death in 1861 deprived the city of a valued citizen, who during the few years he had lived within its precincts had made himself helpful in its upbuilding. His wife survives him and is still a resident of Dixon. She is the mother of three children, of whom two are living: our subject and his sister Eleanor. Her son, Augustus E., was for a number of years associated with his brother in business, and managed the book and stationery business now conducted by our subject until his death, March 23, 1891.

The mother of our subject was born at Clarksville, Otsego County, N. Y., her maiden name Eleanor M. Soule, and she is a daughter of Charles Soule. Her father was born in Springfield, Mass., a son of Dr. Charles Soule, who spent his last years in that city, where he was one of the leading physicians. The grandfather of our subject was but an infant when his father died, and when he was three years old his mother removed to New York, and he grew to manhood in Otsego County. He bought a tract of timber near Clarksville, when he began life on his own account, and cleared a farm from the wilderness. He used to have to carry his produce to market at Albany, sixty miles distant. He was a resident of Otsego County until his death. The maiden name of his wife was Doreas Adsit. She was born in Dutchess County, N. Y., and was a daughter of James and Phebe (Smith) Adsit, who were also natives of the State of New York, and were pioneers of Montgomery County, where he died, his wife dying in Otsego County.

Frederick Truman laid the foundation of a liberal education in the public schools of Owego and Dixon, and subsequently attended Chicago University. Although he was only eighteen years old at the time of his father's death, he immediately took charge of his business as a real-estate and loan agent, and has followed in that line since. He early displayed a marked aptitude for affairs, a keen insight into business matters, and has his va-

rious interests well in hand, directing them with unerring skill, and so as to turn them to a profitable account. He has a valuable farm of five hundred acres near the city, where for some years he was engaged in rearing cattle and horses, but at present he devotes it to dairy purposes, it being well stocked with a fine herd of ninety cows, from which he sells the milk to a condensed milk factory.

Mr. Truman has been connected with various enterprises, which have redounded greatly to the benefit of the city. He was associated with Judge J. D. Crabtree and H. J. and W. G. Stevens in the building of the Opera House, in which the city justly takes so much pride. In 1873 he became connected with the Dixon National Bank and was cashier of that institution eight years. He was at one time President of the Gas and Electric Light Company, and is a stockholder in the Building and Loan Association, and in various other ways his influence has been felt in whatsoever would promote the substantial growth of the city. Mr. Truman is a Republican, and is unswerving in his fealty to his party. He has taken part in the local government as a member of the City Council for several terms, and Dixon is greatly indebted to him for the deep interest he has taken in her school during the several years that he has been a member of the Board of Education, of which he is at present President; he has also served two terms as County Treasurer.



**D**ANIEL MILLER is a prominent and highly respected farmer of Brooklyn Township, who has filled various offices of trust and has taken an active part in the public life of this section. He was born in what is now Summit Township, Somerset County, Pa., October 12, 1822. His father, Abraham Miller, was a native of Lancaster County, that State, the son of a farmer who spent his last years in Pennsylvania.

Abraham Miller went to Somerset County as a pioneer when a young man and bought a tract of forest-covered land in what is now Summit Town-

ship. He built a log cabin, cleared the greater part of his land, and at the time of his death in 1832 had a goodly farm. When he settled in that place there were no railways, canals or carriage roads in that part of Pennsylvania then or for some years after, and at one time he went to Harrisburg, three hundred miles distant, for salt. The people were principally home livers, subsisting on the products of the soil and on wild game, such as deer, bears, etc., which were very plentiful. The mother of our subject used to card and spin flax and wool and her daughters wove all the cloth used in the family. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Mary Troutman, and she was a native of Pennsylvania. She spent her last years on the home farm, surviving her husband many years. She reared five children by her second marriage, and three by a former marriage. The father of our subject reared ten children by his first marriage.

Daniel Miller was ten years old when his father died. After that he resided with an older brother in his native county until he was fourteen years old, and then went with him to Ohio, making the removal with a team. He worked for his brother by the month for four years, and at the end of that time returned to his old home, and worked out there by the month the ensuing four years. During that time he was employed in teaming with six horses between different parts of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. It was then that he saw a railway for the first time. It was a primitive affair of wooden rails with iron straps on top, and extended from Washington to Baltimore.

Returning once more to Ohio at the end of the four years mentioned, in the year 1844, our subject rented a farm in Wayne County and resided there until 1855, when he came to Illinois to try farming on the fertile soil of the Prairie State. The journey was made by rail to Mendota, whence he made his way to this part of Lee County, and invested in eighty acres of wild prairie in what is now Brooklyn Township, and commenced at once the pioneer labor of developing a farm. Subsequently, he bought eighty acres more, making one hundred and sixty. He has put his land under

fine cultivation, and has placed upon it many valuable improvements, including a substantial dwelling. In the terrible cyclone of June 20, 1890, that devastated the country hereabouts, much of the work of years was destroyed in a second's time; all his buildings were demolished except his residence, and that was removed from its foundations about three inches, the fence and fruit trees were laid low, and the crops were spoiled.

Mr. Miller was first married, in 1844, to Miss Elizabeth Lewis, who was born in Virginia near Wheeling. She died in 1848, leaving one child, Ephraim, who died at the age of thirty-five years. Mr. Miller was married to his present wife, formerly Leah Kittenger, August 2, 1849. They have nine children living: Sarah, wife of Hubbard Ranstead; Milo T., Lewis, Frank, David; Mary, wife of William Troutman; William, John, and Martha, wife of Edward Berry.

Mrs. Miller was born in Lancaster County, Pa., January 3, 1831. Her father, David Kittenger, was a native of the same county as herself, and was a son of Abraham Kittenger. Mrs. Miller's grandfather was born in Switzerland. Her grandfather was married in Pennsylvania, and subsequently removed from there to Stark County, Ohio, in 1837, and passed the remainder of his life there. He was a pioneer of that region, and engaged at his trade there as a carpenter. The father of Mrs. Miller was reared and married in Pennsylvania. He went to Ohio to settle in 1837, making the entire journey with a team and camping and cooking by the wayside at noon and nightfall. He was a pioneer of Canal Fulton, where he passed the rest of his days in the comfortable home that he bought in that place. His wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Kling, also lived in that town until her death. She was a native of Lancaster County, Pa., and a daughter of Lewis and Martha Kling. Mrs. Miller is a member of the Reformed Church and a sincere Christian.

Our subject has been true to Republican principles ever since the formation of the party. His fellow-citizens have shown their appreciation of his merits by entrusting to him various important offices, and he has been honored by election to the County Board of Supervisors to repre-

sent Brooklyn Township nine terms. Whenever he has occupied that responsible position, he has done his whole duty as a civic official, and has exerted himself to push forward the numerous plans for the advancement of the county since he became one of its active citizens.



**L**EWIS HULLINGER, who came to Lee County in 1855, was among the first settlers of Harmon Township, the first settlement here being made in 1854, the year before he located on his present homestead on section 7, and he has risen to an important place among its leading farmers and stock men, and in the civic life of this section of the State. He is of Pennsylvania birth, born in Somerset County, that State, December 23, 1820, and comes of sturdy German and Revolutionary stock. His parents were Frederick and Catherine (Studer) Hullinger. His maternal grandfather, Philip Studer, was born in Germany, and emigrated to America when a young man in Colonial times. He proved a patriotic citizen of his adopted country, as, when the Revolution broke out, he volunteered his services, enlisting in the Continental Army for three years, and then fought throughout the entire war. He subsequently became a pensioner of the Government that he helped to establish, and received \$140 a year as long as he lived. He settled in Bedford County, Pa., where he married, and reared a family of four daughters and one son: Polly, Charlotte, Christina, Catherine and John.

The father of our subject was born in Germany, and was one of a large family. He came to the United States alone in early manhood and settled in Bedford County, Pa., where he pursued his trade as a tailor. He married, and for a time resided in Somerset County. He afterward returned to Bedford County, where he died while yet in life's prime, leaving these three children: Mary Ann, who married William Lashley, and resides in Bedford County, Pa.; Simon, who died in infancy, and our subject. The mother of our subject

married a second time, becoming the wife of William Sherley, and they had three children, all of whom died young. She died in Bedford County at an advanced age.

Lewis Hullinger passed his early life in Bedford County, and was educated in the district schools. When he was sixteen years old he went to Alleghany County, Md., where he was employed in driving a cart for some time, at \$3 a month the first two years, and for \$4 a month for eighteen months. He then apprenticed himself to a blacksmith, and after he had mastered the trade carried it on in Maryland, the ensuing nine years, with the exception of one year spent in Zanesville, Ohio. He was married while in that State in the year 1847, to Miss Susan Long, a daughter of Jonathan and Sarah (Troutman) Long, and a native of the same Pennsylvanian county in which he was born. Mrs. Troutman was a daughter of William Troutman, of German descent. Six children have been born of their pleasant married life, as follows: Katie, wife of Charles Stirling, of Parker, S. Dak.; Jonathan, a resident of Stewart, Iowa; Lillie Ellie, wife of Lewis Lashley, of Girard, Kan.; Leona M., wife of A. C. McWilliams, of Whiteside, and Ella Virginia, wife of Douglas Murray, of Rock Falls. William Lewis, who married Hattie Heckler, lives in Whiteside County, Ill.

Mr. Hullinger came to Illinois in 1855, traveling by team and boat to Pittsburg, Pa., and thence by rail to Dixon, whence he made his way to this part of the county where he proposed to locate, and soon proved himself a valuable acquisition to the pioneer force that had preceded him. He purchased one hundred and twenty acres of his present farm on section 7, Harmon Township, which at that time was a tract of raw prairie land, with not a furrow turned. It was a lonely spot, as when our subject first settled upon it there were but very few people within a radius of several miles, and his nearest neighbors were a long distance away. With the exception of his four years' residence at Rock Falls, when he rented his farm, he has made it his home for thirty-six years, and in that time fortune has smiled on his efforts and secured to him a handsome competency. He now has three hundred and sixty acres of land valuable for tillage

and pasture, has it under high cultivation, has ample and substantial buildings, and has his farm well stocked with cattle, horses and hogs of good standard breeds. He is a typical self-made man, as all that he is and all that he has are the results of his own exertions. He had to learn the lesson of self-reliance when very young, and when scarcely more than a boy, he not only earned his own living but helped his mother besides. His life record is that of a good son, a true husband, a wise father, a kind neighbor and a loyal citizen. His strong common sense, his keen judgment, and other qualifications, have made him influential in the public life of the county, and his counsel and assistance have often been sought in the administration of the affairs of township and county. He has been Supervisor several times, representing Harmon Township as a member of the County Board of Supervisors ten years, holding the office at one time for eight consecutive years. His politics are of the true Republican order, and in religion he clings to the Lutheran faith in which his forefathers were bred.



**D**AVID H. LAW, M. D., a prominent physician and surgeon of Dixon, and one of the influential and progressive citizens of Lee County, well deserves presentation in this volume, for he has done much toward the upbuilding and development of the county, and with the promotion of its best interests his name is inseparably connected. A native of the Empire State, he was there born and reared, and in 1840 came to Lee County. His life has been a varied and eventful one, and his experiences have made him an excellent judge of human nature and also an able and interesting conversationalist.

In the spring of 1852, the Doctor joined a party en route for California. With teams they crossed the plains, living upon the wild game which they could secure and the milk furnished by the cows they took with them. Many of his comrades died while they were on the way, of cholera, which was then epidemic. Ere they reached their destination,

they encountered the red men, and the Doctor won for himself a gallant record for bravery. Were all of his experiences in crossing the plains told, much of the story would hardly be credited by those who did not experience such a life. Four years he spent in the West, engaging in mining, and his recollections of that period of his life are very vivid. On his return in 1856, he entered upon the study of medicine with his brother-in-law, Dr. Oliver Everett, a well-known physician of Lee County, now deceased. Later, he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, of Keokuk, Iowa, from which he was graduated in the Class of '61. The Civil War was then in progress and he relinquished all thought of private practice.

Enlisting in Company A, Thirtieth Illinois Infantry, Dr. Law became Assistant Surgeon of his regiment and later was detailed as Staff-Surgeon for Gen. Curtis, discharging the duties of a Battalion Surgeon. After some time, he was discharged in order that he might accept a commission as Lieutenant-Colonel of a Missouri regiment, but as the war was then drawing to a close, the troops were never called forth and the Doctor acted as private surgeon for different generals in the late war, who, recognizing his skill and ability, did not wish him to leave the service and hired him on a salary. His bravery and his loyalty to his country were frequently tested and never failed. On one occasion he broke up a meeting of the Knights of the Golden Circle that convened in a hotel, where he had occasion to stop. His military record is one of which he may well be proud. For four years he served his country faithfully and well and when the war was over, and his services no longer needed, he resumed private practice.

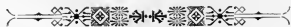
On his return to Dixon, Dr. Law formed a partnership with his former preceptor, Dr. Everett, the connection continuing until 1873, when he went to Chicago, where for some time he was connected with a barb-wire manufactory. Since again locating in Dixon, he has devoted his energies untiringly to the practice of medicine, and his skill and ability are recognized by a large number of patrons. He is also the owner of a farm of two hundred acres, which is stocked with milch cows and supplies milk to the great Swiss Milk Condensing



Company. After thorough investigation and tests of this product, Dr. Law has found it to be one of the best foods manufactured for infants and he has spent considerable sums of money in making the food what it is. His dairy is a model of convenience and cleanliness, lacking in no particular.

In Sterling, Ill., the Doctor was joined in wedlock with Miss Mary P. Dillon, who died leaving one son, David H., who is now connected with the Dixon National Bank. For a second wife, Dr. Law chose Miss Dorothy Taylor, of Chicago, where their union was celebrated. They also have one son, James E. Their home is one of the largest and most beautiful residences of Dixon. It is built in the modern approved style with a view to the best sanitary conditions, and the arrangement is a model of convenience. The furniture is tastefully arranged and the walls are decorated with many beautiful pictures, the work of Mrs. Law, who possesses marked artistic ability.

The Doctor has traveled extensively over this country and is versed in the topography and geography of the United States. In all his travel, he says he has found no better located city as regards conditions of health and comfort than Dixon, which is so beautifully located on the "Hudson of the West." The cause of education has ever found in the Doctor a warm friend, and he and his wife have done much for its furtherance. They advocate all reforms for the benefit of humanity and are progressive and public-spirited people who occupy a warm place in the hearts of their many friends, and rank high in the esteem of all who know them. In politics, the Doctor is a Republican, who warmly advocates the party principles, but has never been an office-seeker.



**J**OSUUA P. HOYLE devotes his time and energies to general farming, conducting his operations on sections 26 and 27, South Dixon Township, where he has every convenience in the way of modern improvements and good machinery for facilitating his work, and is doing a prosperous business. He is the

second son and third child of the eight children of John and Emeline (Deeter) Hoyle, well-known residents of the village of Eldena, who were formerly connected with the farming interests of this section, but are now living in retirement. A sketch of their lives appears on another page of this volume.

Our subject was born December 4, 1851, in the county of Somerset, in the township of the same name, in the State of Pennsylvania. The first twelve years of his life were passed amid the scenes of his birth, and since then he has lived in Lee County, growing to man's estate on his father's homestead, which is now under his management. He here gained his first actual experience in farming, and was well inured to the labors of his chosen calling when he entered upon his independent career as a farmer. He has had charge of his father's farm since 1886, and keeps it up to the same high standard it had attained when in the hands of the elder Hoyle. He raises a good class of stock, his cattle, horses and swine being of fine breeds that always command a ready market when for sale.

Mr. Hoyle was married to Miss Julia Fritz in this township, and has found in her a most estimable wife, who is a veritable helpmate, and has been an important factor in his success in life. She has borne him seven children, of whom all are living but Wilson, who died at the age of one year. The others, who still form a part of their pleasant household, are Hattie, Lester, Clara, Bird, Fred and Jennie. Mrs. Hoyle is a native of this county, born in South Dixon Township July 12, 1852, a daughter of one of the pioneer families of this section. Her parents were born, reared and married in Somerset County, Pa., whence they came to Illinois in 1851. Mr. Fritz obtained a tract of land in South Dixon Township and improved a good farm. His first wife died here in 1864, and he was subsequently married to Miss Mary Meyers, a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Illinois when a young woman. In 1883 Mr. Fritz removed with his family to Kansas, and is still living there on a farm near Topeka. He and his wife are active members of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject and his amiable wife hold a high

place in the estimation of their fellow-townsmen, as they possess those rare qualities of head and heart that beget confidence and friendship, and are hospitable and entertaining in their home, besides being always willing to extend a helping hand to any one who is in want or trouble. Mr. Hoyle keeps himself well informed in regard to politics, as well as in other matters of general interest, and is steadfast in his loyalty to the Republican party.



**I** SAAC BYRON COUNTRYMAN. The fine block erected in Dixon, in 1890, known as Countryman's Block, is occupied by a department store, 50x100 feet, in which may be found a complete stock of groceries, queensware, dry-goods and notions. Twelve clerks are kept in constant employ to meet the demands of the trade, and by a courteous treatment of customers and close attention to the wants of the people, the business has been made both remunerative and extensive. The building is built of pressed brick and terra cotta, and the upper floors are utilized for offices.

When Mr. Countryman came to Dixon in 1866, he was employed first as clerk for Alonzo Wood who some years afterward sold out to W. C. Stevens, with whom our subject formed a partnership in 1871, under the firm name of W. G. Stevens & Co. In 1877 he became sole proprietor and has since managed the business alone, having built up his present trade through his unaided exertions.

A native of Herkimer County, N. Y., Mr. Countryman is the son of John I., Jr., and the grandson of John I. Countryman, Sr., a native of York State, who came of German ancestry of the old Mohawk Dutch stock. The senior John I. Countryman lived and died in Herkimer County, his decease occurring when he was more than sixty-five years old, and thus was brought to an end his honorable and useful existence as a farmer and citizen.

The father of our subject grew to man's estate in his native county, Herkimer, where he married Miss Nancy Failing, a native of Montgomery County, N. Y., and the daughter of John Failing. The young couple located in Herkimer County,

where they lived on a farm until their death. He passed away in 1866 at the age of sixty-five years, and she died in 1878, aged seventy-one. They were religious and adhered to one common faith, free from denominational distinction. The family numbered eight children, all sons, seven of whom are yet living, namely: Levi and William, farmers in Herkimer County, N. Y.; Norman, Harvey, Alvin and John E., who follow farming operations in Ogle County, and our subject.

The last-named was reared in his native county, where he gained a common-school education. He was not a college graduate nor does he consider that a collegiate education is necessary to a successful business career, believing that a thorough training in the good schools of our country, in connection with industry, energy and enterprise, will win success. He is one of the leading merchants and citizens of Dixon, is connected with the Republican party in his political belief, and socially is identified with the Blue Lodge No. 7, Nachusa Chapter and Dixon Commandery No. 21.



**H**ENRY E. MILLER is a representative farmer and stock-raiser, whose farm is distributed on sections 3, 4, 9, and 10, of Palmyra Township. His residence and all out-buildings are situated on section 9. He owns one hundred and sixty-one acres of fine land and operates twice that amount, one hundred and sixty-one acres belonging to his three sisters—Anna, Louisa, and Sarah. The farm all lies in a body and is one of the finest farms in the township. This has been his home for thirty-eight years, and success and good fortune have attended him.

This gentleman is a native-born citizen of this township, his birth occurring near Prairieville, December 22, 1844. He has always lived here, receiving his rearing and education in this place, having but few advantages. He is the son of William Miller, a native of one of the Rhine Provinces of Germany, who came of German parents. The grandfather was named John Miller, and was a

small German farmer on the River Rhine and there lived, and died when full of years, as did his good wife, Cecelia, who was also of good German parentage. William Miller grew up in his native province and there learned the trade of a shoe-maker, and while yet a single man, and just after reaching his majority, he came to America, about the year 1822, settling in Philadelphia, where he remained and worked at his trade for some time. He was there married to Miss Anna Obrist, a native of Switzerland who was deprived of a mother's care when a small child. She came to the country with her father and a sister and, they too settled in Philadelphia, and in that city she grew to womanhood. Her father was here a second time married and with his wife settled in this county in Palmyra Township, and here died, from injuries received by a runaway team, when quite an old man. He was a cabinet-maker by trade.

After the marriage of the parents of our subject, they lived in Pennsylvania until 1841, when they came with their family of three children to the Prairie State and took up forty-five acres of land in this township. Here he farmed in the summers and worked at his trade in the winters. He was accidentally killed on his farm, now the one owned by our subject, having fallen off the barn he was building and broken his neck, May 1, 1871. His death was instantaneous, and he was about seventy years of age. He was a good citizen and a sagacious and successful farmer and was mourned by his many friends in this township who had always looked on him with the greatest respect. His good wife passed away in 1872. She was sixty-two years of age and she and her husband were valued members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Miller was an adherent of the Democracy in his political views.

The subject of this sketch was married in South Dixon Township to Miss Margaret Le Van. She was born in Pennsylvania, near Johnstown, February 22, 1849, and came West when a girl of but eight years with her parents, settling in this county. Her father and mother were Mathias and Margaret (Miller) Le Van, natives of Germany, who are now retired farmers in Dixon Township and well-to-do and respected people. He had built up a

property of nearly one thousand acres of good land and had started here comparatively a poor man some thirty odd years ago. They are members of the Lutheran Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller of this sketch are the happy parents of eight children, of whom two are deceased, Mary and William who died at the ages of five years and twenty-two months, respectively. The living are Charles M., Martha F., Edward H., John F., Oscar, Lee and Frederick P., all of whom are still at home. This couple are consistent and active members of the Lutheran Church of Prairieville, and Mr. Miller casts his vote with the Republican party.



CHARLES M. HUGUET is numbered among the prosperous business men of Dixon, where he has a repository for the sale of carriages and harness. He is a native of the city of Paris, France, and first saw the light of day in the French capital April 30, 1847. He came of one of the old families of his native country, and is a son of Nicholas Huguet, who was also a Parisian by birth, and in after years he became a prominent pioneer of Central Illinois. He grew to manhood and was finely educated in his native city, and at twenty-one years of age, such a high reputation had he already won for scholarship, that he was made principal of a college, and occupied that honorable position for a period of twenty-four years. Then worn by the cares entailed upon him in the discharge of his arduous duties, he resigned the principalship and sought a new life in the wilds of America. That was in the year 1849, and after he had landed on these shores he made his way far into the interior of the country until he came to Illinois. He found himself in Peoria County, and, pleased with its natural beauty and other advantages, he resolved to make his future within its bounds. He settled first in Peoria, buying eighty acres of land, which is now included in the heart of the city, the court house standing on a part of it. The following year he sold that and bought a tract of land near the present site of the village of Washington, the land being mostly

timbered and was purchased at a very low price. The surrounding country was but thinly inhabited, and deer and other kinds of game had not yet fled before the advancing steps of civilization at the time of his settlement in that region. Mr. Huguet at once set about improving his land, and by years of hard labor placed it in a fine condition, early paying off his indebtedness on it, as he was in limited circumstances when he located on it, and had to buy it on credit. He prospered exceedingly, and from time to time bought other land until he had six hundred acres, the greater part of which was highly improved, and he became one of the wealthy men of his county. He resided on his farm until 1880, when he removed to the village of Washington, where he lived retired until he closed his eyes in death in December, 1890, at a ripe old age. The mother of our subject was born in Paris, and now resides at Washington, where she is well known and respected as a woman of much worth. She is the mother of the following: Josephine, Julius, Maurice, Mary, Charles M., Nicholas, Peter, and Julia.

As our subject was only two years old when his parents brought him to this country, he can have no recollections of his native city, but all his early remembrances are connected with the pioneer home in which he spent his youth. As soon as he was large enough to be of any assistance he had to help support the family. At the age of nineteen he commenced to learn the trade of a carriage trimmer at Burlington, Iowa. He worked there a few months, and then went to El Paso, Woodford County, in this State, and worked there a short time. Rockford was his next place of employment, and he was there a year and a half. After that, Ottawa was his place of abode for a while, and he did journey-work in that city. In 1872 he came to Dixon, and was engaged at his trade here for a time as a journeyman, but he did not then locate in this city permanently, being employed in various places until 1886, and since that he has made his home here. He opened a carriage and harness repository, and has built up a substantial business.

Mr. Huguet was married in 1877 to Miss Margaret Trimmer, who was born of German parent-

age, and was reared in Tazewell County. In their pleasant home one daughter completes the household, and she bears the name of Margaret Sophia. In the tact, courtesy and geniality that he manifests in his intercourse with others, our subject shows that he inherits a fair share of those pleasing characteristics of his countrymen, and he is warmly regarded by all who know him well. He gives due attention to politics, and in National elections votes with the Democrats, holding himself independent at other times. Socially, he is a member of the Benevolent Chapter, No. 841, M. W. A., and of Dixon Lodge, No. 137, A. O. U. W.



**W**ILLIAM BARGE, an honored citizen of Dixon, is a lawyer of distinguished ability, who stands at the head of the bar in this section, and is one of the foremost jurists of this, his adopted State. He is a native of Armstrong County, Pa., born February 26, 1832, to John and Jane (Elliott) Barge, who were respectively of French and Scotch descent. His paternal grandfather was a patriotic soldier in the ranks of the Continental Army during the Revolution, and he fell while bravely fighting at the battle of the Brandywine.

The father of our subject learned the trades of carpenter and joiner, and subsequently became a prominent contractor and builder, operating at Johnstown, Pittsburg, and in the vicinity of those cities. When his son William was still in his infancy, he removed with his family to Ohio, and settled in that part of Richland County now included in Ashland County, where he bought a tract of heavily timbered land about fifty miles south of Cleveland. At that time standing timber possessed no market value, and in clearing his land, he rolled together and burned large logs that would now bring a good price. Four years later he located in Wayne County, and became one of its most active and useful citizens, taking up his residence in the town of Wooster. He carried on business in that county for several years, and his death in 1850 deprived it of the services of a valuable citizen.

Our subject laid the foundation of his education

in the public schools of Wooster, where his boyhood was passed. In the summer of 1851, he and his widowed mother and two sisters left their old home in Ohio to migrate to Illinois, and after traveling for a month with a team across the intervening country nearly to the western bounds of this State, they arrived at his brother's home, four miles north of Geneseo, in Henry County. Mr. Barge began life in Illinois as a teacher, and acquired considerable prominence in the profession, which was to him, however, but a stepping-stone to that of the law, toward which his mind had a decided bent. He taught in the city of Moline, on the Mississippi, devoting his leisure time to reading law with Judge Ira O. Wilkinson, who was Judge of that circuit at that time, and since a prominent lawyer of Chicago. He also received instruction in his studies from Judge Waite, who since then has been Judge of the United States Court of Utah. In 1854 he came to Dixon to accept a position as teacher, and to him is due the honor of organizing the first graded school in the county. He acted as its principal for more than three years, and occasionally taught mathematics in the Dixon College. In the fall of 1859, he received a call to take charge of the High School at Belleville, Ill., in the vicinity of St. Louis, and in that city he had the advantage of pursuing his law studies under the supervision of the Hon. William H. Underwood, a noted lawyer of Belleville. While with him, our subject, of his own accord, and without assistance, prepared a brief in an important railway land case, in which Judge Underwood and Gov. Koerner were concerned, which they accepted, and by its merits won the case.

Having thus, even in his student days, given evidence of talents of high order that gave promise of the brilliant career before him, our subject returned to Dixon in 1860, and in November of that year successfully passed a searching examination in his legal studies, conducted by Judge Corydon Beckwith, the Hon. Norman B. Judd and the Hon. Ebenezer Peck, and was admitted to the bar. In 1860 he opened an office in Dixon, and entered into a law partnership with H. B. Fouke in 1861, under the firm name of Barge & Fouke. In 1865

he severed his connection with that gentleman, and until 1869 was in practice with Dwight Heaton. In that year Judge Eustace, of Dixon, invited him to become his partner, our subject's brother-in-law, Sherwood Dixon, also becoming a member of the firm, which thereafter conducted business under the name of Eustace, Barge & Dixon until 1874, when Messrs. Barge and Dixon went to Chicago at the request of the Hon. W. W. O'Brien, with whom they formed a co-partnership as O'Brien, Barge & Dixon.

Mr. Barge has arisen to eminence at the bar through his unswerving devotion to his beloved profession, and by reason of a rare combination of those judicial qualities that mark a lawyer of the first rank. Possessing a clear, logical mind, fine argumentative powers, a quick wit, readiness of resource, and infinite tact in handling a case so as to present it in the best possible light, he has become famous both as a civil and a criminal lawyer, being particularly noted for his success in the latter branch of law, as even in capital charges he has never failed to secure the acquittal of his client. It is said of him that "during his whole practice in all the courts of record in every county north of the Illinois River, in the Supreme Court of the State, and in the Federal Courts of Chicago, no lawyer has been more generally successful or has won more cases than he." In 1874 Mr. Barge became one of the attorneys of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company, and has rendered it valuable service, trying all its cases in twelve counties since he entered its employ. But few lawyers in the country have had more experience in that class of litigation, and none is more profoundly learned in the laws pertaining to it, or has met with greater success in that line of practice than he.

Our subject has a clean record as a gentleman of honor and unimpeachable character, who, during the thirty-two years that he has devoted to law business, has conformed to professional etiquette in his dealings with his clients, and with the legal fraternity, and has shown himself to be single-minded and honest, with the courage and intelligence to uphold its principles. His intercourse with all is marked by that true courtesy and kindly

spirit that have won him many a devoted friend both in and out of the profession. The high estimation in which he is held by his brother lawyers was exhibited when his name was urged for nomination as candidate for the position of Judge of the Supreme Court for the Sixth District in the spring of 1888, when the members of the Lee County Bar were to a man unanimous in their choice of him as the one most competent for the place, as will be seen by the flattering tribute to his worth and talent in the following letter.

DIXON, ILL., April 3, 1888.

*Sir:* At a meeting of the Lee County Bar held to-day, it was unanimously determined to present the name of Hon. William Barge as the choice of the Bar of the county as candidate for the position of Judge of the Supreme Court for the Sixth District, and the officers of the meeting were instructed to make known this action to the members of the Bar of the District.

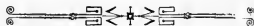
It is not regarded necessary to enter upon any lengthy statement of Mr. Barge's professional career, as it is believed that his extended acquaintance throughout the State has made known already his eminent ability and fitness for the position named.

Now, in the prime of life, with a mind thoroughly trained to study by experience, of unswerving integrity and recognized ability, we believe his qualifications for the place must command your favorable consideration, and for that reason present his name.

Respectfully,

I. D. CRAETREE, Chairman.

Mr. Barge was married in 1856, to Elizabeth Dixon, daughter of James P. Dixon and granddaughter of John Dixon, the well-known pioneer of the Northwest in whose honor the city of Dixon is named. Our subject and his amiable wife stand high in the social life of this city, where they have a delightful home, and a large circle of friends.



**W**ILLIAM STOUT made his first purchase of land in this county thirty-seven years ago, when the prairies of this region were but little settled. Since then he has added many acres to his real estate, and to-day has a good-sized farm, pleasantly located in Viola Township,

upon which he has placed a good class of improvements, and its fertile harvest fields are under good tillage.

Our subject was born in Lincolnshire, England, July 13, 1820. His father, John Stout, is supposed to have been a native of the same shire, and there he died and was gathered to his fathers in the fullness of time. Mary Bacon was the maiden name of his wife, and so far as is known she too was born in Lincolnshire, and there her death occurred many years after that of her husband. She was a daughter of John Bacon, who was a life-long resident of England. The parents of our subject reared two children: William and Thomas. The mother was again married, and reared one son, Martin. The latter served in the British army in the Crimean War, and died in England some years afterward. Thomas came to America, and after spending some years in the South came to Lee County, and died here unmarried.

Our subject was nine years old when his father died, and he was very young when he commenced to earn his own living. He lived with his mother until 1849, and then, wisely thinking that his chances for securing an independent competence would be much better in the United States than in his native land, he sailed for these shores in the month of October from Liverpool, in the ship "Patrick Henry." After a voyage of six weeks and two days, he landed in New York on the 6th of December. He went to Lancaster, Erie County, in the same State, and there was employed by the month, day or job until 1854, when he turned his face Westward, having resolved to seek a home on the fertile virgin soil of the great Prairie State. He came directly to Lee County, and bought forty acres of land on section 31, Viola Township, for which he paid \$8 an acre, and which is now incorporated in his present farm. A few acres broken, a log house of 12x14, and a straw stable constituted the only improvements that had been attempted on the place at the time of purchase. Prior to that time, the pioneers had not looked with favor on the prairies as worthy of cultivation, and but little land of that kind had been taken up. Their value as rich farming lands has since been abun-

dantly proven, and some of the finest farms in the county were once wild prairies, left to the dominion of the deer, wolves and other wild animals, which were still plentiful when our subject came here.

Mr. Stout commenced at once to make further improvements on his land, and now has it in a fine condition, with a neat set of frame buildings, the fields well fenced and under good cultivation, and the many fruit and shade trees that he has planted adding to the value and attractiveness of his place. He is an excellent farmer, understanding well how to conduct his agricultural operations with profit, and as a man of solid worth and a good neighbor, kind husband and father, he is held in high estimation by the entire community. Both he and his wife are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. Stout was first married in England in May, 1849, to Harriet Harrison, a native of the same shire as himself. She encouraged and assisted him in his early struggles in this country, and died in the home that she had helped him to establish, her death occurring in 1860. Three children were born of that marriage. In 1863 our subject was married to his present amiable wife, formerly Christiana Fuller, and their wedded life has been blessed to them by seven children. The living ones are as follows: Charles, George, Mary, Luey, and Minnie. Those dead were both named William.

Mrs. Stout was born in the town of Hume, Allegany County, N. Y., May 30, 1830. Eleazer Fuller, her father, was a native either of Oneida or Herkimer County, that State, and was a son of Hubbard Fuller, who was of New England birth, and was descended from one of the early English Colonial families of that section. He was one of the pioneers of the Empire State. He settled first either in Oneida or Herkimer County, and later was one of the pioneers of Allegany County. He bought a farm in the town of Hume, and spent his last days there. Mrs. Stout's father learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, and was engaged in that calling in Hume, where he resided until 1846. In that year he migrated to Illinois with his wife and six children, coming by way of the lakes to Chicago, and thence by team to Big Rock,

Kane County, of which he became a pioneer, carrying on his trade in that vicinity. Northern Illinois was then but little settled, and deer and other wild game were abundant. Mr. Fuller resided at Big Rock five or six years, and then bought a home in Malugin's Grove, where he was engaged as a carpenter and mason for several years. His next move was to Adair County, Iowa, in 1865, and there his life was finished. The maiden name of Mrs. Stout's mother was Johanna Gear. It is thought that she was born in Allegany County, N. Y., where her death occurred when her daughter, of whom we write, was but an infant. Thus early deprived of her mother, Mrs. Stout was reared by her step-mother, who gave her good care. Her maiden name was Elmina Reëd. She was also a native of Allegany County, N. Y., and she died in Adair County, Iowa.



JOHN H. MOORE, editor of the *Dixon Sun*, was born in London, England, March 17, 1835, where also, his father, William Moore, as far as is known, was born. The grandfather was a blacksmith and farrier, which trade he followed in his native land, and there spent his entire life. The father of our subject worked with his father at that trade for a time, but later became a carpenter and wagon-maker. He removed to London soon after his marriage, and there worked at the carpenters' and builders' trade for about twenty years.

In 1845, accompanied by his wife and five children, John Moore set sail for America on the vessel "Wellington," and landed at New York thirty-one days later. He came by way of the lakes directly to Illinois, and, locating at Aurora, there formed a partnership with a man named Kent, and for two years was engaged in the manufacture of wagons. Two years later, he sold his interest in the business, and in October, 1847, came to Dixon and opened a wagon shop in connection with his son-in-law, E. B. Blackman, and continued to be so employed until a short time before his decease, in September, 1854.

The mother of our subject was Penelope (Case) Moore, and was born in Dorsetshire, England, her parents being Henry and Mary Case. She departed this life in Dixon, in 1873, and was the mother of five children: Mary, Frances, Sarah, our subject and Jennie A. John H. Moore came to America with his parents when ten years of age, and grew to manhood in Dixon. When quite young, he commenced to work as a compositor on the first issue of the *Telegraph*—May 2, 1851. He remained in that office, with the exception of one year, until 1869, when he engaged with W. M. Kennedy, then the proprietor of a job office, and later the editor of the *Sun*. Our subject continued in his employ until 1874, when he accepted a position on the editorial staff of the *Dubuque Times*, but soon returned and accepted a position with Mr. Kennedy, who at that time was running a weekly and agricultural monthly paper and continued with him until his death, since which time our subject has been editor of the paper.

In 1868 Miss Ida Whitman became the wife of our subject. She was born in Lockport, N. Y., and is the daughter of Seth H. and Mabel (Nash) Whitman. Two children have been born to this union who bear the names of Mabel P. and Ernest H.



**G**ORDON E. BISHOP is General Superintendent of the Star Printing Company, with which he has been connected at Dixon since its organization, March 28, 1891. He is a practical printer and pressman and three years previous to the above-named date acted as a job printer at the Northern Illinois Normal at Dixon. He has been engaged in the publishing and newspaper work for eighteen years, having learned that art at Oshkosh, Wis., which was his home for some time. He has been associated with the *Twin City News* in Wisconsin, and for two years was employed in the circulating department of the *Evening Dispatch*, of St. Paul, Minn.

Our subject is a native of Oswego, N. Y., his

birth occurring June 13, 1860. He was reared and educated in that city and there resided until going to Oshkosh, Wis., with his parents. He has spent the greater part of his life in the Northwest, and is therefore familiar with that portion of the country. Mr. Bishop is a thoroughly skilled workman in the printers' trade and is a member of Cream City Lodge of the Typographical Union, at Milwaukee. He is also connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, Lodge No. 56, of Dixon. In politics, he votes the Independent ticket.

The original of this sketch was married at Falls City, Neb., to Miss Rose Carrow. To them has been born one child, a son—Earl R. Mrs. Bishop, in religious matters, is a member of the Congregational Church. Our subject has traveled over every State and Territory in the United States and has visited the principal points of interest in Canada, acting in the capacity of a musician for five years with the well-known circuses of W. W. Coles, Adam Forepaugh and John Robinson.



**W**ICK WILLIAMS. Lee County numbers among its most useful and respectable citizens many of foreign birth, and among them is the subject of this life record, who is a representative Scandinavian, and is one of the most practical and thrifty farmers and stock-raisers of Willow Creek Township, his farm ranking among the best in this locality. He was born July 9, 1831, in Bergenstef, Norway, a son of Wicking Jassendal, who was born on the same farm as himself, and spent his whole life thereon. He was the father of nine children, of whom three came to America—our subject and his sisters Julia and Bertha. The former married Lewis Bervin, of Clay County, Dak., and the latter is the wife of John Law, of Webster County, Iowa.

He of whom these lines are written early became acquainted with farm work, at which he had to employ himself as soon as he was large enough to be of any use, and the habits of industry thus acquired when he was young helped to shape his after career as an independent farmer. He left the



shelter of the parental roof when he was fourteen years old, as he was strong, active and self-reliant and was fully capable of caring for himself. The first year after leaving home he was employed on a farm, and was given three dollars and his board for his year's work, wages being low in his native country. The next year he was engaged by a pilot to assist on board his vessel, and also to help on the farm. At the age of twenty-one he commenced to learn the trade of a carpenter, and worked at it a few years in Norway until he decided to emigrate to America. On the 1st of May, 1857, he set sail from Bergen in the brig "George Brunkost," and five weeks later landed at Quebec. He did not linger on Canadian soil, but made his way directly to Chicago, and arrived there with twenty dollars as his capital. A piekpoeket soon relieved him of the most of that, however, considerably leaving him about a dollar of his money with which to begin life in the New World.

Nothing daunted by being thus deprived of his cash, our subject proceeded to Wisconsin, and secured a situation on a farm, at sixteen dollars a month. He worked steadily at that rate for three months, and at the end of that time received his pay in bills issued by a State Bank, which on his arrival at Clinton he found to be worthless, as the bank had failed. He bore this second misfortune philosophically, and by a few months' hard work at his trade in Chicago, earned as much, or more, than that sum. He spent the succeeding winter on a farm in Kendall County, and in the spring worked at carpentering there a few months. He then came to Lee County, and was similarly engaged in Sublette Township for awhile. In 1859 he went to Memphis, Tenn., and carried on carpentering there until the spring of 1860. Returning to Sublette from that city, he was employed at his trade there again for a short time only, as on the 17th of May he started for Pike's Peak, going by rail to St. Joseph, where he bought oxen and mules, with which he completed his journey across the plains. He encountered many buffaloes, deer and antelopes on the way, and saw the "Great American Desert" in all its original wildness. After arriving at his destination, he at once actively engaged in mining, and also carried on a brisk business at his

calling. He was soon taken sick, however, and nearly died. In the fall, as soon as he was sufficiently recovered to be able to travel, he set out on his return home over the same desolate way that he had journeyed in the spring, with such high hope of winning fortune's favors. The very day of his arrival in Lee County, the 24th of December, 1860, he invested some of his hard-earned money in sixty acres of land, forming part of section 16, Willow Creek Township. In 1861 he broke the land, and in 1862 settled on it, making it his home the ensuing two years and a half. He then sold it, and purchased eighty acres of the southeast part of section 3, of the same township, for which, though it was wild land, he paid twelve dollars and fifty cents an acre, as he knew that it was very valuable for farming purposes.

Mr. Williams spent some years in the improvement of that place, erecting suitable buildings, breaking and fencing his land, and farmed it until 1868, when he took advantage of a good opportunity to sell it for a much larger sum of money than he had paid for it, receiving twenty-nine hundred dollars for the place. His next move was to Alto Township, where he bought a quarter section of land that was but slightly improved. He rebuilt the house that was standing on it, planted fruit and shade trees, and otherwise increased the value of the farm, which he sold nine years later, and bought the one upon which he now resides, which is desirably located in Willow Creek Township. It comprises two hundred acres of land of exceeding fertility, which is under a high state of cultivation, and Mr. Williams has erected neat and well-built frame buildings for every needed purpose, the whole place showing every evidence of thrifty and careful management on the part of the owner. He also owns a farm of two hundred acres in Alto Township.

Mr. Williams has had the assistance of a frugal, capable wife in his work, and is much indebted to her cheerful help in what he has accomplished. They were wedded March 25, 1862, and of the children that have blessed their marriage, these four are living: William L., Sarah M., Julia C. and Rasmus W. Mrs. Williams, whose maiden name was Julia Larson, is also a native of Norway, and

of the same town as her husband. She came to this country with her parents. Our subject and his wife are sincere Christians and are among the leading members of the Lutheran Church, to which, their children also belong, and no people are more generally respected than they. In politics, Mr. Williams is unwavering in his loyalty to the Republican party.

Sarah and Julia are now attending the Cornell College at Clinton, Ia. The former will this year graduate, while the latter is preparing herself for a teacher.



**W**ALTER L. ROGERS, of Dixon, is numbered among the honored pioneers of this county, where for more than half of a century he has made his home. He came here in 1839, and followed farming in Palmyra Township until the autumn of 1890, when he removed to Dixon, where he is now living a retired life.

He was born in Prince Edward County in the Province of Ontario, Canada, September 26, 1815, and is a son of Gilbert and Naney (Lockwood) Rogers, both of whom were natives of the Empire State and were of English descent. Upon a farm in Dutchess County, they resided for some years and there five children were born unto them. In the early part of the present century they removed to Canada, and began life in that country on a new timbered farm in Prince Edward County, where the father made a comfortable home for his family. He died in middle life, in 1817, of brain fever. His wife, who survived him many years, passed away in 1851. Under the auspices of the Friends Church she had been reared and afterward became a member of the society. This worthy couple had quite a large family but only two are now living: Walter L. of this sketch, and Mrs. Sarah Garrison of Michigan.

Our subject remained in his native land until he had attained his majority, when, in 1836, at the age of twenty-one, he went to the Empire State, where he spent two years. On the expiration of that period, he determined to try his fortune in

the West, and, carrying out that resolution, located in Lee County, Ill., in 1839, where he has since made his home. From the Government he purchased a claim of 160 acres on section 21, Palmyra Township, and began the development of a farm, carrying on his labor alone until 1844, when he secured as a helpmate and companion on life's journey Miss Hannah Fellows, their union being celebrated in Palmyra Township.

The lady was born in New Hampshire, in 1824, and when a maiden of ten summers came to Lee County with her parents, Stephen and Rachel (McGathey) Fellows. They made the journey by land and water, and Mr. Fellows secured a new farm near Prairieville, purchasing the same from the Government. His family were among the first to locate in Palmyra Township, with the history of which they have since been connected. Mr. Fellows there died at an advanced age, after which his widow went to Iowa, and in the home of her daughter departed this life some years later. In religious belief they were both Methodists and were highly respected people.

Mrs. Rogers was one of a large family. She spent the days of her girlhood under the parental roof, leaving her father's home on her marriage with our subject. They began their domestic life on the farm which Mr. Rogers had previously purchased, living in true pioneer style, but as the years went by and their financial resources were increased, comforts and luxuries were added and their home became one of the most pleasant in the community. A fine brick residence was built, large barns and other outbuildings were erected and well-tilled fields yielded a golden tribute. Mr. Rogers also purchased one hundred and fifty-one acres of fine timber land on section 28, Palmyra Township, which, in addition to the old homestead, he still owns.

The union of this worthy couple was blessed with seven children but two are now deceased: Alvin, who died at the age of one year; Gilbert, who died in the prime of life, leaving a wife and two children to mourn his loss. Those who still survive are Alice A., wife of Howard Johnson, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work; Mary, wife of Hon. James P. Wilson, of Ogle County; Eliza,

wife of Thomas Johnson, a miner and farmer of Colorado; Mahala, who is living in Elgin, and Flora, at home.

In 1890, Mr. Rogers was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 26th of February. Throughout this commnity, she was widely knowu and had a host of friends, who held her in high esteem. She had proved a faithful companion to her husband, was a loving mother and a kind neighbor. She held membership with the Methodist Church, to which Mr. Rogers also belongs. He is a staunch Republican in politics, and has held many local offices, discharging the duties with promptness and fidelity. The success which has crowned his efforts brought him a handsome competence which now enables him to live a retired life in the enjoyment of the rest which he has so truly earned and richly merits.



**J**OHAN CHRISTIAN GROBE conducts a profitable business in general farming on section 26, Nelson Township, where he owns two hundred and forty acres of arable land, that is well drained, is under excellent tillage, and which he is constantly improving. He is a native of Saxony, Germany, born September 18, 1839, to Henry and Madelina (Hothouse) Grobe, who were also of Saxon birth and lineage. His paternal grandfather, Michael Grobe, was a life-long resident of Saxony, where he earned his livelihood as a weaver and a butcher, and at the age of seventy years he closed his eyes in death. His son Henry followed in his footsteps as regards his means of obtaining a living, but his career was suddenly terminated, while he was in full vigor and prime of life, by injuries that he had received. His widow survived him many years, and coming to America with her children, her last days were spent in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Bollman, in Nelson Township, and she was an old lady when at length she passed away. She was a Christian and a faithful member of the Lutheran Church, to which her husband also belonged.

Our subject was but seven years old when he

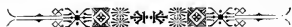
was deprived of a father's care, and was thirteen when his grandfather died. He early became self-supporting, as, after he left school, where he had obtained a good education, he learned the trade of a shoemaker. He was a stalwart young fellow of twenty years, when, in 1859, he left behind him the quiet scenes of his birthplace to venture forth into the untried world to seek for himself a habitation in a new country, and journeying by land and sea, he finally came to this State and county. Thirty and more years have passed by since that time, and from being a poor man he has become one of the substantial citizens of his adopted township, Nelson. For a year or two after coming here he was employed at his trade of making shoes. Always frugal and industrious, careful of his expenditures, and never neglectful of a good opportunity to make money, he at last had enough means to purchase the farm, which has been in his possession since 1873. He has made nearly all the improvements that add to its value, and it is a fine piece of property, making a pleasant home, and from its fertile fields, rich harvests are gleaned in repayment for the time and labor expended in their cultivation.

Mr. Grobe was first married in Nelson Township to Miss Catherine Genek. She was a native of Somerset County, Pa., and came to Illinois when young with her parents. She died at her husband's home in Dixon, when twenty-two years of age, leaving two children: William H., who married Sophia Bolden, and Sophia married Jacob Proffiter. Mr. Grobe's second marriage, which took place in this township, was to Miss Barbara Smith. Nine children have been born unto them, of whom these three are deceased: John Christian, August B. and an infant. Those living are Mary, Henry, Charles, Anna, Ida and Bertie Matilda, all of whom are at home with their parents and form part of a merry household.

Mrs. Grobe is a native of Somerset County, Pa., and was brought to Illinois when young by her parents, Frederick and Barbara Smith. They were born, reared and married in Germany, and after coming to the United States lived in Pennsylvania, whence they subsequently came to Illinois. They located on a farm in Nelson Township, where they

lived respected many years, and there death found them at a ripe age, he being seventy-two years old when he died, and she sixty-eight. They were earnest Christians, and members of the Lutheran Church.

It is not only as a farmer that Mr. Grobe's services have been valuable in his chosen home, but in the part he has taken in the administration of local affairs as an incumbent of all the various district and township offices which he has held at different times. He is sensible and clear-headed, is shrewd, without being over-reaching, and all who know him will bear testimony to his trustworthiness. His politics are of the Republican order. He and his wife are attendants at the Lutheran Church, and give readily of their means to support religion.



**G**EARHARDT H. MISSMAN, one of the most worthy German citizens of Lee County, is now living a retired life in Dixon, his pleasant home being situated on the corner of West Third and Harrison Streets. His life record is as follows: He was born in Oldenburg, Germany, December 4, 1824, and is one of seven children whose parents were Gearhardt and Catherine (Kuhlman) Missman, both of whom were born in the same locality, where they lived the life of farming people. The father died in his native land, at the age of fifty years. He had long been a member of the Lutheran Church and was an upright and honorable man who had the respect of all with whom he came in contact. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Missman came to America and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Catherine Letley, of Nelson Township, at an advanced age. She, too, was a life-long member of the Lutheran Church and was beloved by all who knew her. Four of the children are yet living, one being still a resident of the Fatherland.

The subject of this sketch was inured to hard labor on his father's farm, where he remained until eighteen years of age, when, wishing to try his fortune in the New World, he bade good-by to home and friends and accompanied an older brother

Frederick, to the United States. They took passage on a sailing vessel, commanded by Capt. Steiman, which weighed anchor at Bremen and after a voyage of five weeks and two days reached Baltimore, Md., in 1843. From that city, the two brothers made their way to Somerset County, Pa., where our subject began to learn the millers' trade with Mathias Zoure, in whose employ he continued for three years. He then worked for another miller in the same county three years.

It was during this time that Mr. Missman was joined in wedlock with Miss Mary Leydig, who was born in Somerset County, December 14, 1827, and is a daughter of Daniel and Polly (Martz) Leydig, also natives of that county, where they were reared and married and spent their entire lives upon a farm in Southampton Township. The death of the father occurred at the age of eighty-five years, and Mrs. Leydig passed away at the age of eighty-eight. Her mother had reached the very advanced age of one hundred and two years at the time of her death. They were a long-lived people, noted for robust constitutions, and in religious belief they were all Lutherans.

At the time of their marriage, Mr. Missman and his wife were in very limited circumstances. After residing in the Keystone State for a time, at the place where he learned his trade, they determined to try their fortune in the West, and, carrying out this resolution, located in Lee County, Ill. Our subject made his first purchase of land in Nelson Township in 1853, obtaining one hundred and sixty acres from the Government. It was entirely unimproved, not even a furrow having been turned. He located thereon in 1855, and at once began its cultivation and development, laboring untiringly until his farm became one of the best in the community. As his financial resources increased, he extended its boundaries until it now comprises two hundred and eighty acres of valuable land, supplied with two sets of good farm buildings. Until 1886 it continued to be his home, in which year he and his wife removed to Dixon, where they are now living retired, enjoying the fruits of their former labors, for the assistance of the estimable wife aided not a little in the success of our subject.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Missman were born six children, five of whom are yet living: Herman, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work; Daniel, who married Ida Bridges, and is now living on the old homestead; Hannah, wife of W. W. Heckman, a farmer of South Dixon; Milton, who is engaged in the creamery business, in Milton, Lee County, and Anna, at home. One daughter, Susan, an excellent young lady, died at the age of twenty years. The parents are both members of the Lutheran Church, in which Mr. Missman has served as Deacon for some time. They are numbered among the early settlers of this community and in the years which have passed since they located in Lee County they have gained many warm friends, who esteem them highly for their sterling worth. In politics, Mr. Missman is a Republican and has been honored with a number of local offices.



**C**HARLES J. ROSBROOK is one of the successful merchants of Dixon. In the spring of 1886, he established business in this city as a dealer in hardware and agricultural implements and so rapidly has his business grown and developed that he has now one of the largest houses of the kind west of Chicago. His establishment is situated on First Street and the building, which is 120x50 feet and two stories in height, is well filled with the best grade of goods turned out from the manufacturing of hardware and agricultural implements: consisting of Deere & Co.'s plows and cultivators, Deere & Mansur Co.'s planters and seeders, Nichols & Shepherd's threshers, Moline wagons, and Henney Co.'s buggies. His sales are made on the merits of his stock, not by false representations; and by earnestly trying to please his customers and giving them just what they desire, he has secured a most liberal patronage.

Mr. Rosbrook has long been a resident of Lee County. He was born in Lockport, N. Y., in 1845, and is the youngest child of John and Lucretia (Green) Rosbrook. His father was a native of New Hampshire and came of an old New England family. When a lad, he accompanied his parents

to Niagara County, N. Y., where he grew to manhood and became familiar with the life of a farmer. He was there married, the lady being a native of Niagara County, born of French and English parentage. With their family, Mr. and Mrs. Rosbrook emigrated westward in 1855, locating in Lee County, Ill. They became the first settlers in Harmon Township and broke the first prairie within its borders. It was no easy task to develop a farm from the wild land, but the work was accomplished by the father and his children, and upon the old homestead the parents resided until called to their final rest. The father died in 1861, at an advanced age. On coming to the county he had secured thirteen hundred acres of land near Rosbrook Lake, which he sold at a moderate price to those who wished to make homes in this locality. He took an active interest in all that pertained to the public welfare and in his death the county lost one of its best citizens.

Our subject was but a lad of nine summers when he came to Illinois. Amid the wild scenes of the frontier, he was reared to manhood and experienced many of the hardships and trials of pioneer life. Many an acre of raw prairie has he broken with the old time plow, drawn by oxen, and with the ox-team he hauled the grain to market in those days. In his youth he was inured to hard labor but thereby developed a self-reliance and force of character which have proved of incalculable benefit to him in later years. After attaining his majority, he engaged in farming for himself for some time in Harmon Township and subsequently engaged in the hardware and lumber business in the village of Harmon for a couple of years. He then came to Dixon and entered upon his present line of trade, carrying on operations with the success before mentioned.

In Lee County, Mr. Rosbrook married Miss Anna Siefken, who was born in Germany, in 1848, and when a small child came with her parents to Illinois, the family settling in Harmon Township in 1858, where the father improved a farm and where the mother died. Mr. Siefken is yet living on the old homestead at the age of seventy-three years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Rosbrook have been born five children yet living, and they have lost two—John

and Edith. Frank J. is now his father's book-keeper; Fred D. also is in the employ of his father; Harrison J., Lenora and Edna are yet at home. Mrs. Rosbrook is a member of the Lutheran Church. In politics, Mr. Rosbrook is a staunch Republican who warmly advocates the principles of that party and does all in his power to advance its interests. He is now serving as Alderman of the First Ward and proves himself an efficient officer.



JACOB S. PULVER is conducting a good business as a farmer and stock-raiser in Willow Creek Township, where he has a good-sized, well-tilled farm, with rich pastures stocked with fine horses and cattle of good breeds, and amply supplied with commodious buildings for every purpose. Mr. Pulver was born in the town of Florida, Montgomery County, N. Y., May 3, 1826, a son of Jacob S. Pulver, who, so far as known, was born in the same county. He in turn was a son of Solomon and Mary (Dennison) Pulver, his father a substantial farmer of Florida.

Jacob S. Pulver, Sr., was reared and married in the county of his nativity, his wife being Keziah Voorhes, who was likewise born in Montgomery County, and was a daughter of the Rev. Garret and Lavina (Cisco) Voorhes. Fifteen children were born of their marriage, of whom eleven grew to maturity. The father of our subject was a blacksmith and practiced his trade during the War of 1812. He subsequently bought a farm in Florida Township, and engaged in farming as well as in blacksmithing. He resided on his farm until shortly before his death, and then went to pass his remaining days with his daughter, his wife having died on the old homestead.

The subject of this brief life record grew to manhood in his native town, and was educated in the local public schools. In his youth he assisted his father on the farm and in the smithy, and gained a good practical knowledge both of agriculture and of mechanics as applied to the blacksmith's trade. He remained an inmate of the pa-

rental household until he was twenty-three years of age, and then rented his father's farm for six years. At the end of that time, he bought fifty acres of land, and engaged in general farming and dairying in his native state until 1866, when he came to Lee County to avail himself of the wonderful fertility of its soil and its numerous other advantages for carrying on agriculture successfully. He bought the farm in Willow Creek Township upon which he has ever since made his home. It contains two hundred acres of fine, well-improved farming land, which he devotes to general farming and stock-raising, and his finely-bred horses and cattle compare well with the finest in the vicinity, and always command good prices when placed on the market. Since he took possession of his farm Mr. Pulver has wrought quite a change, and has increased its value to a great extent by the various improvements that he has made. He has erected two roomy barns, has added to his house, making it much more commodious and convenient in every way, and has done other things to add to the attractiveness of his home.

Mr. Pulver and Miss Mary A. Burt were united in marriage April 16, 1850, and for forty-one years have shared life's joys and comforted each other in its sorrows. The following is the record of the seven children with which they have been blessed: William J., born March 22, 1851, was married April 15, 1874, to Mary Sherwood, and they have six children: Martha A., Gertie May, William S., Eddie S., Judson H., Mary and Edna; Judson, born April 30, 1852, was married to Josie Slothower and died in Nebraska, April 21, 1886, leaving four children: Fred, May, Frank and Eva; Charles L., born August 11, 1854, married Cora Nettleton, and resides in York, Nebraska; Emma, born May 19, 1857, was married to Stewart A. Ferguson, November 4, 1876, and has one child, Bertie Maud; Sarah, born December 4, 1860, married John Tuttle March 9, 1881, and they have three children: May, Wilber and Nellie; Frank, born August 20, 1867, and Nellie, born February 26, 1871, are living at home with their parents.

Mrs. Pulver is a native of Somersetshire, Eng., September 19, 1829, being the date of her birth. Her father, William Burt, was also born in that

English shire, as was his father, Samuel Burt, before him. The latter married Ann Applebee, who was likewise a native of England, and he spent his entire life in his native shire, his occupation being that of a farmer. Mrs. Pulver's father was reared and married in the land of his birth. He was a thatcher by trade. He finally resolved to better his condition by emigrating to this country, and setting sail from Bristol with his wife and five children, in the month of March, 1811, a ten weeks' voyage brought him and his family across the waters to this country where they sought a new home. From New York they went up the Hudson to Albany, and from there by way of Erie Canal to Ft. Hunter, Montgomery County, N. Y. The father rented land there some years, and then bought a home in Saratoga County, which he sold some years later, when he and his wife came to Lee County and passed their declining years in the home of their daughter, Mrs. Pulver. They reared seven children: Mary A., Eli, Charles, Emma, Elizabeth, Henrietta A. and Jay. The mother, who was a native of Somersetshire, England, bore the maiden name of Eliza Laky.

Mr. and Mrs. Pulver and all their children are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and they are held in high estimation throughout the entire community for those fine traits of character that make them kind and obliging neighbors and steadfast friends. In early life Mr. Pulver was a Whig, but since the formation of the Republican party he has followed its fortunes whether for better or worse, and is a staunch advocate of its policy.



**M**OSES SWARTS. The good old Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has sent many of her stalwart sons to the broad prairies of Illinois to help till her soil or to aid in the development of other industries. Many of them have become prominent in various walks of life, and have materially added to the riches of their adopted State, whose resources they have assisted in unfolding, while at the same time they have acquired comfortable fortunes for their own

use. The gentleman whose name appears at the head of this biographical review is a most estimable representative of the Pennsylvanians who now make Lee County their home. He is a well-to-do farmer and stock-raiser, with no less than three farms in this section of the country, all finely improved, and he resides on one of these on section 24, Palmyra Township.

Our subject was born in Brooklyn Township, Susquehanna County, Pa., in 1836. His father, whose given name was Jacob, was a native of New Jersey, a son of Peter Swarts, who was also a native of that State, while his parents were born in Holland, and were of High Dutch stock. Peter Swarts was a blacksmith, and spent the most of his life at his trade, dying in New Jersey when about four-score years of age. His wife was also of Jersey-Dutch lineage, and died in the State of her nativity when full of years. She was a Presbyterian, but her husband held to no religious faith.

Jacob Swarts was one of a family of three sons and two daughters. He was reared to the life of a farmer, and continued to live in New Jersey, until after his marriage in Sussex County to Miss Catherine De Witt, who was born in that county March 23, 1806. She was the youngest of thirteen children, seven sons and six daughters, all of whom but one grew to maturity and married, and she alone of all that large family is now alive. She was reared in the home of her birth by her parents, Moses and Margaret (Wilson) De Witt, who were natives of New Jersey, the father being of Dutch descent, and the mother of New England ancestry. They were well-to-do, having accumulated a large property after their marriage. They died in Sussex County, Mr. De Witt being past eighty years old, and his wife about the same age when her death occurred. She was a devout Methodist in religion. He served as a soldier throughout the Revolution, although but little is known of his military record by his daughter. The mother of our subject is a welcome inmate of his home, and, notwithstanding her advanced age, she is still bright and energetic, and retains all her faculties unimpaired by the ravages of the eighty-six years that have passed over her head since her birth. After her marriage, she and her husband had removed to Pennsylvania,

and were living there on a farm when death terminated his prosperous career as a farmer April 25, 1841, when he was but thirty-four years of age. He was a good man, much beloved by the people among whom he had settled, and in his death the Methodist Episcopal Church, which he had joined some years before, lost one of its best members.

Moses Swarts is the youngest of the four children born to his parents, two sons and two daughters. One of the latter is now deceased, Pamela, former wife of C. W. Kentner, of Dixon. The other sister and brother of our subject are Margaret, wife of A. T. Royce, of Rockford, and Peter, a resident of Essex County, N. J. Our subject passed his early life on a farm in his native State, and was a lad of sixteen years when he came from there to this State. He was young when he entered upon his life work as a farmer, but he persevered in his aim to be successful in his vocation, and has risen to a leading place among his fellow farmers in Palmyra Township. He has lived on his homestead on section 24, since 1860, and in the thirty-two years that have since elapsed he has made it one of the most beautiful farms in this vicinity, placing upon it fine large farm buildings, and otherwise improving it. He also has two other farms in this township, each comprising eighty acres of well-tilled land, and supplied with modern buildings. Our subject manages his interests with great tact, makes every deal count, and is, indeed, a cool, level-headed, far-seeing man of business. He has a mind of his own, and his opinions on all subjects with which he is familiar are concise and original. He is decided in his political sentiments and is a strong Democrat.

Our subject was married after coming to Palmyra Township to Miss Isabel A. Eastwood, and in her he has found an active helper, a good counsellor, and a wife kind and true. She is a daughter of one of the earliest pioneer families of Palmyra Township, which is her native place, her birth occurring here May 13, 1841, and she remained an inmate of her parental home until she married and had one of her own. For full history of the Eastwood family, see the biography of Capt. S. D. Eastwood. One of the five children born to our subject and his wife is dead—Myra, at the age of thirteen

months. The surviving children are: Burton, who resides on a farm belonging to his father in this township, and who married Ellen McCune; Carrie B. lives with her parents; Ettie, wife of August Demarest, a farmer in this township, and Bertha who is still at home.



**G**ILES J. HODGES. Among the enterprising and progressive farmers of Lee County may be mentioned this gentleman, who resides on section 27, Lec Centre Township, where he owns a fine farm of two hundred and seventy-six acres, highly cultivated, and on which he has placed many good improvements.

His parents, Jesse and Margaret (Bartlette) Hodges removed from Indiana to this State, in 1849, going to La Salle County, and settling in Lamoille, where the father died the same year. The mother departed this life in Lee Centre Township.

Our subject was born in Lawrence County, Ind., September 19, 1839, where he spent the first nine years of his life. He accompanied his parents to Illinois in 1849, and after the death of his father, lived with his brother Joseph in this township, where he grew to manhood. When he was twenty-one years of age, the Civil War broke out and he at once entered the service of his country, enlisting August, 1861, in Company C, Seventh Illinois Cavalry, in which he served for three years. He was remarkably fortunate in passing through this season of conflict uninjured, and returned home none the worse for his soldier's life. He worked on the farm with his brother for one season and then purchased a farm on section 27, on which he settled and where he has ever since been a resident.

Our subject has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Harriet G. Cook, to whom he was united in Dixon, Ill., December 8, 1868. By this union four children were born: Jessie M., Phlana M. (Mrs. Eugene Tennent), Joseph G. and Hattie G., wife of H. B. Lyon. The mother of this family died September 19, 1877. Mr. Hodges was again married in Belvidere, November 19, 1879, to Ellen A. Shaw, a daughter of John L. Shaw. She



was born September 29, 1845, in Hancock County, this State.

Mr. Hodges is a public-spirited and genial gentleman, who has acquired a competency by industry and perseverance. He has erected good buildings on his fine farm, which gives evidence of careful oversight and cultivation. In politics, he is a Republican and has served as Collector for his township. Socially, he is a member of the Masonic fraternity.



**B**ERNHARDT MISSMAN came here in pioneer times and proved a valuable assistant to the men who were struggling to develop the agricultural resources of the county. He labored hard, and placed an extensive area of land under cultivation, thus promoting the improvement of this section; he made money by his operations as a farmer and stock-raiser, so that in time he was enabled to abandon business and retire to a leisurely life, and is still making his home on section 13, South Dixon Township.

The birth of our subject took place in Oldenburg, Germany, May 10, 1827. His father was G. H. Missman, who was also a native of that province. He was a farmer and died in Oldenburg at the age of forty-eight. By his untimely death his community was deprived of one of its most worthy citizens. He was an active member of the Lutheran Church, as were his forefathers before him from the days of Martin Luther, the great reformer. He was married in his native province to Catherine Kulman, who also belonged there, and was descended from an ancestry that had been farmers for generations. They were Lutherans in their religious beliefs. The mother of our subject came to this country with her children after the death of the father, and her last days were spent in Nelson Township, where she died when past seventy years old. She was a life-long member of the Lutheran Church.

Bernhardt Missman was nineteen years old when he came with his mother and other members

of the family on that memorable ocean voyage to the United States, in 1846, sailing from Bremerhaven in the spring of the year, and landing at Baltimore eight weeks later. They proceeded thence to Pennsylvania, where they lived some seven years prior to coming to Illinois, in 1853. He attained his majority in the Keystone State, and was a miller in Somerset County some five years before his migration hither. He is a typical self-made man, as success has come to him through his own efforts, and his whole career is illustrative of the fact that push and energy, together with a clear head, cool judgment and a good insight into business methods, are better capital than mere money without them, for a young man when he is starting out in life. Besides these, Mr. Missman possesses characteristics that have won him the perfect confidence of all who know him, and thus he has not only been prominent as a successful farmer, but likewise has taken a leading part in the public life of the community, being called thereto by his fellow-citizens in just recognition of his fitness for civic positions. He was Road Commissioner for twelve years, and has been an incumbent of various other township offices. In his political sympathies he is in full accord with the Republicans and stands firmly by his party. Religiously, he and his wife and their children are members of the Lutheran Church.

During his residence in Somerset County, Pa., Mr. Missman was married to Miss Elizabeth Fritz, who has been to him a true and devoted wife. Of the seven children born to them two died in infancy. The others are John D., a farmer in South Dixon Township, who married Elizabeth Cleaver; William H., a carpenter at Dixon, who married Anna Bollman; Simon, a farmer in South Dixon Township, who married Fidelia Fellows; Ellen, wife of Albert Brierton, a farmer in Nelson Township; Addison, a farmer in Nachusa Township, who married Ailee Frederick.

Mrs. Missman was born and reared where her marriage took place, and is a daughter of the late John and Eve (Mower) Fritz, who were also natives of Somerset County, Pa., where they passed their early years. In 1856 they came to Illinois, and Mr. Fritz, who was a man of means, purchased

more than seven hundred acres of land in South Dixon Township, the most of which he improved and owned until his death, which occurred in 1874, at the age of seventy years. His wife is now living with her daughter, Mrs. Herman Lindeman. She is now past ninety-three years of age, yet she retains her mental and physical faculties well. She has been a life-long member of the Lutheran Church, as was her husband also, they having been reared in that faith.



**A**NDREW J. CARNAHAN, who is the proprietor of a valuable farm in Brooklyn Township, joining the village of Compton on the south, on which he makes his home, is one of the pioneers of Lee County, who has been identified with various of its industries since the early years of its settlement, and has been no unimportant factor in developing its resources. During his residence here of forty-one years, he has accumulated a handsome property, whereby he is enabled to spend his declining years free from active business.

Mr. Carnahan was born in Columbia County, Pa., May 15, 1816, his birthplace being on a farm ten miles southwest of Danville. His father, whose name was David Carnahan, was also a Pennsylvanian by birth, while his grandfather, William Carnahan, was born in County Antrim, Ireland, coming of one of the old Scotch families that colonized that region. He came from his native isle to America when a young man, and settling in Pennsylvania, was there married to Mary Stuart, who had come over in the same vessel with him. He spent his last years in Columbia County. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian Church. They reared five children: William, David, Polly, Margaret and Ellen.

David Carnahan was reared and married in Pennsylvania, taking as his wife Margaret Mann, a native of Lancaster County, that State. In his youth he learned the trade of a tailor and followed it for some years in his early manhood, but he later turned his attention to farming, for which he had

a natural taste, and his last years were devoted to that occupation in Columbia County, where both he and his wife departed this life at ripe ages. They were sincere Christian people, who were reared in the Presbyterian faith, and were consistent members of that church to the last. They were the parents of these nine children: Polly, who married Samuel Hilkert, and died in Pennsylvania; Elizabeth, who married Joseph Madden, came to this county with him in 1846, and subsequently died here; William, who spent his entire life in Pennsylvania; Samuel, who came to this county in 1848, and resided here the rest of his life; Allen, who came to Lee County in 1846, and died in Brooklyn Township; Charles, who came to Lee County in 1850, and spent his remaining days in Brooklyn Township; Jane, who married Jeremiah Berringer, came with him to Lee County in 1853, and died in Brooklyn Township; our subject; and Margaret, who died in Pennsylvania.

He of whom this biography is written was brought up in his native county, and was educated in its schools. At first there were no free schools, as they were conducted on the subscription plan in the early years of his boyhood, and his parents had to pay for his tuition according to the number of scholars sent. As soon as large enough to be of use, he was set to work on the farm, and by the time he attained his majority he had acquired a good insight into the most practical methods of farming, and when he was twenty-one he left the parental home to begin life on his own account on rented land in his native county. Two years later, he bought a farm of sixty-five acres there, upon which he continued to live until 1850. In 1849 he visited Lee County in search of a suitable location, as he had determined to try farming on the fertile virgin soil of Illinois, and he selected four hundred and eighty acres of land south of the present site of Compton and joining the plat. He instructed a man to buy it for him if he could do so, and returned to Pennsylvania to spend the winter. In the spring he set out for his new home, with his wife and six children, starting on the long and momentous journey April 14, with two pair of horses and two wagons, and arriving at his destination May 25, when he located on the land that

he had previously selected and on which he has ever since dwelt in comfort and contentment. He has been an interested witness of almost the entire growth of this whole section of country, as when he came here the few settlers that had preceded him had made but little headway in reducing the land to subjection. The prairies were as yet uninhabited, as they were regarded as valueless as places of settlement, and deer and other wild animals were to be seen roaming over them and through the timber. There were no railways for some years, and Ottawa was the principal market.

Mr. Carnahan continued actively engaged in farming and stock-raising, bringing his land into a fine condition, until 1874, when he branched out in other directions, erected an elevator on his land, a saw and grist mill, and engaged in dealing in grain, in the manufacture of lumber, and in the mercantile business generally. His business facilities were increased by the railway company establishing a station on his land, known as Carnahan's Station. Mr. Carnahan continued in active business until 1885, and then retired to all intents and purposes, though he still exercises a supervision over his interests. His career is one of which he and his may well be proud, as it furnishes an example of what may be accomplished by honest purpose and persistent work, directed by sagacious forethought and a clear understanding of practical business methods, which have placed him in the front rank of the substantial men of his township. He is a Democrat in politics, who has been unswerving in his allegiance to his party, in adversity as well as in triumph. He has honorably served as Justice of the Peace for Brooklyn Township for twenty-one years, and has been an important agent in preserving law and order in the community. He and his amiable wife are faithful members of the Presbyterian Church, and contribute liberally to its support.

Fifty-six years ago, May 14, 1835, Mr. Carnahan was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Holdren, and their wedded life of unusual duration has been one of true happiness. Mrs. Carnahan was born in Columbia County, Pa., April 27, 1816, and is a daughter of Aid and Abbie (De Mott) Holdren. Her union with our subject has been blessed with

children, of whom the following are recorded: Sarah married William Morgan, and they have five children; La Fayette married Sarah Cobb, and they have four children; Ellen married Frank Cole, and they have four children; Miranda married Hugh Hendershot, and they have one child; Mary, who married John Huff, lost her life in a railway accident, and left several children motherless; Abbie, now Mrs. Smith McBride, has four children.



**H**ORACE LYON, who resides on section 33, Lee Centre Township, was born in Saratoga County, N. Y., February 29, 1832, where he passed his early years. At the age of twenty he came to Illinois, settling in Kane County, where he was engaged in farming with his father, and where he remained for about ten years. He then removed to Ogle County, where he lived but one season, coming from there to Lee County, and settling in Lee Centre Township, where he has been a resident since 1863. He has always followed agricultural pursuits, and is now the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which is highly cultivated, and on which he has placed many excellent improvements.

Mr. Lyon was married in Lee Center, May 1, 1868, to Miss Alwilda Willey, who is a native of Warren County, Ohio, born June 2, 1850. They are the parents of two children: Angy A., who is a school teacher in this county; and Burton H., who married Miss Hattie Hodges.

The parents of our subject, David and Abbie (Bouten) Lyon, were natives of New York, whence they came to Kane County, Ill., where the father died in 1876, the mother's death taking place in Saratoga County, N. Y. The father of Mrs. Lyon, Aaron B. Willey, was a native of Pennsylvania, and her mother, whose maiden name was Angeline Livingston, was born in Ohio. The father resides in Ellsworth County, Kan., in which place the mother departed this life.

Mr. Lyon is a Democrat, but has never been an office-seeker, nor taken any active part in political affairs. His wife and daughters are members of

the Baptist Church and are active in all good works. The family have a comfortable home, and Mr. Lyon spends his time in looking after the interests of his farm and stock. He is a lover of fine horses, and takes an interest in improving the breeding of these animals.



**O**TIS HUNT, deceased, was for some years one of the prominent citizens of this county. He was a native of the Green Mountain State, born in Bennington County, in 1810, and, came of an old New England family. His parents were Ezekiel and Lavina (Thayer) Hunt, also natives of Vermont. Upon a farm in Bennington County, they resided for many years, and subsequently removed to Bath, Steuben County, N. Y., where they spent their remaining days, passing away at the ages of seventy-seven and seventy-six years, respectively. Mrs. Hunt was a member of the Episcopal Church, but Mr. Hunt held to no creed. In politics, he was a Democrat. They had a large family, most of whom lived on farms in the Empire State, but none now survive.

Our subject was the only one who came to Lee County. He was a lad when his parents removed to Bath, N. Y., where he grew to manhood and acquired his education in the public schools. After attaining to mature years, he led to the marriage altar Louisa Fluent, a native of Maine, and a daughter of Jeremiah and Mehitabel (Dudley) Fluent, who were also born in the Pine Tree State, of English parentage. From Bangor, Me., they removed to Bath, N. Y., where they died when well advanced in years. By occupation, Mr. Fluent was a farmer, and himself and wife were both members of the Methodist Church. Under the parental roof, Mrs. Hunt spent the days of her maidenhood until her marriage. She proved a true and faithful helpmate to her husband, and was a lady of many excellencies of character.

After their marriage, Mr. Hunt removed with his family to Avon, Livingston County, N. Y., where he engaged in keeping a hotel for many

years. He came to Illinois in 1861, and made his first purchase of land near Nachusa village. This was a sixty-six-acre tract, which he operated until 1879, when he sold out and purchased sixty-seven acres adjoining the city limits of Dixon. Since that time eleven acres have been laid out into town lots. To the cultivation and improvement of that farm, Mr. Hunt devoted his energies until his death. He had been called upon to mourn the loss of his wife in 1864, she having died at their home in Nachusa Township, at the age of fifty-nine years. Religiously, she was a Universalist. Mr. Hunt was called to his final rest on the 2d of November, 1882, and died respected by all who knew him. He had been a valued citizen of the community, a public-spirited and progressive man, and had ever borne his part in the upbuilding of the county, and the promotion of those interests calculated to advance the general welfare. In politics, he was a Democrat.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hunt were born five children, one of whom is now deceased—Barbara, who became the wife of Timothy Moore, and died in Dixon at the age of forty years, leaving one son, Otis, a promising young man, now living with his aunts. The surviving members of the family are Cordelia, Keren and Elizabeth, who live on the old home place, and Louise, wife of George W. Kessler, a resident farmer of Daphné, Ala. The sisters are all intelligent and cultured ladies, and are members of the Universalist Church. They have a pleasant home in Dixon, and have many friends throughout the community.



**J**OHAN LEONARD LUTZ. Thirty-two years have gone by with their many changes since John Leonard Lutz came to Lee County at the age of twenty years. He brought here no capital, with the exception of a few dollars carefully saved from previous earnings, but he had within himself resources that stood him in good stead, and fortune has crowned his diligence with comparative wealth. To-day he occupies a front rank among the farmers and stock-raisers

of Willow Creek Township, where he has a farm equal in improvements to the best; and he is also a leading horticulturist, owning and successfully managing a very fine nursery.

Our subject was born in the town of Wernetz Land, Gericht-Rodenburg, Kingdom of Bavaria, May 1, 1839. His father, who bore the name of Leonard Michael Lutz, was also a Bavarian, and was born in the city of Hoff, in 1794. The grandfather of our subject, who was a life-long resident of Bavaria, was a weaver by trade, and he died in the Valley of Wernetz.

The father of our subject was serving his time as a soldier, according to the customs of his country, during the great European war in the early part of this century that witnessed the down-fall of the great Napoleon. After that he followed his trade as a tailor in Bavaria until 1845, when he came to America, accompanied by four of his children. They set sail from Rotterdam in October, in the ship "Manchester," and landed at Philadelphia, January 9, 1846. The father found employment at his trade in the Quaker City, and continued to live there a few years. He then decided to try farming, and was thus engaged his remaining days, on the farm that he bought in Montgomery County, Pa., where his death occurred in 1877. He was twice married, and two children were born of his first marriage—Margaret and John Frederick; and two by his second marriage—our subject and his sister, Anna Barbara. The mother of our subject, whose maiden name was Anna Mary Piffer, died in Bavaria, her native land, in 1843. A brother of the father of our subject, named John Frederick, came to this country and spent the remainder of his life in Philadelphia.

He of whom these lines are principally written was in his seventh year when he came to the United States with his father, and still retains a distinct recollection of his native land and of the long ocean voyage that preceded their settlement here. He attended the city schools of Philadelphia quite steadily until he was twelve years old, and at that youthful age commenced working in a cotton factory, receiving \$1 a week and his board for his services. In a short time the mill suspended operations, and he then found employment in a saw and

turning mill for two years. After that he tried his hand at butchering. In 1855 he went to New Jersey, and for a year worked by the month on a farm in that State. At the expiration of that time, he returned to his father's home in Montgomery County, Pa., and assisted him in his farm work for awhile. A year later he returned to New Jersey, whence he came to Illinois in 1859.

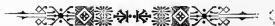
As his entire wealth at that time was comprised in the sum of \$30, he had to look around to find employment whereby he could earn his living, and he obtained a situation as a farm hand for John Gilmore, of Malugin's Grove. He worked for him eight months, and then commenced life for himself as a farmer on rented land. Four years later, he had done so well in that venture he was enabled to buy eighty acres of land on section 6, Willow Creek Township, which has ever since remained in his possession. At the time of purchase, a small frame house, 12x16 feet in dimensions and a story and a half high, stood on the place, and a part of the land was under cultivation. That humble dwelling has been replaced by a fine set of commodious frame buildings, and not a farm in its vicinity has a better class of improvements.

Mr. Lutz has added to his landed possessions from time to time, and now has three hundred and seventy-five acres of good land. He is carrying on a thriving business as a general farmer and stock-raiser, and also devotes some of his land to horticultural purposes. He started his nursery in a small way as far back as the year 1868, and for twenty years and more has paid particular attention to the propagation of trees and to fruit-growing. He has made a careful study of the subjects, reading all the best books concerning them, and no man in the county is better informed as to the best methods of managing a nursery than he.

Our subject was married in October, 1862, to Anna Mary Barbara Haeilmair, who was born in Bavaria near the same locality which is his birthplace. They have eight children, namely: Mary, Emelia E., Anna, John L., Johanna, George M., Lawrence H., and Bertha. Mary married Lewis Strack, and they have five children: Leonard, Julia May and Fay (twins), Amelia and one yet unnamed. Emelia married Henry Loptiner, and they

have three children: Walter C., Bertha and Lawrence W. Anna married Thomas Kettley, and they have one child, Ada.

Mr. Lutz was reared in the Moravian Church and Mrs. Lutz in the Lutheran, but both are now members of the Evangelical Association, and in their every day walk show themselves to be true Christians. Our subject is a keen observer, and has acquired many a useful lesson from nature as well as from books, is well posted in topics of general interest, and his progressive spirit adds to his value as a citizen who is desirous to promote the interests of his community.



**THOMAS ELLIOTT.** A distinguished writer has lamented the decay of that strength of individual character which has been the glory of the English nation. But if we may be allowed to judge from the class of people who have emigrated from that country to the United States, there never was an age which so little justified the lament as the present. The qualities of determination and perseverance, which so distinguish the English in whatever portion of the earth they may reside, have contributed largely to the success that almost invariably attends their efforts in this country.

Many of the prominent residents of this county are English by birth or parentage, and notable among them is Mr. Elliott, who is operating as a farmer on section 36, Amboy Township. He was born in Devonshire, England, August 16, 1823, and passed the early years of his life in the land of his birth. His father, Richard, was a farmer and the youth of our subject was an uneventful one, passed in a similar manner to that of most farmers' boys. At the age of twenty years, he emigrated to America, coming to Phoenixville, Pa., and engaging in making railroad iron in the iron works. For fourteen years he sojourned in the Keystone State and meanwhile made three visits to the Old Country, which occupied somewhat more than a year.

Upon leaving Phoenixville, Mr. Elliott came to

this county and, purchasing a farm in May Township operated there as a farmer for about fourteen years. He improved his place and was enabled to sell it at a fair advance on its original cost, at the time of his removal to Amboy Township. The buildings on his farm, most of which are first-class, have principally been erected by himself. His industrious life has brought its own reward in the possession of three hundred and twenty acres, located partly in May Township and partly in Amboy Township. Since coming to this county, he has engaged exclusively in agricultural operations and stock-raising, and is a thoroughly practical and successful farmer.

Mr. Elliott was married in Devonshire, England, to Miss Charlotte Nicholls, who was born at that place in April, 1830. Mr. and Mrs. Elliott have five surviving children, namely: Emily, Richard J., Albert H., Charles W. and Alfred M. They have suffered a deep bereavement in the death of five children, four of whom passed away in infancy, while Thomas G. died when seventeen years old. The parents of Mrs. Elliott were Geoffrey and Isabella (Almond) Nicholls, natives of Devonshire, England, who passed their entire lives in their native shire. The parents of Mr. Elliott were Richard and Mary (Foote) Elliott, who likewise lived and died in Devonshire, and were worthy people, highly esteemed in the community where they resided. In his political belief, Mr. Elliott is a Democrat, and has served as School Director as well as having been the incumbent of other minor offices in the township.



**JACOB EBINGER,** whose death occurred January 28, 1880, had been for some years a resident of Dixon, and bore the character of an upright and honest man. He was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, near Stuttgart, in 1825. He came of pure German ancestry and was reared and educated in the excellent schools of his native city. He learned the printer's trade in the Old Country and carried it on in connection with his other business after coming to the United

States. He resided for some time in the East, where he was married, subsequently coming to Dixon, where he established a hardware store on the corner of First Street and Galena Avenue, continuing in business at that place for a number of years, during which time he erected a large business block on the same location, which is one of the principal corners in the city and which establishment he was carrying on at the time of his death.

Mr. Ebinger was a second time married, in Dixon, to Miss Henrietta Raasch, who was a native of Germany and a daughter of John and Louisa (Bishoff) Raasch. Her parents came with their family to the United States and settled in Wisconsin where the father and mother died at a good old age. They were members of the Lutheran Church. Mrs. Ebinger has proved a worthy helpmate to her husband, assisting him to the utmost of her ability in accumulating the comfortable fortune which she is now left to enjoy. She has full possession of the property left by her husband, and manages it with great ability. Like her parents, she is a member of the Lutheran Church. She has a foster child to whom she has proved a kind and loving mother—Anna Geissenheimer, who is acting as clerk for Brubaker & Carpenter.

Mr. Ebinger was a member of the Masonic order and in politics was a Democrat. He was an energetic, hard-working man and his success was the results of his own efforts.



**F**LETCHER SEAVEY, who is engaged in general farming on section 23, Palmyra Township, is a native of the old Granite State, his birth having occurred at Sandwich, on the 2d of September, 1839. His grandfather, Joshua A. Seavey, was born in Rye, N. H., of New England parentage, the family being of English origin. He followed a sea-faring life, and becoming master of a vessel was known as Capt. Seavey. His last years were spent in Illinois, whither he came with his son Jesse, his death occurring in Palmyra Township, at the advanced age of eighty-

five years. He had married a New Hampshire lady, Betsy Webster, who died in this community at the age of eighty-three years.

The family of this worthy couple numbered eleven children, all of whom were married and reached the age of fifty years, but none are now living. One of the number, Asa A. Seavey, was the father of our subject. He also was born in Stratford County, N. H., where he was reared to farm life. In the county of his nativity, he married Ruth Ricker, a native of Sandwich, N. H., belonging to one of the early families of that State. After the birth of six children, they came to Illinois, where the family circle was increased by the birth of another child. Of this number four are yet living, Fletcher being the eldest. The mother died in Palmyra Township in 1875, at the age of sixty-one years; and Mr. Seavey was called to his final home when a resident of Ogle County, in 1887, aged seventy-two years. As consistent members of the Methodist Church, they lived upright lives and won the high regard of all.

We now take up the personal history of Fletcher Seavey, a well-known farmer of Palmyra Township, who has resided in Lee County since his fifteenth year. During the late war, he responded to the country's call for troops in 1863, enlisting among the boys in blue of Company D, One Hundred and Fortieth Illinois Infantry, under Capt. Frank Smith and Col. Whitney. The company and regiment were organized in Dixon and at once marched to the front, joining the Army of the Tennessee under Gen. Sherman. These troops fought the guerrillas in the South, and guarded the railroads for some months, after which they participated in the battle of Nashville, and other engagements of less importance. Our subject escaped unhurt and was able to report for duty every day of his service. When the war was over, he returned to his home and once more resumed operations as a farmer.

A marriage ceremony, performed in Palmyra Township November, 9, 1862, united the destinies of Fletcher Seavey and Eveline Eastwood, who was born on her father's farm in this township in 1843. She is a daughter of Reuben and Minerva (McElheny) Eastwood, both of whom died in Pal-

myra Township, at about the age of sixty years. They were natives of the Empire State, where their childhood was passed and soon after their marriage they left the East for Illinois, becoming pioneers of Lee County. In politics, Mr. Eastwood was a staunch Democrat, who labored untiringly for the success of his party.

Mrs. Seavey has three brothers and two sisters who are yet living. By her marriage she has become the mother of seven children: Eda B., wife of James H. Honey, a farmer of Nachusa Township; Harry C., who assists his father; Fred A., a botanist and school-teacher of Los Angeles County, Cal.; Allen E. at home; Clyde L., who resides with his brother Fred; Ruth M. and Esma L., who are still with their parents.

This family is one of high repute in the community where they reside. Their home is situated on section 23, Palmyra Township, where Mr. Seavey owns a valuable farm of one hundred and forty acres. He has here resided since 1854, when, obtaining possession of a tract of wild land upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made, he began its development. We to-day see the result of his labors in the highly improved farm which now yields to him a golden tribute. He certainly deserves great credit for his success, which is due entirely to his own efforts. In politics he is a Republican with strong Prohibition sentiments and has held the office of Assessor of his township.



**H**ENRY EMMERT, a well-to-do farmer and respected citizen of Nachusa Township, residing on section 5, is numbered among the early settlers of the county, whither he came when a young man in 1846. With its history he has since been identified, and with the work of development has been closely connected. Its progress he has watched with interest and has ever borne his part in the advancement of those enterprises calculated to promote the general welfare.

Mr. Emmert, a native of Beaver Creek, Washing-

ton County, Md., was born January 22, 1819, and is one of nine children, whose parents were Rev. Joseph and Catherine (Avey) Emmert, the former a native of York, Pa., and the latter born in Maryland, of German descent. Rev. Mr. Emmert was a son of a Pennsylvania citizen, whose family had settled in the Keystone State after emigrating to America from Germany, his native land. The father of our subject grew to manhood in the State of his nativity and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. After his marriage he became a minister of the German Baptist Church and settled on a farm in Washington County, Md. He there continued to make his home for some years, in the meantime traveling through that State and Pennsylvania, preaching the gospel. He came to Illinois in 1846, and was the founder of the German Baptist Churches in this part of the county. His interest in the work never abated, although in his later life he could not so actively engage in ministerial labors. He was a devout Christian, consecrated to the work and was held in the highest regard by all who knew him. The poor and needy found in him a friend, and he won the love of all. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Christian Lahman, in Nachusa Township, when nearly eighty years of age. His wife survived him some time and also spent her last days in her daughter's home. Her death occurred at the age of seventy-five years. She was also a consistent member of the German Baptist Church, and like her husband, delighted in doing good. All of their children grew to manhood and womanhood and were married and four of the nine are yet living.

Under the parental roof Henry Emmert spent the days of his boyhood, being carefully reared by his worthy parents. He was yet a single man when he came to Illinois, where he began life as a farmer. He entered eighty acres of land from the Government, but afterward disposed of this and purchased elsewhere. His arrangements and preparations for a home were further completed by his marriage with Miss Mary Kesseler. The lady was born in Darke County, Ohio, April 1, 1831, and is a daughter of Benjamin and Sarah (Burket) Kesseler. Her parents were natives of North Carolina, but wedded in Ohio, and began their



domestic life in Darke County, that State, in 1849. Joseph Kessler, the grandfather, was descended from ancestors from Switzerland and died in North Carolina. On coming to Illinois the parents of Mrs. Emmert located on a new farm in Nachusa Township, where the mother died many years ago. The father afterward returned to Maryland, where he was joined in wedlock with Miss Catherine Cronize. They now reside in Frederick County, that State, Mr. Kessler being eighty-five years of age. Both are members of the German Baptist Church.

Mrs. Emmert is one of a family of two sons and three daughters. Her sisters are now deceased, but her brothers are yet living. Her union has been blessed with nine children, but they lost three: Jennie, Joseph and Lora. Sarah, is now the wife of Joseph Johnson, of Nachusa; Anna E., is at home; George R., is now clerking in Nachusa; H. Hugh, F. Frederick and Jesse T., are still under the parental roof. The parents are both members of the German Baptist Church, and in his political views, Mr. Emmert is a Republican.

Whatever success our subject has attained in life, is due to his own efforts. He has worked his way upward to a position of wealth and affluence, being recognized as one of the substantial farmers and stock-raisers of his township. His farm comprising one hundred and eighty-six acres, is a valuable one, highly cultivated and well improved, and thereon he has resided since 1852. He also owns a timbered tract of ten acres in China Township.



**S**AMUEL STAINBROOK, a member of the farming community of Lee County, has owned and occupied his present farm in Viola Township for nearly thirty years. He is a native of Crawford County, Pa., and was born May 6, 1835. His father, George Frederick Stainbrook, a venerable resident of Wyoming Township, was also a native of Crawford County, while his father, John Stainbrook was of German birth. He came to this country with his parents in early life, and was married in Pennsylvania to Elizabeth Kightlinger,

a native of that State. He always followed farming, and spent his last years in Crawford County.

The father of our subject was reared and married, and resided in his native county until 1857. In that year he migrated to Illinois, and buying a farm in Wyoming Township, still makes it his home. He is very old, having attained the advanced age of ninety-five years. His wife, Susan Baird, daughter of Joseph Baird, was born, reared and died in Crawford County, Pa., her death occurring in 1837.

The subject of this sketch passed his early years in the State of his birth, and was educated in the public schools. In 1856 he left his old home to found a new one in the great Prairie State. He worked out by the month in Lee County until 1860, when he went to Princeton, Bureau County, and was employed on a farm there two years. Returning to this county at the expiration of that time, he invested his money in the farm on which he now resides, which contains a quarter section of excellent farming land. February 22, 1865, he enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Fifty-third Illinois Volunteers at Mendota Ill., and was mustered out at Springfield, Ill., September 22, the same year.

Mr. Stainbrook was married in October, 1857, to Miss Isabelle Davison, a native of Onondago County, N. Y. Her father, William Davison, was born in County Down, Ireland, and his father, who bore the same name as himself, was born either in that country or in Scotland, he being of Scottish antecedents. He came to America in 1825, and located near Kingston, Canada. Mrs. Stainbrook's father was born and reared on his native isle, and on coming to this country located in Onondago County, N. Y., where he engaged in farming. A few years later he removed to the Province of Ontario, Canada, and there remained until 1851. In that year he came to Illinois, and settled among the pioneers of Viola Township, the removal hither being made by the lakes to Chicago, and from there by team to this county. At that time there were no railways here, and the abundance of deer and other wild animals denoted that the country was still in a sparsely settled condition. Mr. Davison bought a tract of wild land, and im-

proved a good farm, on which he lived until his demise. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Wallace. She was born in Scotland, and was a daughter of James and Mary Wallace. She died on the home farm at a ripe age. Mr. and Mrs. Stainbrook have four children, namely: George, William, Mary E. and Jane.



**A**LLEN WEIGLE. This gentleman, who operates a well-kept and carefully conducted meat market, located on Galena Avenue at Dixon, also carries on an extensive ice business. He has been engaged in the former occupation since 1866, and during that time was for some years in partnership with his brother Henry.

Mr. Weigle was born in Allentown, Pa., January 3, 1844, where he was reared and educated. His father, David Weigle, was a native of Germany, where he learned the trade of a butcher, and when a young man came to the United States, settling in Eastern Pennsylvania, where he was married. After their marriage this worthy couple spent most of their lives in Allentown Pa., and there died when quite old people. They were both members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Weigle was formerly a Democrat but in his later years became a member of the Republican party.

The subject of this sketch served for three years in the War of the Rebellion, enlisting in 1861 at Philadelphia in the Second Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, it being the one hundred and twelfth regiment organized in the State of Pennsylvania. Col. Gibson of the regular army was in command of his regiment which was attached to the Army of the Potomac and James River. Mr. Weigle took part in the battles of the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, City Point and Petersburg and had many narrow escapes from death. At Cold Harbor a musket ball passed through his hat just grazing the top of his head. He was captured at the battle of Petersburg, but in half an hour afterward, he and a comrade by the name of Weaver, planned and

succeeded in making good their escape and returned safely to their regiment. This was a close call, as had he not escaped when he did he would have served a term of imprisonment in the terrible prisons of the South.

Mr. Weigle was married in Dixon in February, 1866, to Miss Mary Nelig, who was born in Allentown, Pa., but grew to womanhood in Illinois, having come to this county with E. B. Stiles when quite young. She is well educated and an intelligent woman. Mr. and Mrs. Weigle have had born to them seven children, of whom one, Charles, died when four years old. Those living are Estella, Sarah, Addie, Florence, Olive, and Ray A., all at home. This worthy couple are among the highly respected citizens of Dixon. Mrs. Weigle is a member of the Methodist Church and active in its good works. In politics Mr. Weigle affiliates with the Republican party.



**J**AMES MCKENNEY was born in the Province of Ontario, Canada, in 1804, and died at his home in Dixon, April 7, 1864. For a record of the family history, the reader is referred to the biographical sketch of Fred McKenney. Our subject was a young man when he came from Canada to the State of Illinois and began life in Dixon as a merchant, being thus engaged for many years with great success. Later he followed the occupation of a liveryman and was thus employed at the time of his death.

As one of the early settlers of Dixon and one of its most prominent citizens, Mr. McKenney occupied a high place in the esteem of the people of the city and county. In his religious views he was liberal, holding to no creed. His political preference brought him into close sympathy with the principles of the Republican party and he uniformly voted that ticket. His marriage, which took place at Franklin Grove, January 1, 1840, united him with Miss Harriet Whitney, who is a woman of noble character and unusual executive ability, having since the death of her husband carefully and successfully looked after his large landed in-

terests. She possesses a vein of true love for the spiritual world and adheres to the faith of scientific Spiritualism.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. McKenney was blessed by the birth of five children, one of whom—Charles R.—died at the age of three and one-half years. Josephine, wife of Hobart Wicks, resides in St. Louis; Georgia A. married Dr. Winn, a prominent physician of Dixon; Corelia is the widow of Charles A. Baker, and makes her home in St. Louis; Mr. Baker was Overseer for the Molne Milburn Stoddard Manufacturing Company, of Minneapolis, Minn., where his death occurred; Stella is the wife of Thomas J. Stephen, manager of Shepherd's House Papering Company, of Kansas City, Mo.



**J**OHN HOCTOR, now living a retired life in Amboy, located in that place in August, 1856. He is a native of County Tipperary, Ireland, having been born there June 13, 1826. He is a son of Patrick and Mary (Howe) Hoctor, both of whom passed their last days in their native land. They were the parents of four children: Mary, who still resides in Ireland, married James Corrigan; our subject, who is the second in order of birth; Patrick, who went as a British soldier to the West Indies where he died, and Margaret, who resides in Australia.

Our subject was the only member of the family to emigrate to the United States, and on coming hither, in 1853, stopped for a time in Philadelphia where he was married to a lady who was also a native of County Tipperary and who came to the New World in 1850. When in Philadelphia, Mr. Hoctor was engaged as a day laborer, and in 1856, as before stated, he came to Amboy, being in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad, working in the blacksmith shop.

In 1861, the outbreak of the late war, he of whom we write enlisted in Company C, Thirteenth Illinois Infantry, and first saw active service in Missouri. Then followed the battles of Chickasaw Bayou, Miss.; Arkansas Post, Jackson, Miss.; assault

and siege of Vicksburg; Tuscomb, Ala.; Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Ringgold Gap and Madison, Ala. After a service of three years, his term of service having expired, Mr. Hoctor was on his way home when at Madison, Ala., he was taken prisoner, robbed of his money and clothing, and held in bondage until April 16, 1865.

On returning again to the peaceful pursuits of life, our subject entered the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad with whom he continued until 1885, making in all a period of twenty-seven years. He is the proprietor of two farms of one hundred and sixty acres, to which he gives his personal attention. In politics, he votes the Democratic ticket and served his fellow-townsmen as Road Commissioner for three years. In religious affairs he is a Roman Catholic. To Mr. and Mrs. Hoctor have been born six children, the eldest of whom died when young. Daniel is a blacksmith in Chicago; John was killed near Elkhorn, Neb., meeting his death on the cars, at the age of twenty-three years. The remainder of the family are Mary, William and James. Mr. Hoctor is what may be termed a self-made man, as he came to Amboy poor in this world's goods, but now ranks among the representative citizens of the county.



**J**AMES W. RICHARDSON, who was President of the village of Ashton for a number of years, is engaged in business as a grocer, and by his genial courtesy of manner, as well as the superiority of his stock, has gained the confidence of his fellow-citizens. He is one of the brave soldiers, who, more than a quarter of a century ago, fought with distinguished courage for the preservation of the Union, and for that reason, no less than for the strict integrity which has ever characterized his actions, deserves representation in this volume.

A native of this State, Mr. Richardson was born in Taylor Township, Ogle County, June 16, 1842. His father was the late James V. Richardson, who was born in Ireland, and his mother, whose maiden name was Mary Mackey, was also a native of the

Emerald Isle. The parents were married in their native country, whence they emigrated to America about 1839, and coming direct to Ogle County, this State, sojourned there for a time, and afterward removed to this county. The mother passed away in China Township, this county, in 1852, while the father died in Henry County, Ill.


The fourth in a family of eight children, our subject was quite young when his parents removed from Ogle to Lee County, and he grew to manhood in China Township. His opportunities for gaining a good education were meagre, but by study and observation he has become well-informed. His youth was passed uneventfully on his father's farm, where he assisted in tilling the soil and bringing the land to a high state of cultivation. He has been an interested witness of the gradual development of this county from its primeval condition and has taken an important part in promoting its progress.

In 1861 Mr. Richardson enlisted in Company F, Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry, and after serving for three years, re-enlisted in the same company and regiment, where he remained until the close of the war. He was an active participant in many engagements, the most important being Shiloh, Corinth, Murfreesboro, and the Atlanta campaign. Later he engaged in detached duty at Gen. Thomas' headquarters, and his record is that of a brave soldier, whom no danger affrighted. At the close of the war, he returned to Illinois, but soon went South, remaining in Chattanooga, Tenn., for one year. However, he did not feel contented to make his permanent home in the "Sunny South," and returning to this State, engaged in farming in Taylor Township, Ogle County.

The year 1874 marked the arrival of Mr. Richardson in Ashton, where he engaged in the stock business until October, 1890. At that time he embarked in the grocery business as the senior member of the firm of Richardson & Son, and is now successfully operating as a merchant in Ashton. He was married in Taylor Township, Ogle County, December 25, 1867, to Miss Helen Arnold, whose birth occurred in that county. Two children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Richardson—Frederick A., and Fay A. M. The devoted wife and

mother passed from earth at her home in Ashton, March 18, 1886, sincerely mourned by her family and the many friends whom she had won during her residence here.

For several years Mr. Richardson has served as President of the village of Ashton, and in that responsible position has done much to advance the interests of the place. He has taken an active part in local political affairs as a member of the Republican party, and in his social connections is identified with the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Dixon Commandery, No. 21. Mrs. Richardson was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. Richardson has contributed liberally to the support of the gospel. Besides his property in the village, he owns two hundred and sixty acres and has erected a first-class set of buildings on his place.



**A** BRAHAM C. HAGERMAN. Notwithstanding the fact that our subject has passed the milestone that marks a long and honorable life of eighty and one years, he is still keenly interested in farming and stock-raising, and retains the management of his farm on section 14, Palmyra Township, his son assisting him in operating it. When the railway was built through here, the company purchased a part of his land, but he still has eighty acres that is in a fine condition, and on this pleasant homestead he and his wife are serenely enjoying the comforts that they have gathered about them by their united labors.

Mr. Hagerman was born in Warren County, N. J., October 15, 1810, a son of Joseph Hagerman, who was also a native of that county. His parents were of New England birth, though of Dutch descent. The first of the Hagermans to come to this country were three brothers, who came from the Netherlands before the Revolution, and made settlement on Staten Island, N. Y. Later one branch of the family, from whom our subject is descended, located in New Jersey, and there the grandparents of our subject lived and died, in Knowlton Township, Warren County,

which was the scene of the birth of the grandson of whom we write, and the old Hagerman homestead is still in the possession of some of the family, the grandfather being Francis Hagerman. The Hagermans are a long-lived race, and in former days the elders were true-blue Presbyterians.

Joseph Hagerman was reared to the life of a farmer in his native State in the home of his birth, and in due season he took unto himself a wife, marrying Susan La Barre, who was also a native of Northampton County, Pa., and came of some of the old Dutch stock that early peopled that State. Her parents were Abraham and Mary (Long) La Barre, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and died there at an extreme old age. They were of a long-lived family, and one of the La Barres, a cousin of the mother of our subject, attained the remarkable age of one hundred and sixteen years. After marriage, Joseph Hagerman and his bride began life on a farm in his native county, and besides attending to the cultivation of his land, Mr. Hagerman did an active business at his trade as a blacksmith. They subsequently removed to Northampton County, Pa., and purchased and improved a new farm in Strand Township. There the father's useful career was terminated by typhoid fever when he was in the prime and vigor of life. He was a fine man in every respect, and was greatly esteemed by his community. He was active in religious matters, and was a sound Presbyterian. His widow survived him a great many years, dying at last in the same Pennsylvania county where his demise occurred, being ninety-six years old at the time of her death. She was of a pious frame of mind, and a staunch Presbyterian in her religious belief.

Our subject is the third of six sons and four daughters, all of whom lived to advanced ages, and seven are yet living, he being the only one residing in Illinois. His early life was spent in his native county in New Jersey, and in Northampton County, Pa., whither his parents removed when he was young. In 1861 he made an important move, leaving his old home and coming to this State to try farming on the rich prairies. The result of that step has been very satisfactory, and to-day he is numbered among the prosperous far-

mers of Palmyra Township, where he settled on the farm on which he has since carried on his occupation in November, 1861. This is finely cultivated, well-drained and fenced, and its improvements are ample and substantial.

While living in Northampton County, Pa., Mr. Hagerman was married to Miss Malinda Eyer, in whom he has found an inestimable treasure. Among the blessings vouchsafed to them in their long wedded life of many years' duration may be counted the eight children born unto them, all of whom are living but Hebron C., who died in infancy. The others are: Frank, who is a clerk in a store at Woosung, and makes his home with his parents; Alice, wife of C. D. Coe, a banker of Barron, Wis.; Josephine, wife of Charles E. Morgan, a farmer in this township; William E., at home, assisting in the management of the farm; J. Coursen, a telegraph operator of Woosung; John W., a resident of Salt Lake City, Utah, where he is engaged in business as a painter and paper hanger; and Grace, an accomplished young woman who is the stay and comfort of her parents in their home.

Mrs. Hagerman was born in Upper Mount Bethel, Northampton County, Pa., January 13, 1827, a daughter of William and Catherine (Borger) Eyer, who were also natives of Pennsylvania, and both were of German parentage. Their parents had settled in Northampton County in Colonial days, when it was a wilderness with but few inhabitants. William Eyer was a son of John Eyer, who was a Pennsylvania farmer and a German teacher, and lived to be eighty-five years of age. He married Margaret Good, who also lived to be very old. All their lives they were members of the Lutheran Church, and were well-known old settlers of their township. They were the parents of eight sons, who all grew to maturity, and raised large families.

After their marriage, William Eyer and his bride made their home near where they had been born and reared, and there labored as tillers of the soil until death stayed their hands when they were old people, he dying at the age of eighty-three, and she just before her eighty-sixth birthday. They were prominent members of the Lutheran

Church, and he was a Democrat in politics. Mrs. Hagerman is the seventh daughter in a family of two sons and seven daughters born to her parents, all of whom married and reared large families, and four of them are yet living.

Our subject and his wife retain in a remarkable degree the strength of body and vigor of mind characteristic of their younger days. Always kindly disposed and charitable toward others, having a warm place in their hearts for all who suffer or are needy, the frosts of age have not chilled their sympathies. Nurtured in Christian principles, they have not departed from their early training, but have long been devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Hagerman seems to have inherited his father's political views, and is as sound a Democrat as he was, and at the age of twenty-two he cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. Jackson, when he made the second race in 1832.



**J**OHAN YETTER, of Willow Creek Township, is well and favorably known throughout Lee County, among whose progressive, well-informed and skillful farmers and stock-raisers he occupies a high position. His landed possessions lie in Willow Creek and Alto Townships, and his farm is among the best in its vicinity in its appointments and in regard to productiveness.

Our subject was born in Rheinpfalz, Germany, December 18, 1835. His father, John G. Yetter, was a native of the same place, and was but three years old when his father died. He was cared for by his mother, and was reared to the life of a farmer. He followed his vocation in his native land until 1854, when he emigrated to America. He was a resident of New York City for a short time, but in March, 1855, came to Illinois and located near Hennepin, Putnam County. In 1862 he came from there to Lee County, and spent his last days with his son, our subject, dying in his home in March, 1890, at the venerable age of eighty-two years. His wife died during their res-

idence near Hennepin, in 1857, at the age of fifty-three years. She was born in the same German province as himself, and her maiden name was Katherina Meyer. They reared eleven children, all of whom came to America, and the following are their names: Katherina, Elizabeth, John, Margaret, Mary, George, Anna, Lena, Maria, Philip and Julia. George, who was a member of the Twentieth Illinois Infantry, gave up his life for his adopted country, while bravely fighting at the battle of Raymond, Miss.

He of whom these lines are principally written received an excellent education in the schools of his native land, which he attended steadily until he was thirteen years old. From that time until 1854, he worked on the home farm in Rheinpfalz, and then on the 1st of March he set sail from Havre on the ship "Helvetia," bound for the United States of America, and thirty-seven days later landed at New York City. He was employed in that Metropolis for nine months, and at the end of that time started Westward and came to Illinois by rail to LaSalle, and from there by team to Hennepin. He rented a farm in that vicinity, and remained there until the fall of 1859, when he came to Willow Creek Township. He farmed here as a renter for two years, and in 1860 bought a quarter section of wild prairie, at \$12 an acre, the land now being included in his present place. He located upon it in 1861, and has been constantly improving it ever since. He has bought other land, and now has three hundred and thirteen acres of fine farming land, lying in Willow Creek and Alto Townships, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation, has erected a neat set of buildings, and has everything in good shape for carrying on agriculture profitably.

Mr. Yetter was married November 23, 1857, to Miss Lena Schoenholz, who was born in the same province as himself, July 16, 1835. To her he is indebted for the many comforts that he enjoys in his cozy home, and she has been a factor in bringing about his prosperity by her helpfulness in various directions. They have nine children, who are named John P., Carl T., Lena, Mary, George, Jacob, Fred, Frank and May.

Our subject is in the truest sense of the term a

self-made man, who has taken advantage of every opportunity offered to improve his condition and to make his life as full and complete as possible. He has good mental endowments, is a close observer of men and affairs, and finds time to indulge his liking for reading, and so is informed on a variety of subjects, and keeps well posted in what is going on in the outside world. He is one of the leading citizens of his township, and represented it as one of the members of the County Board of Supervisors for eight years, his fellow-citizens having a just appreciation of the value of the services of a man of his calibre in helping to carry on public affairs. In politics, he is a Republican. He possesses sound religious convictions, and he and his wife and three of their children are members of the Evangelical Church.



**S**AMUEL ALLEN. All honor is due to the noble citizen-soldiers of the country who served it so faithfully during the late war, many of them sacrificing the early years of their manhood in helping to preserve the Union in its integrity. Many of them have since been very servieable in advancing the interests of this county, and among them is Samuel Allen, of this biographical review, who is farming and raising stock on section 20, South Dixon Township, where he has a farm that is complete in its appointments, and is as productive as any in the neighborhood.

Mr. Allen was born May 6, 1837, near Stoystown, Somerset County, Pa. His parents were Louis and Elizabeth (Commer) Allen, natives respectively of Virginia and Pennsylvania, the latter of German parentage, her father and mother living and dying in the Keystone State. Louis Allen's parents removed from Virginia to New York when he was a small child, and his father died in that State. His mother returned to Virginia, and lived out her remaining days in the Old Dominion. When Samuel Allen was eleven years old, his parents removed to Bedford County, in the same State, but after living there some time, they went back to Somerset County, whence they came to Illinois in 1868. They settled in the village of

Eldena, in this township, and in 1870 the father died in his new home at the age of seventy-eight, and a year later his wife passed out of life at the same place, she being then past seventy-five years old. They were devoted Christians, and were members of the Baptist Church for many years.

Our subject was in the flush and vigor of early manhood when he first came to this county in 1860 to make it his future home. The Rebellion broke out and found him hard at work to get a good start in life. He watched the course of the war with intense interest, and in August, 1862, threw aside all personal considerations to join the brave boys in blue at the front, his name being enrolled on the 15th of that month as a member of Company A, Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry. His regiment was sent to the field to fight under the gallant Gen. Thomas, and he and his comrades were with him until the terrible war was brought to a close, early winning the confidence of their beloved leader by their fidelity to duty, courage in the face of danger, and staying qualities in the heat of the longest and hardest battles. They were mustered out in June, 1865, and honorably discharged at Camp Harker, Nashville, Tenn. They had taken an active part in the engagements at Nashville, Franklin and Chattanooga. They went through the Atlanta campaign, and completed their service by driving the rebel, Gen. Hood, from his stronghold. Our subject escaped without a wound, but while he was sick in a Kentucky hospital he was captured by John Morgan's troops, during the celebrated raid of that daring leader through that State. Although never pierced by a rebel bullet or bayonet, he had many a hairbreadth escape from death while fighting in the lines in some hotly-contested battle.

After the close of the war, Mr. Allen returned to this county, and soon was pursuing his vocation as a farmer as busily and with as much interest as if he had never left the plow to shoulder his gun to help fight his country's battles. He has owned his present farm of one hundred and eleven acres on section 20, South Dixon Township, since 1868, having one hundred and forty-one acres in all, and by unremitting and well-directed toil has transformed it into one of the most desirable

pieces of property in that township, erecting good farm buildings, placing the soil under a high state of cultivation, and purchasing modern machinery so that he might conduct its operations to the best advantage. Besides the home place he owns ninety-two acres in another part of this township.

Mr. Allen has taken unto himself a wife since becoming a resident of this county, and to her good offices attributes a part of his success in life, as well he may, she being so well fitted for her position at the head of the household whose affairs she directs wisely and well. She bore the maiden name of Eva Mossholder, and is a daughter of a well-known pioneer family, whose history is given in the biography of William H. Mossholder. Mrs. Allen was young when she came to Illinois with her parents from her birthplace in Somerset County, Pa., and she was reared to womanhood in South Dixon Township. She is a member of the Evangelical Church, and, with her husband, is of high social standing in this township where they have many friends. Mr. Allen is a man of sterling common sense, with sensible opinions upon all topics with which he is familiar, and in politics he holds himself independent of party ties.

Our subject and his wife have been blessed in their marriage by these three children: Corra E., wife of William Baker, of La Salle Township, La Salle County; Louis G., married Miss Jennie Parker, and lives on his father's farm; and Nellie M. is at home with her parents.



**J**OHAN WESLEY HOYLE is a representative of the farmers of the present generation who have within a few years stepped to the front to aid in carrying on the great agricultural interests of this county. His farm, comprising a quarter of section 35, South Dixon Township, is the old family homestead, on which he has passed the most of his life, and he keeps it up to the same high standard that it had attained in the elder Hoyle's hands.

Our subject was born May 6, 1863, in Somerset County, Pa., and is the third son of John and Em-

eline (Deeter) Hoyle, who are well-known people of this county, and are living in retirement at Eldena. A biographical record of their lives appears on another page of this volume. Their son of whom we write was but a few months old when they came to this county, and he was about two years of age when he removed to the farm he now owns and occupies. He was educated in the public schools, was carefully reared under excellent home influences, and during his boyhood and youth had an experience in farm work that has been valuable since, as he was taught to do things well, and never to neglect any opportunity to improve his finances by taking advantage of the markets. Since he attained his majority, he has been actively engaged on his own account, having a good equipment of brain and brawn to start out with, and in 1889 he purchased the old homestead of his father. It is amply supplied with every convenience for carrying on agriculture, and, besides raising grain and other farm products, he has a good grade of stock on the place.

Mr. Hoyle and Miss Belle Fritz were married in this township, where she was born August 17, 1866. She was reared and educated here, and resided with her parents until her marriage. Her union with our subject has brought them three children whom they have named Ray V., Hazel A. and Florence. Her father, Henry Fritz, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Hoyle, in the spring of 1891, at a ripe old age. He was of German descent, and was born and reared in Pennsylvania. When a young man he came Westward as far as this State, and was here married to Mrs. Nancy Howard *nee* Allen, a sister of Samuel Allen, who is represented elsewhere in this work. The mother, who is an old lady, now makes her home at Eldena. Mrs. Hoyle is one of three children, all living, she being the eldest. Her sister Addie is the wife of Jerry Hoyle, who is employed in the shoe factory at Dixon, and her brother, George W., lives with his brother-in-law, Mr. Hoyle.

Our subject has done well in the past as a wide-awake farmer, and has a promising future before him in his chosen career, as he has a clear understanding of his calling, is keen and prompt, decided in purpose and act, and carries his whole soul into



his work. He is correct in his habits, and in him and his amiable wife the Evangelical Association of this township finds two of its most earnest working members. His politics are of the Republican order.



**A**SABEL PRENTICE has been identified with the agricultural interests of this county for thirty years and more, as one of its practical, intelligent farmers, and the farm that he has developed from a tract of wild prairie in Wyoming Township compares favorably in point of improvement and cultivation with the best in this locality. Mr. Prentice was born in the beautiful town of Chester, Hampden County, Mass., June 6, 1833. His father, Ephraim Prentice, was also a native of Massachusetts, and was brought up on a New England farm. After marriage he bought a farm in Chester, seven miles from the station, on the Boston & Albany Railway. He resided there until 1858, and then sold his place in order to come to Illinois to pass his remaining years with his children, and died in Wyoming Township, at a ripe age. The maiden name of his wife was Susan Bisbee, and she was born either in Chester or Worthington, Mass. She died at the home of a son in La Salle County, this State. She was the mother of these children: Asabel, Edward, Martha, John, Mary and Henry.

The subject of this brief life record was reared on a farm among his native hills, and, under the influences of a good home and pleasant surroundings, grew to a stalwart manhood. He had the advantages of a good education, conducted partly in the district school and partly in the High School at East Hampton. Thus well equipped mentally, he began life by teaching school two terms. He preferred, however, the more active life of a farmer, and wisely thinking that the outlook was broader in the great Prairie State, he came hither in 1856, and the following summer bought the land included in his farm in Wyoming Township. It was then merely a tract of wild prairie, and only by the most painstaking toil, directed by

skill and a good knowledge of agriculture, has he redeemed it from a state of nature. He has the land all under an excellent state of cultivation, has erected neat frame buildings and has adorned the place and added to its value by planting choice fruit and shade trees.

In becoming a citizen of Illinois, our subject has been benefited in more ways than one, as he has not only been prospered financially, but the comfort and happiness of his life has been increased by his good fortune in securing a true wife by his marriage in Wyoming Township, in 1857, to Miss Amanda Melvina Sproul, a native of Pennsylvania. They have five children living: Sarah James, Mortimer, Joseph and William. Sorrow has visited them heavily in the death of two of their children—Susie, their fourth child, who died in her fourth year, and Lena May in her fifteenth year. The latter lost her life in the great cyclone of June 20, 1890, that created such havoc and desolation in this portion of Lee County, she being one of the seven scholars, who with their teacher, Maggie McBride, perished on that fatal day, when the wind utterly demolished the little school house in which they were staying.



**H**ARRISON HAUSEN, who is at present residing on section 3, China Township, was born in Bremen, Lincoln County, Me., April 13, 1818. He is a son of Charles Hausen, who was born in Friendship, in the same county and State, where also his mother, whose maiden name was Mary Jane Hilton, was born. The parents came to Lee County in the fall of 1840, and settled a short distance from Franklin Grove, where William H. Hausen now lives. The father departed this life in the spring of 1869, and the mother in December, 1878.

Our subject was the second in order of birth of the parental family of eleven children, and was reared to manhood in Lincoln and Penobscot Counties, Me. In company with his brother William H., he set out for this county, September 4, 1838, and arrived within its limits in October of

that year, making the distance from the east side of Michigan to the Rock River on foot. Our subject has consequently been a resident of China Township since the fall of 1838.

Harrison Hausen was married in this county to Lydia Clinetop, who was born in Luzerne County, Pa. They have become the parents of one daughter, Ann L., who is the wife of Thomas J. Wertman, of Montgomery County, Iowa. Mrs. Lydia Hausen departed this life in China Township, and our subject was again married in Dixon, this State, to Miss Nancy Wilder, who hailed from Penobscot County, Me. By that union have been born two children: Hal, who married Miss Anna Warn, and Fred H. In politics, our subject is a Democrat. He has always been engaged in farming and stock-raising, and has a finely improved estate of six hundred acres in this county, besides lands in Iowa.



**L**UDWIG BAKER. This gentleman, at present foreman of the Emerson Lumber Company at Dixon, has been connected with that company for ten years, with the exception of three years spent in Sully County, S. Dak. He is an extensive land-owner in the latter State, possessing three hundred and twenty acres of land, which is well improved, and two tracts of one hundred and sixty acres each, which are unbroken. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres in Nelson Township, this county, divided into two farms of eighty acres each, with good improvements and buildings. He came to this State and county a poor man, struggling to get a start in life, beginning his work on the land last mentioned, in 1857 and by hard work has succeeded in acquiring his present possessions and comfortable position in life.

Mr. Baker was born July 20, 1826, in Somerset County, Pa. His father, Henry Baker, was a native of the same county, of German parentage, whose father died when he was two years old. He was reared by an older sister, and when old enough, learned the trades of a carpenter, millwright and cooper, becoming a very skillful

mechanic. He also became a successful farmer and at the time of his death, which took place in 1863, when at the age of seventy-six years, he was the owner of considerable land in Somerset County. He was a Whig in politics, and in religion a devoted member of the Lutheran Church. His wife, whose maiden name was Eve Young, like her husband was a native of Somerset County, Pa., and also of German ancestry. She died in 1871 at the age of eighty-one years. Her father, Ludwig Young, was a farmer in Somerset County, and was a native of Germany, from which country he came with his parents when only seven years of age. He died, when eighty-five years old, at the home which he had occupied for so many years. His wife, whose maiden name was Miss Barren, was a native of Pennsylvania and lived until very advanced in years. They were both members of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject is one of fourteen children, eight of whom lived to maturity and became the heads of families. Our subject and his brother Henry, who is a farmer in Westmoreland County, Pa., are the only members of the family now surviving. Ludwig Baker remained at home until reaching years of manhood, and inherited from his father a natural facility in the use of tools, although he never became a practical mechanic. He was married in Somerset, in his native county, to Miss Carolina Benford, who was born in that city, the county seat of Somerset County, August 13, 1822. She was the daughter of Thomas and Catherine Chopenig Benford, natives of Pennsylvania, of Scotch and Dutch ancestry, respectively. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Benford settled on a farm, Mr. Benford carrying on, in addition to his farming operations, a tannery. In later years he became the proprietor of a public house on the Somerset and Mt. Pleasant Turnpike, which was at that time a well-known and much traveled highway. In this business he and his wife continued for years, becoming well known throughout the country as good entertainers and worthy people. Here the decease of both occurred, Mr. Benford, who was born in 1793, departing this life, January 7, 1866, his wife's death taking place April 8, 1855, at the age of fifty-five years and eight months

They had made hosts of friends during their lifetime, especially among the traveling public, and their loss was greatly felt.

Mrs. Baker is one of ten children born to her parents, six sons and four daughters, of whom the sons and three daughters are now living. Our subject and his wife have been the parents of five children of whom three are deceased: Henry, Eda C., and Thomas H., all of whom died in childhood. Those living are Anna M., wife of Hall Schofield, who resides in Rock Falls, this State, where Mr. Schofield carries on a livery stable. Mrs. Schofield was a teacher for twelve years before her marriage; Bessie remained at home and for some years has been engaged in teaching.

Mr. and Mrs. Baker are well known and highly esteemed by people in the community where they reside, and Mrs. Baker and her daughter Bessie are worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics, Mr. Baker is a staunch Republican and takes a deep interest in everything affecting the welfare of his town and county. Mr. Baker was Justice of the Peace while in Somerset County, Pa., and Constable in Lee County.



**I**SRAEL ZUG, a resident of Franklin Grove, where he is engaged in horticulture, is prominent in the public life of Lee County as a member of the County Board of Supervisors, representing China Township. He is a descendant of an ancient family in Switzerland, being one of the sixth generation in the United States, three brothers having come over from the Swiss Fatherland to this country in Colonial times, who were early settlers in different counties in Pennsylvania. One of them changed the spelling of the original name to Zook, another changed the spelling to Zuck, while Uli Zug, the ancestor of our subject, retained the correct orthography, as he settled in Lancaster County, Pa., among Germans who were familiar with the name Zug, which means train, and is applied to many places in Switzerland. Uli Zug had a son John, who attained the age of ninety-six years, and the next in line was Abra-

ham, whose son John was the father of our subject. In religion, the ancestors of Mr. Zug who first came to this country were Mennonites, but the father, grandfather and great grandfather of our subject were ministers in the German Baptist Church.

He of whom these lines are written was the fourth of the eight children of his parents, and he was born in Lebanon County, Pa., March 14, 1827. In early life he learned the trade of a tanner, which he followed in his native State until 1850. Ambitious to try his fortunes in what was then a part of the "Great West," he came to Illinois in that year, journeying by the Ohio, Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, and landing at Peru. He purchased eighty acres of land in La Salle County, which he tilled profitably for four years. At the expiration of that time, he removed to Franklin Grove, and continued farming for two years thereafter. From 1858 to 1881, he owned and conducted the principal meat market at Franklin Grove, and since that time has given his attention to horticulture. He has a natural taste for this pursuit, brings an intelligent and enquiring mind to the work of carrying it on, and is well informed as to the best methods to be followed in order to make it successful. In the decade that he has devoted to this line, he has given close attention to every detail, and has built up a business from which he derives a good income.

Mr. Zug was married in 1849 to Rachael L., daughter of James and Martha Johnson, and a native of Chester County, Pa., who was born in 1829. They have had as much joy in their domestic life as usually falls to the lot of mortals, and among their blessings are the eight children born to them. One child died in infancy; and their son Nathan is dead. He went to Oregon in early manhood, where he married and died, leaving two children. The following are the children spared to our subject and his wife: John, a bricklayer, who resides in Iowa; Alfred, a butcher in Hutchinson, Kan.; Frank, a butcher in Iowa; Llewellyn, who lives at home with his parents; Mary, wife of Elmer E. Mathews, a lawyer of Sedan, Kan.; and Hattie, wife of Charles Secrist, a clerk in the Union Transfer Depot, at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Our subject is a man whose fine character and high principles, and his capacity for affairs, have made him conspicuous in the civic life of his township and county. He has been Justice of the Peace, has been Collector, and is now serving his second term as a representative of China Township on the County Board of Supervisors. He is a sagacious and safe counsellor, and always gives good advice when his neighbors seek his guidance in any matter. He is faithful to the duties imposed upon him as a public official, and never neglects an opportunity to push forward the interests entrusted to his care. He is frank and warm hearted, is conscientious and straightforward in all his acts, and his religion is of both the mind and the heart. He and his wife are believers in the doctrines of the Advent Church. In politics, he is a staunch Republican.



**E**DWARD S. FARGO, of Dixon, is widely known throughout the Northwest, among the mercantile class and traveling men as one of the oldest and most successful commercial travelers in the United States. He is descended from good old New England ancestry, and was born amidst the beautiful hills of Berkshire County, Mass., in the town of Tyringham, November 15, 1822. His father, Samuel Fargo, was also a native of the old Bay State, born in Sandisfield, September 1, 1799, while his father, whose name was the same as his own, was a native of New London, Conn., whence he removed to Sandisfield, where he carried on farming for many years, although his last days were spent in Tyringham. The maiden name of his wife was Eunice Stebbins. She was born near New London, Conn., and coming to Dixon in her old age, about 1857, died here a few years later.

In his early manhood the father of our subject was engaged in the mercantile business in what is now Monterey until 1821, and from there to Tyringham, where he remained until 1855. In 1855 he came to Lee County and bought land three and one-half miles south of Dixon, and while he re-

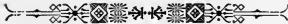
sided in this city he superintended the improvement of his farm, and was classed among the substantial farmers of the county. He died January 15, 1891, full of years, and leaving behind him the record of a well-spent life. His wife had preceded him in death, dying in 1883, after an unusually long wedded life of more than sixty years' duration. She was born in Hudson, Columbia County, N. Y., February 22, 1802, her maiden name Eliza Buel, and she was a daughter of Joseph and Lucy (Pickett) Buel. She was the mother of five children: One who died in infancy; George A., Edward S.; Charles, a resident of Chicago; Joseph B., of Dixon; and Samuel M., of Chicago.

The subject of this biographical record received his early education in the schools of his native town, and subsequently enjoyed the advantages of a course of study at Lenox Academy, of which John Hotchkin was then principal. At the youthful age of seventeen years, he entered upon the business, which he has almost continuously pursued ever since, as a commercial traveler, and but very few, if any men, have had the large experience that he has had in that line, or have been so successful in making sales and advancing the interests of their employers as he. He has always exercised due caution, discrimination and excellent judgment in dealing with buyers, and at the same time has displayed marked enterprise and a real talent for securing custom, that have rendered his services invaluable to his firm. He traveled for several years in New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut, but in 1854 he came to Dixon, and has made his home here ever since. He bought a tract of land near the city in company with his father, yet did not attempt farming, but still gave his attention to mercantile pursuits, obtaining a position as clerk in Dixon. A year later, he threw up that employment to resume his old business as a commercial traveler in the interests of Bill, Fargo Kelog & Co., wholesale dealers in boots and shoes, which was subsequently changed to Charles H. Fargo & Co., and he has traveled for that firm continuously since, being an important factor in its prosperity. Through him it has become extensively known throughout Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota, and he has

built up for his employers a good business in those States. More than half a century has elapsed since he first entered upon his vocation in New England, and then much of the country through which he now travels was an unknown wilderness—the great States of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin were in their infancy; Iowa and Minnesota, but little settled, (the latter not even an organized Territory) were on the furthest frontier; and the Dakotas were unheard of.

Mr. Fargo was married in 1843 to Miss Margaret, daughter of Daniel and Sophia (Strong) Garfield, and a native of the same Berkshire town in which he had his birth. She is a member of the Baptist Church, and is an exemplary Christian woman. Her happy wedded life with our subject has brought them two daughters: Eliza Sophia, wife of Samuel B. Bovey, of Chicago, and Eva M., at home with her parents.

Our subject is esteemed wherever he is known for his sterling worth and for his pleasant disposition, which have gained him many friendships among the people with whom he has come in contact in the course of his business. In his social relations he is connected with the following organizations: Friendship Lodge, No. 7, A. F. & A. M.; Nachusa Chapter, No. 57, R. A. M.; and Dixon Commandery, No. 21, K. T.



**H**ENRY W. DUNNING, an early settler of Illinois who is now living retired at No. 34 Walnut Street, Chicago, was born in Newburg, Orange County, N. Y., February 23, 1828. His father, Gabriel Duuning, was also a native of that city and being left an orphan at the age of seven years, from that time on made his own way in the world. He learned the trade of a cooper, which business he followed in Newburg, until 1830, when he removed to Tompkins County, and purchased a farm in Newfield Township, where he engaged in farming and resided until 1843, at which time he traded his land for property near Rockford, Winnebago County.

May 15, of the above named year, our subject,

accompanied by his wife and family of nine children, started for their future home, making the entire journey overland and arriving in Rockford on the 15th of June. At that time Chicago was a city of about seventy five hundred inhabitants, and most of the land in the northern part of this State was owned by the Government. Mr. Dunning resided on that farm until 1861, when he sold out, and removing to Rockford, made his home in that city for the succeeding six years, then purchased a farm fourteen miles northwest of that place and there continued to reside until his death. The maiden name of his wife was Keziah Case. She was also born in Orange County, N. Y., and died in Tompkins County. He was married a second time, his wife surviving him many years. Henry W. Dunning of this sketch received his education in the public schools of Tompkins County, accompanying his parents on their removal to Illinois in 1843, and can relate many an interesting event of pioneer life. He has often teamed wheat to Chicago with two yoke of oxen, and when the weather was pleasant camped and cooked by the wayside and in bad weather stopped at the taverns which were located at uneven distances, the charges for which were very moderate. Our subject resided with his parents until reaching his majority, then began life for himself by working out on farms by the month. After being thus employed for two years, he purchased eighty acres of unimproved land, five miles east of Rockford, for which he paid \$4 per acre. He erected thereon a log cabin and resided there, cultivating his land until 1861, when he traded his property for one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 10, Ashton Township. Later, however, he purchased another forty acres and continued to make that place his home until 1880, when, renting his farm, he removed into the village of Preston. In 1887 he went to Chicago, where he has since lived retired from active business. He still owns his farm of two hundred acres in Ashton Township, his home in the village of Preston, and a seventy-acre farm near that village.

In 1856, Mr. Dunning was married to Emma Morse, who was born in Waukesha, Wis., and was the daughter of William and Sarah (Chapman)

Morse. To them have been born two children, Irvin and Hattie. The former married Ida Rice and is the father of three children: Blanche, Elmer and an infant unnamed. The daughter married Benjamin Rice and has become the mother of two children, Walter and Carl. Mrs. Emma Dunning departed this life in 1870, and in February, 1880, our subject was married to Louisa Bennett, who was born in Sodus, Wayne County, N. Y. She is a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Dunning is connected with Preston Lodge, No. 515, A. F. & A. M.; is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the United Order of Deputies, and of the American Mechanics.



**W**ILLIAM M. STRADER. The agricultural element that has been so largely instrumental in the upbuilding of Lee County is well represented by this gentleman, a prominent farmer of Wyoming Township. His well-appointed farm is finely located on section 8 of said township, on the Chicago and Dixon Road, at this junction with the Rochelle Road, and one and three-fourth miles west of Paw Paw, his residence occupying a rise of ground commanding a pleasant view of the surrounding country.

Mr. Strader was born on a farm in Lafayette Township, Sussex County, N. J., August 18, 1824. His father, whose given name was Henry, was also a native of that New Jersey township, but his father is thought to have been of German birth. The latter was the owner of a farm in Lafayette Township, which is now in possession of his great-grandson, having been in the family one hundred and twenty years, and a railway station is on the place, called Strader's Station. The mortal remains of the founder of the family in the United States are buried in the Plains burying ground, near his old home.

Henry Strader was reared and married in his native county, Rachel More becoming his wife. She was a native of Sussex County, N. J., and was a daughter of Noah and Hannah More. She died at the home of her son, our subject, in 1860. The

father of our subject left his early home in 1829 and founded another in that part of Luzerne County, Pa., now included in Wyoming County. He bought a farm there two miles from Newton, in Newton Township, upon which he resided twenty years. At the expiration of that time, he returned to New Jersey to spend his closing years amid the scenes of his childhood, and lived on the old Strader homestead until death closed his mortal career in 1880. He now lies sleeping the last sleep in the old Plains burying ground.

Our subject was one of nine children born to his parents who grew to maturity. He was five years old when the family removed to Pennsylvania, and there he grew to manhood and was given the opportunity of obtaining such an education as the local schools offered. In the month of May, 1848, he and his mother, brothers and sisters started for what was then considered the "Far West," and after five weeks' travel overland arrived in this county. He entered the northwest quarter of section 6, in what is now Wyoming Township, which was wild land. He was then in the flush of early manhood, endowed with strength, tenacity of purpose and a good capacity for down-right hard labor, and as soon as he had erected a log house for shelter, he proceeded earnestly to work to improve his land. At that time the county was but sparsely inhabited, the greater part of the land was owned by the Government, and game of all kinds found a home on the prairies or in the timber. There were no railways for some time, and LaSalle was the nearest market.

Mr. Strader broke and fenced his land, bought one hundred and twenty acres more on section 31, Willow Creek Township, and continued his farming operations until March, 1852, when he once more started Westward, this time bound for the Golden State. This was also his wedding journey, as he was accompanied by his bride, he having been married a few days previously, February 22, 1852, to Miss Sarah A. Post, a native of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y. She was born October 9, 1831, and is a daughter of James D. Post, who was born at Sheffield, Mass., in 1804, and was a son of James Post, who is supposed to have been a native of the old Bay State. He was a soldier in the War

of 1812, and after the close of hostilities he went to Indiana to spend the remainder of his days. Mrs. Strader's father was reared in Massachusetts, and when a young man went from there to New York and was a pioneer of Batavia, where he followed the trade of a carpenter until 1838. In that year he went to Indiana, making the removal by lake and canal. He carried on his calling at Ft. Wayne until the fall of 1847, when he came to this county with a team. He settled at Lee Centre, where he bought a tract of land and gave his attention to its cultivation until death closed his career. The maiden name of his wife was Eliza Hopkins. She was born at Plainfield, Conn., July 2, 1805, and died on the home farm at Lee Centre, November 28, 1880. She was a daughter of George and Sarah (White) Hopkins. She was the mother of eleven children, of whom she reared seven. She and her husband passed together a happy wedded life of fifty-two years. They were devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In their journey across the plains to California, Mr. and Mrs. Strader were members of a company of seven women and twenty-one men, of whom William Hopkins, of Temperance Hill, was the captain. They had seven wagons drawn by oxen, and a few saddle horses. They had to wait three weeks at Iowa City for the grass to grow, that their oxen and horses might have feed on the long journey, which was to consume six months, and lay a weary way across a country almost uninhabited and over sterile plains and high mountains. From Iowa City to Council Bluffs, a distance of seventy-five miles, there was not a house or any trace of civilization. Wearied and travel-stained, the little party arrived at Shasta, Cal., the terminus of the stage route, September 26. Mr. Strader became possessed of a ranch on Trinity River, in Trinity County, on which he erected a commodious house and barn, and there established a ferry which was known by his name. He occupied quite an important location, and his house was the polling place for that section of the county, which was called Strader's Precinct.

In the fall of the following year, Mr. Strader sold his ranch at a good price, having tired of life on the frontier, and in the latter part of January,

1854, he set his face towards his old home, taking with him his little family and proceeding by stage to Marysville, where he embarked, January 27, on the steamer "Pearl," bound for Sacramento. There was a great rivalry among the various steamers plying up and down the rivers, and the fare had been reduced from \$5 to fifty cents. Our subject and his wife came near being the victim of a steamboat accident, as there was a race between the boat which they were on and another, and when not twenty rods from the landing at Sacramento, the boilers of the "Pearl" exploded, injuring all on board, one hundred and twenty-two in number, except eight, among whom were Mr. and Mrs. Strader and their child, who happened to be in the toilet room at the time, and thus escaped scalding, and were rescued before that end of the boat went down. From San Francisco to Panama, the voyage consumed fifteen days, and there our friends had another rather exciting adventure. There was a fine harbor, but no wharf, and when steamers approached Panama a gun was fired as a signal for boats to come out a distance of three miles to land the passengers, who had to pay two dollars apiece to be put ashore. The tide being out when the steamer containing the Straders arrived, the boats could not reach the shore with their prows, and the passengers had to pay another dollar to be carried ashore on men's backs. The boatman who tried to perform that office for Mr. Strader found him a too heavy burden, and fell with him in the water and left him to get to terra firma as best he could. Six hours were taken up in crossing the forty-eight miles of intervening isthmus between the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, on a dilapidated railway, and our subject and his family were detained in the cars at Aspinwall, awaiting the arrival of the specie boat, which was outside in the harbor but could not approach until the tide turned. From New York they went to Chicago by the way of Philadelphia and at last arrived at Paw Paw Grove, March 25, safe and sound. Since her return home, Mrs. Strader has had another narrow escape from death, when the Dixon bridge fell, May 4, 1873, as she had just crossed before the fatal accident, when so many were killed or injured.

Mr. Strader bought his present farm from Russell Town in 1856, and has devoted himself assiduously to its cultivation and improvement, and in both respects it ranks with the best in the township. He is a man of marked intelligence, his travels, in which he has driven across the United States from ocean to ocean, having broadened his intellect, as he has made good use of his powers of observation, and has stored his mind with useful information derived from nature, as well as from books, for which he has a special fondness. He is credited with bringing the first carriage and light harness to the township, in 1856. He is well known as a man of progressive ideas and of much enterprise, and his fellow-citizens are always sure of his hearty co-operation in any movement that will benefit the township or county, whether to heighten their material welfare or to elevate their social and moral status.

Mr. Strader and his amiable wife occupy a warm place in the hearts of the people about them, as they are known far and near for their never-failing kindness and consideration for others, for their free and open-handed hospitality, and for that beneficent charity that means not only a liberal giving of their means, but impels them to think kindly of, and sympathize with, the unfortunate, and to care for the suffering. They have been members of the Baptist Church for twenty-four years, and have taken an active part in its up-building. Mr. Strader was a Whig in his early manhood, but he has been a Republican since the formation of the party. He has served as Road Commissioner, has been School Director and is at present School Trustee. In 1848, the year of his settlement here, the school districts were organized, and began to draw public money. In 1850 the township was organized under the name of Paw Paw, which was soon after changed to Wyoming. Our subject has been a member of all the juries impanelled here since his residence here, and in 1886 he was a member of the Grand Jury at Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Strader have been blessed in their wedded life by the birth of six children, of whom these four have passed to the life eternal: George C., who was born in California and died at the age

of nineteen; John, who died in his ninth year; Mary A., who died in her eighteenth year, a lovely girl, who was just blooming into a tender and beautiful womanhood, and Edward J., who was born August 16, 1862, and died July 7, 1886, aged twenty-four years. Two children remain to our subject and his wife, Willis and Harry G. The latter married Miss Emma Morris, and has one child, Grace.



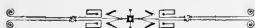
**C**A. BALLOU, a successful merchant of Dixon, has been engaged in business for himself for more than eight years, but is a salesman of long experience, having been connected with the dry-goods establishment of George L. Seuler from 1863 until 1882. Upon coming to Illinois in the spring of 1860, he first located in Ottawa, where for a time he resided, but later removed to Dixon. He was born in New Haven, Addison County, Vt., and received his education in his native place, where he grew to manhood.

The father of our subject was Dr. E. C. Ballou, who was for years a physician in Addison County, Vt., and there died at the age of seventy-six years. He was a descendant of the famous minister, Rev. Hosea Ballou, and married a New Haven lady, Miss Anna Bird by name. She passed from earth a few years before the demise of her husband, at the age of seventy-one years. She was a member of the Methodist Church and a faithful and sincere Christian woman. The Doctor was a Republican in his political belief, and was a strong advocate of temperance, never using liquor in his prescriptions for medicine.

Miss Mary McWilliams, as Mrs. Ballou was known in maidenhood, is a native of Orange County, N. Y., and was there educated and reared to womanhood. She has been a faithful companion of her husband and his cheerful helpmate in all worthy enterprises to which they have lent their aid. They are active members of the Methodist Church, with which they united in youth, and Mr. Ballou is agent for the Dixon branch of



the Lee County Bible Society. Socially, he is elerck for the Modern Woodmen of America, at Dixon, and is a member of the order of Masons, at Dixon, belonging to the Blue Lodge. Politically, he adheres to the principles of the Republican party. Two children survive, and two, Philip and William, are deceased. Frank A. is salesman for his father, and James is a student in the Dixon schools.



**R**EV. CHRISTIAN B. THUMMEL, D. D., was born in Germany, in 1802, and died at his home in Prairieville, May 24, 1881. His ancestors were worthy and prominent people in the Fatherland, and his grandfather, who was a ship surgeon, served for many years on the commercial vessels of Holland. His father, Gerhard Thummel, was born in Jager, Germany, in 1755, and after receiving his education in his native place, engaged in mercantile pursuits there until his death, in 1826. He was a prominent business man and an energetic and upright citizen.

The mother of our subject, Margaret (Meyern) Thummel, was born in Germany, and died in Jager, in 1841, at an advanced age. The parents were faithful and active members of the Lutheran Church. Our subject was educated for the ministry at the University of Halle, in Prussia, and later graduated from the University of Tubingen, in Wurtemberg. In his native province, he was licensed to preach, in 1824, and two years later was ordained to the ministry, soon after which he came to the United States, in August, 1856, embarking at Amsterdam in a sailing-vessel and landing at Philadelphia seventy days later.

Afterward Mr. Thummel studied at Hartwick Seminary, in Otsego County, N. Y., where he was professor of languages, and also held a professorship in the Lutheran Seminary, of Lexington, S. C. In 1845, he removed to Illinois and settled at Prairieville, where he soon afterward organized the Lutheran Church and was its pastor for many years. Some years after he came to Prairieville, the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred

upon him by a college in Ohio. He was a kind and patient man, a profound scholar and worthy citizen, and left many warm friends to mourn his death. For many years he was Secretary of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, of Palmyra Township, which he founded. Politically, he was a Republican.

In New York State, Dr. Thummel was married to Miss Catharine Lattin, who was born in Hartwick, N. Y., and educated in the academy at that place. Her parents, Wilham and Abiel (Hurd) Lattin, were natives of Connecticut, but spent many years in Hartwick, N. Y., where they resided on a farm. Later they went to Ohio, where the father died. The mother then returned to New York State, and there passed from earth at an advanced age. Mrs. Thummel is a lady of much refinement and broad culture, and makes her home in Prairieville.

Dr. Thummel and his estimable wife became the parents of five children, viz.: Anson E., of whom see biography; Charles D., who is married and occupies a stoek farm of more than seven hundred acres in Marshall County, Kan.; George H., who is married and is an attorney at Grand Island, Neb.; Warren, who lives in Des Moines, Iowa, where he is an attorney, and Kate L., wife of Herman I. Fischer, a farmer of Palmyra Township.



**B**ENJAMIN FRANKLIN DYSART, Postmaster at Franklin Grove, is the youngest son of James and Elizabeth Dysart. He was born in Huntingdon County, Pa., January 29, 1841, and resided in his native place until he was fifteen, when he accompanied the parental family to Illinois and settled on a farm near Franklin Grove. His education was gained in the schools of Lee Centre and Dixon, and has been broadened by subsequent travel and self-culture.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. Dysart enlisted in the service of the Union and was mustered in September 7, 1861, as a member of Company C, Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry. He entered service as a Corporal and was mustered out November 10, 1864, as Lieutenant, having also

acted as Quartermaster for a time. He participated in all the marches and engagements in which his regiment had a part, and received his official promotion as the result of meritorious service.

Upon the close of the war, Mr. Dysart located in Canton, Ohio, where he was Revenue Assessor for a time. In 1866 he embarked in the wholesale and retail grocery business, and the following year came to Illinois, where he engaged in farming in China Township, Lee County. His farm in this township had been given to him by his father prior to the war, and he engaged as a tiller of the soil until 1875. He then became a member of the firm of Dysart & Hussey, lumber merchants at Franklin Grove, and continued in that connection for six years. In 1881 he sold the lumber business and engaged in the implement trade, which he closed out in order to accept the office of Postmaster, in May, 1889.

February 25, 1864, Mr. Dysart was married to Alice C. A., daughter of William O. Harrison, of Canton, Ohio, and they have one son, Edgar H. In his political affiliations, Mr. Dysart is a Republican, devotedly attached to his party, and socially is a member of the Illinois Commandery of Loyal Legion and the Grand Army of the Republic, having been Commander of G. W. Hewitt Post, No. 398.



**W**ALLACE SEYBERT, a retired farmer, removed to Dixon in August, 1889, from his farm in South Dixon Township, and is passing his declining years quietly amid the comforts which he accumulated in earlier life. He settled permanently in Lee County in the spring of 1862, since which time he has been successful and has improved nearly one thousand acres of good land, divided into five farms. These estates he has supplied with good farm buildings and all the improvements of first-class farms, and they are now occupied by his sons, whom he has aided in starting out for themselves.

Mr. Seybert was born in Salem Township, Luzerne County, Pa., February 16, 1817, and is the

son of Honteter Seybert, a native of Lehigh County, Pa. The grandfather of our subject, Sebastian Seybert, was a native of Germany, and when a young man emigrated with his brother to this country and served their time to pay for their passage on a sailing vessel across the Atlantic. After paying their passage, they located in Lehigh County, Pa., where Sebastian was married to a Miss Baughman, who was of German parentage. The young couple settled in what is now Salem Township, Luzerne County, Pa., where they were among the first settlers, and there improved a homestead from the timber land. He was a successful farmer until his death, which occurred when he was more than seventy years old. His wife also died in Luzerne County at an advanced age. They were members of the Lutheran Church and helped organize a church of that denomination in Salem Township.

The grandparents of our subject had a family of six sons and two daughters, namely: Henry, Michael, Sebastian, Jr., Honteter, Barney, Nicholas, Elizabeth and Margaret. All lived to mature years, married, reared families and died between the ages of fifty and eighty years. They were farmers by occupation in Pennsylvania, and were members of the Lutheran Church. Honteter, father of our subject, was the fourth son and fifth child in the family, and was reared mostly in Luzerne County. His wife, whose maiden name was Margaret Zimmerman, was born and reared in Northampton County, Pa., and was descended from German ancestors, who were early settlers of Schuylkill County.

After his marriage, Honteter Seybert lived on a farm in Salem Township, Luzerne County, where he died at the age of eighty. His wife departed this life when three-score years of age. Through industry they built up a good home and gained a comfortable competency. Religiously, he was a Lutheran, while she belonged to the Presbyterian Church, which was the faith of her ancestors. They were the parents of six sons and three daughters, namely: George, Honteter, Jr., Reuben, James, Wallace, Baughman, Nancy, Polly and Savilla. George was drowned in his father's mill race, and Baughman died when eighteen years old,

but the other children lived to mature years. Our subject is the only member of the family now living, and he passed his boyhood upon his father's farm.

In Salem Township, Mr. Seybert was married to Desia Hill, who was born there, May 1, 1820, the daughter of Daniel and Catherine (Kisner) Hill and the youngest of their eight children. She is the mother of eight children, two of whom are deceased. Mahala is the wife of Tom Hill, of whom see biography; Daniel H. married Emma Wagner, and resides in Nachusa; Charles W., James W. and George M. are represented elsewhere in this volume; Louella is the wife of William Campbell, a blacksmith of Dixou. In their religious connections, Mr. and Mrs. Seybert are members of the Lutheran Church, and politically, he is a Democrat. He has held various local offices and served as Supervisor for three terms in South Dixon Township.



**R**OBERT C. FILSON, dealer in grain and livestock, has his place of business conveniently located near the Illinois Central tracks at Dixon, where he established a trade in 1882. His elevator has a capacity of five thousand bushels, Mr. Filson handling as much as two hundred and fifty thousand bushels of grain annually, and one hundred car loads of stock.

He of whom we write made his advent into Lee County in 1869, being formerly a farmer in Nachusa Township, and began as clerk for John Dy-sart, an extensive dealer in grain, with whom he remained until he established a business on his own account. Our subject was born in Franklin County, Pa., February 12, 1847, and is a son of Samuel Filson, who was also a native of that State and county. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Robert Filson, came of Scotch-Irish ancestry, being himself, however, a native of the Keystone State, where he lived and died in Franklin County, when seventy years of age. His wife was also a native of that State, and with her husband was a member of the German Reformed Church.

The father of our subject married Mary E. Miller,

a native of Franklin County, Pa., soon after which event they began farming, but later, however, operated a hotel at Marion, where Mr. Filson's death occurred when forty-five years of age. The mother of our subject is now residing in Dixon, Ill., with her oldest son, B. F. Filson. She is sixty-eight years of age, and like her husband is a member of the German Reformed Church. The parental family included four children: Our subject, B. F., John M. (who is a grocery dealer in Kingsley, Iowa), and Adessa, who resides with her mother.

Our subject grew to mature years in Marion, Pa., and after coming to this county was married in Dixon to Miss Nancy J. Sharrar, a native of Blair County, Pa. She was born in 1848, and was the daughter of James and Mary A. (Morrow) Sharrar, who came to Illinois in the '50s and began life in Lee County as farmers. In 1873 they moved to Saunders County, Neb., and located on a farm near Wahoo, Saunders County, where the father died in 1884. Mrs. Sharrar is yet living and resides in Nebraska, having attained the age of three-score years and ten. Like her husband, she is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

In social matters, Mr. Filson is a member of Blue Lodge, Chapter and Commandery at Dixon, being Senior Warden in the former, High Priest in the Chapter and Warden in the Commandery. In politics, he votes the Democratic ticket, and in religious matters is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church here; Mrs. Filson also attends, although she was reared a Presbyterian. They are the parents of six children: William S., Mary E., Minnie B., Horace E., Maud S. and Emma.



**E**LIAS B. STILES, formerly of Dixon, was born in Huntingdon, Luzerne County, Pa., March 9, 1820, and was the son of Lewis and Sarah (Dodson) Stiles. He was reared in his native county, and when twenty years old came to Dixon, where he followed the occupation of a clerk for two years. Later, he formed a partnership with another gentleman and operated under

the firm name of Eddy & Stiles until 1846, when he removed to St. Louis and there resided for two years. After his return to Dixon, he engaged largely in the land agency and the real-estate business, and was successful in his various enterprises.

In 1853, Mr. Stiles opened a private bank and transacted a prosperous business until 1864, when, owing to unfortunate speculations, he was obliged to suspend. Afterward he engaged in agricultural pursuits and also as one of the largest and most daring speculators on the Chicago Board of Trade. In his business career, he experienced many disastrous and sudden vicissitudes as well as many favorable turns in the tide of fortune, but bore disaster and success with equal nerve and fortitude.

Mr. Stiles had long been a prominent member of the Democratic party in his district and for ten years served as County Treasurer. In 1862, he was Democratic candidate for Congress in his district against the late Hon. E. B. Washburne and made a sharp and close contest for the position. August 8, 1847, he was married at Dixon to Miss Sybil Van Arnam and they became parents of three sons: Charles, Alexander and Eugene B.

On the morning of August 26, 1881, the sad and sudden announcement of the death of Mr. Stiles, in Chicago, from paralysis of the heart, came to the citizens of Dixon, taking them by surprise, as but few knew of his illness. His remains were brought to Dixon, and the funeral services held at the Methodist Episcopal Church were attended by a large concourse of people who wished to show their esteem for this honored and worthy citizen. He was a man of jovial, companionable disposition, and very popular wherever he was known.



**W**ILLIAM J. ARMOUR, engineer on the Illinois Central Railroad, came to Amboy March 31, 1859, and has since that time been closely identified with the best interests of this thriving place. He is the son of John and Eva (Hartzell) Armour, natives respectively of New York and Pennsylvania, and was born in Somerset County, Pa., March 1, 1838. The grand-

father of our subject, William Armour, was a native of Scotland and emigrated to the United States, where he settled in Pennsylvania and there married Margaret Buehanan, a cousin of the President of that name. He was engaged in the hotel business for some time and died when about sixty years old at Laughlintown, Pa.

John Armour, father of our subject, was born in York State, January 1, 1807, and was married in Pennsylvania, May 18, 1835, to Miss Eva Hartzell, who was born July 19, 1815. His trade was that of a tanner and he was for many years agent of a coal company, in which capacity he resided for a time in West Virginia and Maryland, acting as purchasing agent of horses and feed. He died in Somerset County, Pa. His children numbered six, namely: Margaret, Mary Emily, Martha, George, John and William J. In his early life our subject learned the trade of a blacksmith, at which he served an apprenticeship of four years. At the age of nineteen, he commenced railroading on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in Virginia, filling the position of brakeman and fireman.

After coming to Amboy in 1859, Mr. Armour served for three years as fireman of the Illinois Central Railroad, and in 1883 was promoted to be engineer of the passenger train. He was married September 1, 1870, to Louisa Tuttle, who was born in Sheffield, Mass., August 21, 1847. Her father, Horatio N. Tuttle, was born in New York State (whither his parents removed from Connecticut) April, 26, 1810, and was three years old when the parental family removed to Massachusetts and settled in Sheffield. He was there married, October 2, 1834, to Miss Emily Loomis. In 1864 he came to Illinois and for two years resided in Amboy, whence he removed to Lincoln, Neb., but subsequently returned to Amboy. He died here, November 14, 1888, and his wife passed away thirteen days prior to his demise.

Six children of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Tuttle grew to mature years, namely: Edwin, who was a lumberman and died in Lincoln, Neb., January 3, 1879; Antoinette, who married John Doolittle and resides in Lincoln, Neb.; Mary, wife of Caleb Benedict, of Amboy; Martha, who died in Massachusetts, at the age of seventeen years;

Louise, the wife of our subject; and Ellen, who resides in Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Armour are the parents of three children: Bertha, born November 1, 1871; Emily, December 21, 1875; and Eva, May 12, 1887. The family residence is a large and beautiful abode and the center of a gracious hospitality enjoyed by many friends. Their religious home is the Methodist Episcopal Church, and politically Mr. Armour is identified with the Republican party.



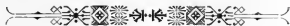
**J**AMES GEER, the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres, located on section 26, Nelson Township, began life here in 1860, on a raw tract of prairie land. His place is now well-stocked and improved with all the necessary buildings and farm machinery. Mr. Geer came to Lee County in 1858, making his first location in Dixon. He was at that time a young man and for two years was employed at the Nachusa House. His advent into the State, however, was in 1853, the intervening time being spent in Chicago and Elgin.

The original of this sketch was born in Indiana County, Pa., March 3, 1832, and was the son of Erastus Geer, also a native of the Keystone State. The grandfather of our subject, James T. R. Geer, was born at Lake George, Conn. His father was a Revolutionary soldier, and died at Blairsville, Pa., when past ninety-three years of age. James T. R. Geer followed the various occupations of farmer, carpenter and millwright, and on choosing a life companion married a Connecticut lady, who departed this life in Pennsylvania when about seventy-five years of age. They were members of the Baptist Church and well respected in their locality.

Erastus Geer, the father of our subject, was one of a family of seven children. He is yet living and resides at Crystal Lake, McHenry County, having attained his eighty-seventh year. He has been a resident of the Prairie State since 1853, and is the owner of a fine estate in the above-named

county. His wife, formerly Miss Abbie Morton, is yet living and is eighty-seven years of age. She was born and reared in Pennsylvania, and after her marriage accompanied her husband to his new home, where she has been no unimportant factor in aiding him to attain his present high standing in the community. They are both members of the Presbyterian Church and are trying to live in accordance with the tenets of that denomination.

Our subject was the eldest of the four sons and four daughters born to his parents, all of whom are living and have homes of their own with one exception. Our subject was married in Dixon to Miss Catherine Boyer, who was born in Somerset County, Pa., and there resided until coming West with her brothers and sister. Her father, Abraham Boyer, was a farmer and departed this life at Dixon, at an advanced age. Mr. and Mrs. Geer have six children: Georgia A. is the wife of E. E. Harden, and resides at Liberty, Neb., where Mr. Harden is a banker; Mattie is the wife of G. H. Harden, who is also a banker in Stratton, Hitchcock County, Neb.; Edward A., Jessie L., John A. and Frederick are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Geer attend the Lutheran Church where they are active and influential members.



**D**ANIEL MALONEY. Ireland numbers many representatives among the best class of citizens in Illinois. There is a stirring quality about the nationality that particularly fits them to be good citizens, and we as Americans are greatly indebted to settlers of Irish birth for the rapid advancement made in the development of this State. He whose name is at the head of this sketch is one of the prominent mason contractors of Anboy, which business he has followed for the past forty-five years. He is one of the old residents of the place, having made Anboy his home for thirty-eight years, and the progress that the county has made, especially that portion in which he lives is as familiar to him as events in his daily life.

The parents of our subject, P. J. and Mary

(Touhey) Maloney, were natives of Thomastown, County Tipperary, Ireland. Their decease occurred about five years ago, after having become the parents of a family of five children. The original of this sketch was born in the above-named town and county, where he was given a good education in the common schools.

Mr. Maloney, of this sketch, was united in marriage, in 1850, in Holyoke, Mass., with Mary Fitzgerald. Mrs. Maloney was born in Middleton, County Cork, Ireland, and was the daughter of James and Mary Fitzgerald. To them have been granted a family of seven children: William Henry, Daniel Webster, Philip James, John Francis, Mary J., Charles Vincent and Katie. In his religious belief Mr. Maloney is a Roman Catholic, and in politics he votes the straight Democratic ticket. He has never filled any local office, preferring to give his time and attention to his business in which he has been more than ordinarily successful.



**J**EROME B. ANDERSON has a good farm comprising a quarter of section 13, Nelson Township, that is admirably adapted to general farming and dairy purposes, and to those branches of agriculture it is devoted. The homestead is well supplied with the necessary equipments to conduct business properly, and its improvements are of a good class.

Our subject was born in Morrison Cove, Bedford County, Pa., May 16, 1844. He is of good old Revolutionary stock, and the blood of sterling Scotch ancestry runs in his veins. His father, Hezekiah Anderson, and his grandfather, Julius Anderson, were also natives of Pennsylvania, the latter, who was born of American parents, spending his life in that State. He in turn was a son of Patrick Anderson, a soldier of the Revolution, who was a Pennsylvania farmer, and lived and died in the Keystone State when an old man. He was a Democrat in politics and a Presbyterian in religion, his son Julius being of like faith in both particulars. He was likewise a farmer and was also a

merchant. He served in the War of 1812. He lived to an advanced age, always making his home in his native State.

Hezekiah D. Anderson learned the trade of a millwright in his youth, and later in life turned his attention to farming in Bedford County, where he settled after marriage. He lived there until 1855, when he brought his family to Illinois to establish a home in Lee County, which was rich in resources, and possessed many superior advantages for a farmer. He first settled in Marion Township, and later located in South Dixon Township, where he and his household lived until 1865, when he bought the farm, which was then but slightly improved, and is now the property of our subject. The land increased in value under his management, and here he built up a comfortable home, in which, at the age of fifty-six, he laid down the burden of life for the unbroken rest of death, in 1870. His wife died some years later, in 1886, at the age of sixty-seven, her death occurring in the city of Dixon. They were people of blameless lives and Christian spirit, in whom the Methodist Episcopal Church has found two of its most consistent members. During the latter part of his life Mr. Anderson was a Republican.

Jerome B. Anderson is the eldest but one of ten children, six sons and four daughters, all of whom are yet living, and four of them have homes within the borders of this county. Our subject was nine years old when the family came to this county. His experience of farming was acquired early, and in 1880 he came into possession of his present farm, which has been his father's and which had been his dwelling place since 1865. He makes the most of its fertile soil, and besides raising bountiful harvests, has forty milk cows on the place, together with other stock, and his income from his dairy business amounts to quite a sum of money during the year. He is a fine farmer, conducting his operations with skill and sound judgment, employing the best modern methods in carrying out his plans, and keeping his place up to a high standard in all that goes to make a good farm.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Drusannah Biddle, and she was born, reared

and married in Blair County, Pa. Her father, John Biddle, was born and reared in Maryland, and later settled in the county where his daughter was born. He was a farmer by occupation, and lived to an advanced age.

The wife of our subject, to whom he was married in Nelson Township, bore the maiden name of Rebecca E. Long. She was born in Somerset County, Pa., in 1849, and was young when her father, Jacob H. Long, removed to Indiana with his family. His wife died in that State, and he subsequently came to Illinois, and his remaining days were spent in Nelson Township, where he died when about sixty years of age. He was married a second time after coming to this county, Mrs. Anna Fritz becoming his wife. She is now living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and is active and energetic for her years. Our subject and his amiable wife are enjoying a felicitous wedded life, and their pleasant home circle is completed by their three children, whose names are Cora L., Florence E., and Georgia G. Both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are popular in the society of their community. His political affiliations are with the Republicans of this section.



**H**IRAM WILL, a retired farmer living on sections 28 and 33, South Dixon Township, owned until recently two hundred and forty acres of land. His estate now, however, includes only eighty acres. He has been a resident of this township since 1865 and has lived on that farm since 1866. He was born in Milford Township, Somerset County, Pa., March 28, 1819, and is a son of John Will, a native of Schuylkill County, that State. His paternal grandfather, Daniel Will, hailed from that county and, as far as is known, was of Holland-Dutch ancestry. The latter-named gentleman was reared in Schuylkill County and was there married to a lady who came from Germany with her parents when four years of age. After the birth of all their children, and when John Will, the father of our subject, was four-

teen years of age, the family removed to Somerset County, where they were among the early pioneers of Milford Township, and where the father improved a good farm from the wilderness. There the grandparents died, Daniel Will passing away early in the '20s, having attained to three-score and ten years. His wife was eighty years of age when she departed this life and, like her husband, was a devoted member of the Lutheran Church.

The father of our subject was one of the younger members in a family of twelve children born to his parents, all of whom were married, had families of their own and are now deceased. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Mary Deets, who was orphaned when very young. After their marriage, the young couple purchased a farm in Milford Township, where the mother died in the year 1825, a devoted member of the Lutheran Church. She bore her husband seven children. John was a second time married, to Mrs. Nancy Culver, *nee* Scott, who was born and reared in Somerset County, and had become the mother of one child by her first marriage. Her union with Mr. Will resulted in the birth of three sons and five daughters, all of whom are living, with one exception. The father of our subject died at Centerville, Pa., at the advanced age of ninety-two years. He was a member of the Lutheran Church and in politics voted the Whig ticket. The grandfather of our subject served in the Revolutionary War, having been commissioned Captain, and later Lieutenant, of his company.

Peter Will, the paternal uncle of our subject, was a member of the State Militia of Pennsylvania, and his eldest brother, Conrad Will, after coming to Jackson County, Ill., in a very early day, was elected a member of the State Legislature and while in the House was instrumental in "setting off" Will County, which was named in his honor.

Hiram Will was married in Somerset County, Pa., to Miss Keziah Meese, who was a native of that county, her birth occurring March 14, 1822. She was a daughter of George and Lydia (Penrod) Meese, natives of Pennsylvania, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Will was one of a family of twelve children, five of whom are living. She has become the mother of six children,

one of whom, Calvin, died when two years old. Those living are: George A., residing in Saunders County, Neb.; Norman B., Charles I., Silas L., and Mary J. Our subject and his wife have been members of the Evangelical Association for forty years, in which Mr. Will holds the position of Class Leader. He has been Highway Commissioner of his township for many years and votes the Republican ticket.



**M**AJ. OBADIAH J. DOWNING, an officer of the Union army during the late war, in which he won high honors, is a distinguished citizen of Dixon, where he is living in a beautiful home in practical retirement from business, though he still supervises his extensive agricultural interests in this and Kane Counties, comprised in two well-equipped farms, located one at South Dixon, and the other in Kane County.

Major Downing was born in the quaint old town of North Hempstead, Queens County, N. Y., in 1835. He comes of staunch Revolutionary stock, and his ancestors were among the early settlers of his native island, the old Colonial farmhouse in which he was born having also been the birthplace of his grandfather, George Downing, and of his father, likewise named George. The former was a farmer, and spent his entire life in North Hempstead. He was a valiant soldier in the Continental army during the struggle of the American Colonies for freedom, and served under Gen. Woodhull. The father of our subject was born in 1780, and passed the early part of his life in the home of his birth. He learned the trade of a saddle and harness-maker, which he followed a few years, and then turned his attention to the calling to which he had been reared, and for many years carried on agricultural pursuits in his native town. During the latter part of his life, he lived retired in the village of Minneola, on Long Island, and passed away during his residence there. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Coles Jackson. She was born in South Hempstead, L. I., a daughter

of Permenus Jackson. She died at Flushing, L. I., in 1880, aged seventy-six years. The parents of our subject reared these seven children: Charrie, the wife of I. V. A. Painter, George, Benjamin, Obadiah J., Isaac, Silas, and Mary E., wife of Arthur Vandewater.

Our subject early displayed the independent, self-reliant spirit that has characterized all his acts throughout his entire career, both in public and in private life, and at the youthful age of fifteen years he began his struggle with the world, leaving the kindly shelter of the parental roof to go to Chicago to accept a position as clerk in his Uncle Obadiah Jackson's store. That was the year that the first railway extending from Chicago westward was built, and that city was then but an overgrown village compared with its present magnitude and importance. Mr. Jackson was then one of the principal merchants of the place, keeping a wholesale store, carrying a line of dry-goods, clothing, groceries, hardware, boots and shoes, hats, caps, and, in fact, almost everything in general use in the country, and among his customers were many people who came one hundred and fifty miles, or more, with teams to buy goods. Our subject was connected with his uncle's establishment in Chicago until 1853, when his uncle erected the first store building and opened the first store in Kankakee, and he sent his nephew to take charge of it. He managed it until 1855, when the first railway was completed as far west as Warren, in Jo Daviess County, and his uncle sent him to open a store in that place. A year later, ill-health compelled him to resign his position, and he returned to his native State.

In the few years that followed before the outbreak of the Rebellion, the Major was quietly engaged in farming and in studying law. He was not, however, unmindful of the impending contest between the North and the South, but, on the contrary, watched every movement that led up to it, keeping himself well informed in regard to the situation, and the same patriotic ardor that induced his grandsire to shoulder a musket and aid his fellow-colonists to fight the battles of the Revolution impelled him to throw aside all personal ambitions, to help to defend the Union, he



being among the first to offer his services to the Government as a soldier. He enlisted in the first cavalry regiment that was organized for the war, but, as there was some delay in effecting the organization, his regiment was finally mustered in as the Second New York Cavalry, and was attached to the Army of the Potomac.

Our subject and his brave comrades soon showed the value of their soldieryship by their heroic conduct in some of the most important battles of the war. They were in all of the principal engagements of the Army of the Potomac, with the exception of the battle of Bull Run, and their coolness and daring helped to win many a victory. On the 12th of May, 1864, and while fighting before Richmond, the Major was captured by the enemy, and was not exchanged until the 22d of February, 1865. He at once joined his regiment, and was appointed to a position on Gen. Custer's staff, and served with him in his various campaigns and battles until the termination of the war. About the 10th of April he was detailed to go to Washington to deposit some battle flags, and while there attended Ford's Theatre on the memorable night of the 14th of April, when President Lincoln was assassinated, and assisted in carrying the dying President to the house across the street.

The Major took part in the Grand Review of the Union forces at the National Capital, and early in June, 1865, his military career was brought to a close by his honorable discharge. He returned to his native State, with his honors fresh upon him, and in the fall of that year his proud fellow-citizens elected him to the New York Legislature; in 1866 again sent him to represent them in the councils of the State, and he served two terms with infinite credit to himself and his constituents.

Our subject had always retained pleasant recollections of his few years' stay in Illinois, and with keen vision had foreseen its future greatness; so in 1867, resolving to avail himself of its many superior advantages, he came to the Prairie State to take up his permanent residence within its borders. For a year and a half, he engaged in the manufacture of flax bagging. He then sold his factory, in order to indulge in his natural taste

for agricultural pursuits, and purchased a farm in Lee County and another in Kane County. He removed to the latter, and actively engaged in its management until 1876, when he returned to Dixon, and located in the home which he had previously purchased, and which he has since occupied. It is pleasantly situated in North Dixon, and is a commodious residence, occupying a half-block, and surrounded by beautiful, well-kept lawns, ornamented by plants, shrubs, etc.

In 1872, Maj. Downing was married to Miss Mary Yates, a native of Attica, N. Y., and a daughter of Bartholomew C. and Nancy Yates, who presides over their charming home with that pleasing tact and kindly consideration for all that come under her influence that marks the true hostess. These four sons and daughters complete the family circle: Mary Olive, George, Benjamin F. and Eudora.

The Major is identified with the finances of the city as a Director in the City National Bank, and all enterprises that will forward its prosperity find in him a prompt and liberal advocate. He is prominently known in the social life of Dixon as a member of the following organizations: Dixon Post, No. 299, G. A. R.; the Masonic fraternity, to which he has belonged since 1856; and the Modern Woodmen of America. Politically he is a Republican of the staunchest type, and he has held by the party through all its triumphs and defeats since he cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. Fremont, its first candidate for the Presidency.



JOHN HOWARD BURKET is carrying on general farming on section 11, South Dixon Township, having become the proprietor of this tract in 1884. His estate, which comprises one hundred and eighty acres, is well stocked and bears all the improvements in the way of buildings and machinery which stamp its owner as both progressive and industrious. He has twenty-five milk cows for dairy purposes, which branch of farming he finds to be very profitable.

Mr. Burket is a native of this county, having been born on the old homestead in Dixon Township, March 28, 1855. He was reared and educated in the above-named township and has always followed the occupation of a farmer. His father, John N. Burket, was a native of Pennsylvania and the son of Peter Burket, also a native of that State, who passed his last days in Blair County. The father of our subject grew to mature years on the home farm in the above-named county, and was there married to Mary Fleck. After the birth of four children, he came to Illinois in the '40s, and located on new land in Dixon Township. There they resided until their decease, Mr. Burket dying in 1864, when in his forty-sixth year. His wife survived him about two years, departing this life at about the same age as did her husband. They were well-known and respected in their community and were members of the Lutheran Church in the county, which was organized in Mr. Burket's barn on the old homestead. The father was a strong Union man and, on the organization of the Republican party, voted that ticket.

The parental family of our subject included eleven children, eight sons and three daughters, two of the former being deceased. Our subject, his brother Luther, and sister, Mrs. Catherine Cartright, are the only members of the family residing in this county. He was married to Miss Anna P. Cartright, who was born July 15, 1857, in Dixon Township, and was the daughter of Erastus and Mary (Seitz) Cartright, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Ohio. They came to Illinois in an early day, and uniting their fortunes in Lee County, began life on a farm in Dixon Township, where they resided until 1876, at which time he removed to Dixon, where they now make their home. Mr. Cartright is a breeder of good horses. He is now upwards of three-score years of age, and is a sound Republican in politics; although prominent in the community, he has never been an office-seeker. His wife is a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Burket's only brother, Andrew Cartright, was accidentally killed, when twenty-one years old, while acting as brakeman on the Illinois Central Railroad in the winter of 1878. Our subject and

his wife have three children: Mary O., Anna N., and Andrew L. They are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church, and in politics, Mr. Burket votes with the Republican party.



JAMES H. THOMPSON, Clerk of Lee County, was born in Luzerne County, Pa., April 8, 1843. His father, William A., was born in Pittston, the same county, and his grandfather, John, was a farmer, who, so far as is known, spent his entire life in the Keystone State, with the exception of the period during which he served in the Mexican War. The father of our subject learned the trade of a tailor, but was mainly engaged in the mercantile business until his death, which occurred in Abingdon, that county, in 1847.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Nancy Harding, and she was born in Exeter, Luzerne County, Pa. After the death of Mr. Thompson, Sr., she married John Colville, with whom she came to Illinois in 1852 and settled at Paw Paw, where she died in 1881. Our subject was a small child when he accompanied his mother and step-father from Wilkes Barre by stage to Binghamton, N. Y., where he first saw a railroad. They came by rail and steamer to Detroit, from there by rail to New Buffalo, thence by lake to Chicago, and from that city to Ottawa by canal. A team conveyed the little party from Ottawa to Paw Paw, where settlement was made.

The education of our subject was obtained in the schools of Paw Paw, East Paw Paw and Wilkes Barre. Before he attained to his majority he enlisted in September, 1862, as a member of Company K, Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry, and served until the close of the war, being honorably discharged June 12, 1865. Among the important battles in which he participated were Prairieville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge and Dalton, Ga., where he was wounded, February 25, 1863.

After returning home, Mr. Thompson engaged as a farmer for a time and also operated as a merchant at Paw Paw in partnership with his step-father,

John Colville, being prosperously conducting the mercantile business when he was elected County Clerk in 1886. He is popular among his fellow-citizens and his faithful discharge of the duties of his office as well as his uniform geniality, has won for him a high place in the confidence of all.

In 1867 Mr. Thompson was married to Miss Catherine J. Swarthout, who was born in Exeter, Luzerne County, Pa., the daughter of Elijah and Sarah E. Swarthout. They are the parents of five children, who, with themselves, are universally esteemed. In his political belief, Mr. Thompson is a Republican, and socially is connected with the William H. Thompson Post, No. 299, G. A. R.



**F**REDERICK BOLLMAN, a retired farmer of South Dixon Township, owns and occupies a fine farm, comprising eighty acres on section 32. He has resided in this county since 1856, when he came hither from Pennsylvania, having been employed in that State as a teamster. By careful economy and untiring energy, he was enabled to purchase the place which is still his home and where he is passing his declining years in the enjoyment of the comforts of life.

Mr. Bollman was born in Baden, Germany, August 9, 1813, and comes of worthy German forefathers, his parents spending their entire lives in the Fatherland. Frederick was the first of the family to emigrate to the United States, and having resolved to seek a home in this country, he embarked at Bremerhaven on a sailing vessel, and after a month's voyage on the Atlantic, landed in New York City. His first settlement was made in Pennsylvania near Mason and Dixon's line, and his first employment was in conveying merchandise into Maryland and Virginia, his wages for some years being only from \$5 to \$10 per month.

In Pennsylvania Mr. Bollman was married to Mrs. Lucinda (Moore) Beal, who was born in Pennsylvania, September 10, 1827, and was reared in the Keystone State, her parents being of German descent. By her first marriage, she became the mother of two children: John, who resides in Stock-

ton County, Cal., and Mary, the wife of Simon Rhodes, a farmer of South Dixon Township. After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Bollman, they worked together to establish a home and gain a competency. Their wedded life was one of mutual happiness until the death of the wife at her home in South Dixon Township, February 28, 1875. She was a faithful member of the Lutheran Church, a devoted wife and kind neighbor.

Mr. and Mrs. Bollman became the parents of a large family of children, two of whom, George and Harvey, died when young. Henry married Miss E. K. Hatch, and they reside in North Dixon Township; Anna married William Missman, and lives in Dixon; James operates the old homestead on section 32, South Dixon Township, and also owns eighty acres on section 31, the same township, a highly improved tract of land. He is a thrifty, progressive young man, and very popular. Edwin A., a minister in the Lutheran Church, located at Forreton, Ill., married Miss Mary Manning, of Lee County. Albert remains at home and aids his brother. Laura married Frank Shaffer, and resides in South Dixon Township. In their religious convictions, Mr. Bollman and his children are members of the Lutheran Church, and James has been Superintendent of the Nelson Zion Sunday-school for some years. Father and sons are Democrats, with the exception of Edwin, who is a Prohibitionist.



**J**OHAN A. DEETER, who is at present residing at Dixon, had his birth in Somerset County, Pa., April 7, 1860. His father, Henry Deeter, was also a native of that place, as was his father, Samuel Deeter. The latter-named gentleman was of German ancestry, and a farmer by occupation. The father of our subject was reared on the home farm and in 1863 removed to Ohio, where he purchased a farm in Ashland County and there continued to reside until 1880, when he sold out and came to Lee County, and is at the present time residing in Dixon.

Miss Sarah Ringler was the maiden name of our

subject's mother. She was born in Southern Illinois, and was the daughter of Andrew Ringler, a pioneer of this State. Our subject was one in a family of ten children, namely: Susan, Samuel, Henry, William, Howard, Irene, Curtis, Melvin and Daniel, who died in infancy; Irene passed away in her fourteenth year.

The original of this sketch attended the common schools of his district, and when nineteen years of age learned the trade of sash, door and blind making, and, after completing his apprenticeship, leased a building, and bought the fixtures of a gristmill, in addition to which branch of business he kept a flour and feed store. January 13, 1887, he was burned out, and in February of that year he formed a partnership with G. D. Fletcher and engaged in the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds, continuing together until January the following year, when Mr. Fletcher sold his interest to Josiah Brink, the present firm being Brink & Deeter. They have a commodious building, located on Water Street, which is provided with all the necessary machinery for doing a fine class of work. The mill is operated by steam and water power, the firm employing, at the present time, twenty men.

In 1883 our subject was married to Lizzie E. Taylor, who was born in Dixon, and is the daughter of George and Susan Taylor. Two children, Louis J. and Laurence E., have been born to them. Mr. Deeter is a member of Forest Home Lodge, No. 137, A. O. U. W.



**URIAH GRUVER** is an honored resident of Dixon, where he is pleasantly passing his declining years in retirement from active business as a farmer, though he is still identified with the agricultural interests of Lee County as the proprietor of one of its fine farms. He is a native of Columbia County, Pa., born in the month of October, 1818, in the township of Hemlock. His father, George Gruver, was born in the same State, his birthplace being in Northampton

County. He was a son of Jacob Gruver, who is supposed to have been born in Pennsylvania, and to have come from some of the early German families of the Colonial period. It is known that at one time he owned a tract of land near Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, which he sold, taking his pay in Continental scrip. The latter part of his life was passed in Columbia County.

The father of our subject was reared to the life of a farmer on the old Pennsylvania farm, and when a young man went to Columbia County, and became one of the pioneers of that section, buying a tract of forest-covered land in Hemlock Township. He built a log house and stable, and proceeded to clear his land. The soil was very poor and unproductive, and he found it hard to make a living from it. Therefore, in 1827, he left that place, and went to Berks County, where he rented a tract of land three miles from Reading, and there the last decade of his life was spent, his death occurring in September, 1837, ere yet old age had come upon him. His wife bore the maiden name of Barbara Waltman, and was born in Northampton County, Pa. She departed this life in 1827. The parents of our subject were consistent Christian people, the father a faithful member of the German Reformed Church, and the mother of the Lutheran Church. Of their fourteen children, twelve grew to maturity.

The subject of this biography was in his eighth year when the family removed to Berks County. He remained with his father until the latter's death, when the home was broken up and the brothers and sisters were separated. Uriah entered the employ of Riah Gilson, who sent him to Amherst County, Va., to act as a steward, Mr. Gilson being a contractor and having a large force of men employed there. He remained there one year, and then returned to Reading. It was on his trip to Virginia that he saw, at Norristown, a railway for the first time. That was in the day of State banks and individual scrip, when the money issued by the banks of one State was not good for the face value any distance from home.

After his return to Pennsylvania, Mr. Gruver went to Columbia County to serve a two years' apprenticeship to learn the trade of a carpenter,

receiving his board and \$3 a month for his services the first year, and the second year his wages were increased to \$4 a month. At the end of the two years he worked at his calling for others for a year, and then after his marriage commenced business on his own account, working both as a carpenter and a millwright. In 1852 he paid his first visit to the Prairie State, traveling by rail and stage to Pittsburg and Cleveland, thence by boat to Toledo, from there by rail through Chicago to Rockford, and thence by stage to Dixon. He remained here two weeks, and then went back to Pennsylvania. While away, he bought two bales of buffalo hides, which he sold on his return home at a fair profit, and thus paid the expenses of his journey.

In 1854 our subject left his native State with his family to take up his residence in this, as he well knew that practical, wide-awake men were in demand to help develop the resources of the country and to aid in its upbuilding, and he has done both since his settlement here, thirty-seven years ago. He first located in what is now Nachusa Township, and was actively engaged at his trade there one year. The next year he rented a farm in Dixon Township, which he purchased a year later, and retained it in his possession until 1864, when he sold it. In 1864 he bought a farm in Nelson Township, and was busily engaged in its improvement and in tilling the soil for several years. It contains two hundred and forty acres of rich farming land, that is under a high state of cultivation, and is amply provided with a good class of buildings. He still owns it, but in 1884 he rented it, and has since lived retired from active labor, making his home in the city of Dixon.

Mr Gruver was first married in Columbia County, Pa., to Catherine Writz, a native of that county, and of mingled English and German blood. She died in 1862, leaving behind her the memory of a most worthy woman, who was true in all the relations of life. By that marriage these eight children were born to our subject: Joseph, Mary (Mrs. McCleary), Lydia A. (Mrs. Mench), Melinda (Mrs. McCleary), Margaret (Mrs. Hardin), John L., Lincoln and Ellsworth. In 1867 our subject was married to his present estimable wife, who was

formerly Miss Elizabeth Kelley, a native of Columbia County, Pa. Their marriage has brought to them one son, William H.

Mr. Gruver is endowed with a thoughtful, intelligent mind, is fond of reading, and keeps himself well posted in regard to all subjects of general interest. As a good citizen ought, he keeps himself informed as to the political questions of the day, and is a firm advocate of the Republican party. He and his wife are people of earnest religious feeling, and they are members in high standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



**R**EV. THOMAS LEAKE. The name of Leake has been well known in Lee County since the early years of its settlement, as belonging to a prominent pioneer family of this section of Illinois. Among its present representatives is the Rev. Thomas Leake, of this biographical review, whose ill health obliged him to abandon the ministry to a great extent, and he has since made his mark as a practical farmer in Nachusa Township.

Our subject was born in Leicestershire, England. He is a son of John Leake, a former prominent and well-to-do citizen and early settler of this county. The father was a native of Leicestershire, England, and a son of John Leake, Sr., who was a life-long resident of that shire. John Leake, Jr., was the eldest of a family of two sons and three daughters, and was the only one of his father's children to come to this country, and he was the first of his connection to settle in the United States. He was a butcher in his native shire, and was there married to Mary A. Jarvis, who was of pure English blood, and was one of three daughters that came to America. After the birth of four children, one of whom died in England, the father of our subject preceded his family to this country, sailing hither in 1840, and coming to Lee County, he bought land of the Government in China Township, built a log cabin upon it, and entered zealously upon his life as a pioneer. In 1841 his wife with her children, and her two sisters and their husbands, followed him across

the seas and joined him in the wilderness where he had elected to found a new home. They made settlement on new lands, and the families so closely connected by the ties of kinship formed an important addition to the pioneers of this section, all improving good farms in time. John Leake became a prominent farmer in China Township, and at the time of his death, in September, 1869, owned seven hundred acres of land, which was nearly all well improved. He was a leading Republican of this county in the early history of the party. His widow survived him until 1878, when she died in the home of our subject, at the age of seventy years. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was a woman to be revered.

The Rev. Thomas Leake is one of a family of three sons and two daughters: His brother, William J., is a grain merchant at Rippey, Iowa; his brother John C., who married Mary E. Hale, is a teacher in this township, residing on the old homestead; his sister, Sarah F., is the wife of E. H. Burrus, a farmer of Concordia, Kans.; another sister, Mary A., died at the age of nineteen. Our subject received the preliminaries of his education in the local public schools of this county, and was afterward a student at Mt. Morris Seminary. He was for some time a teacher, but kept the ministry steadily in view, and was regularly licensed to preach at his first ordination, when he was twenty-seven years old. He loved his sacred calling and was successful in it, holding pastorates in Kane, De Kalb and Kendall Counties. His health became impaired by his arduous labors, and he had to leave the pulpit, confining his church work to occasional preachings, and to his duties as Class-leader and as Superintendent of the Sunday-school, which position he has held for twenty years. He is thoroughly identified with the interests of the township in material things as well, and is Justice of the Peace, which office has been under his control for some years. In politics, he is a true Republican.

Our subject inherited his farm on section 29, Nachusa Township, from his father in 1869. It comprises one hundred and two acres of well-drained, neatly-fenced and finely-cultivated land, which is well stocked with cattle, horses and swine,

and here he is conducting a profitable business as a general farmer. He and his wife, to whom he was married near Rockford, have established a charming home, that is a center of culture and refinement. Their only child, Honor Luella, died at the age of six months. They have taken to their home and hearts Albert T. Scovill, upon whom they lavish the tender care and affection that would be bestowed upon a child of their own.

The wife of our subject, formerly Martha S. Scovill, is a native of Camden, N. Y. She is a daughter of Stephen T. and Mabel (Curtis) Scovill, the latter of whom died when her daughter was a small child. Mrs. Leake was thirteen years old when the family came to Illinois in the early '50s and located at Paine's Point in Ogle County. Her father subsequently purchased land near Rockford, and there he died when past seventy-five years old. He had been twice married, and his last wife survives him and makes her home in Rockford. Mrs. Leake received a good home-training and the benefit of a fine education. She was graduated with honor from the Ladies' Seminary at Rockford, and pursued an excellent course of study at Mt. Morris Seminary. She was a teacher for some years before her marriage, and won a high reputation in her profession. She, like her husband, has been an ardent working member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



**A**NDREW J. NICKEY, proprietor of the Ashton Creamery, was born in East Berlin, Adams County, Pa., April 25, 1851. His father, Henry Nickey, was also a native of that State and county, where his mother, who bore the name of Elizabeth Dierdorff, departed this life.

The original of this sketch passed his early years in his native town and on attaining his eighteenth year came to Franklin Grove, this county, and followed his trade of a blacksmith. He was thus engaged for a twelvemonth, when he returned to his native State, and in the town of York was similarly engaged for a year and a half. Then removing to Columbia County, same State, he was employed

as passenger brakeman on the railroad for seven years, and in 1880, again coming to Lee County, he established the creamery business in Franklin Grove, remaining in that place for about six months; he then removed to Ashton, where for a year and a half he did a thriving grain trade. At the expiration of that time, he engaged in his present business in which he has been more than ordinarily successful.

Andrew J. Niekey was married in York, Pa., to Mary Wisman, who was also a native of that place, and departed this life December 18, 1889, at Ashton, this county. To them were born two children: Hattie V., and Clinton D. He of whom we write has held many important local offices, being a member of the village committee for a number of terms. He is actively connected with the Presbyterian Church, of which body he is Elder, and to which denomination his wife and children were also born.

The product of the Ashton Creamery is disposed of in the Philadelphia and New York markets and by this industry Mr. Niekey is reaping a handsome competence. He is very public-spirited and stands high in the esteem of his fellow-townsmen by whom he is regarded as one of the representative citizens of the county.



**S**AMUEL ARGRAVES, a resident of the village of Compton, is one of the pioneers of Lee County, who has been an important factor in developing its agricultural resources, and while thus materially contributing to its wealth, has acquired a handsome property, as but few of the farmers of his locality have met with more success than has attended his efforts. He is of English birth, born in the village of Banep, Lancashire, May 4, 1825. His father, John Argraves, was also a native of that village, and there he grew to maturity. He learned the trade of a weaver, and carried it on in his old home until 1829, when he determined to emigrate to America with his wife and six children, hoping

thereby to improve his fortunes. He and his family set sail from Liverpool, and after a voyage of thirteen weeks landed at New York City. He went directly to Essex County, and located at Keyesville, where he secured the position of foreman in a woolen factory, and was thus employed six years. He next went to the province of Ontario, Canada, and took up his residence in Hewton Township, three miles from Port Burwell. He then devoted his remaining years to farming, renting land for that purpose, and carrying on agriculture until his untimely death, in the year 1838. His widow, whose maiden name was Hannah Hayes, and who was a native of Scotland, married a second time, and spent her last years at Hewton, dying there in 1841. She reared sixteen children to good and useful lives.

Our subject was but four years old when he crossed the ocean with his parents to their new home in America, and consequently he has but little recollection of his birthplace in that far-off Lancashire village. He early acquired what Carlyle terms "The glorious faculty of self-help," and though but a boy when his father died, he had to assist in the support of the family. He resided in Canada until the winter of 1845-46, and then came to Illinois, making the journey with a horse and cutter to Joliet, in company with Dennis Miller. At that place they traded for a buggy, and drove to Malugin's Grove, in this county. When he arrived at his destination, our subject's sole wealth, as far as money was concerned, was \$1.50. But he had that, which, perhaps, stood him in better stead—good health and strong muscles, plenty of ambition and spirit, and a resolute determination to succeed. He at once found work as a farm hand, at \$15 a month, and continued thus employed until 1850. During that time he made a claim to a tract of Government land on sections 25 and 26, of what is now Viola Township. He did not have the money to pay for the land at that time, so he went to Dixon and got a man to enter the land for him, promising to pay him one hundred per cent. interest.

In 1850, Mr. Argraves took up the march to California, whither so many had preceded him, after the discovery of gold in that State. He ar-

ranged with James Thompson to take him, agreeing to give him one-half of his first year's earnings in the gold diggings. They started on their long journey with a pair of ponies, drove to Council Bluffs, where Mr. Thompson exchanged his ponies for oxen, and there joined a train about to cross the plains. At that time there were but very few, or no, white settlers between the Missouri River and California, with the exception of the Mormons at Salt Lake. When our subject and his companion arrived on the shores of that inland sea the oxen were too exhausted to go further, and the provisions were nearly gone. In that emergency Mr. Thompson had no alternative but to exchange his oxen for a pony, and Mr. Argraves had to look out for himself in the matter of transportation the remainder of the long journey. Cyrenus Sawyer, of Lee Center, was one of the party, and appealing to him for aid, he lent him \$25. He then gave his note for \$50 to two young men from Missouri to carry his provisions to California. On Sunday he attended church and heard Brigham Young preach, and was afterward a victim of one of the Prophet's shrewd deals, as knowing well that the Illinoisans would wish to replenish their supply of flour, he said that if any one had flour to sell for less than twenty-five cents a pound to bring it to him, and consequently every one had to pay that price for it. Provisions again gave out on their arrival at Carson Valley, but, fortunately, a Mr. Masterson met them at that point with a load of supplies, which he traded with the hungry travelers for whatsoever they had to exchange. As our subject had nothing, he let himself to Mr. Masterson at \$80 a month, until they reached San Francisco. He then gave him \$100 per month until spring, when he went to the mountains and tried mining. He soon returned to Mr. Masterson, however, and was in his employ until January, 1852, and then, tired of frontier life, he set his face toward home, returning by the way of the Isthmus of Panama to Lee County. The first thing that he did to celebrate his arrival was to pay for his land with the money that he had brought back with him from his stay on the Pacific slope. He then entered upon a most prosperous career as a farmer, invested his capital in

other land from time to time, and was at one time the proprietor of fifteen hundred acres of as fine land as is to be found in this part of the State.

In the midst of his prosperity, our subject did not forget what was due from him to his adopted country, as a loyal citizen, and in February, 1865, he threw aside his work to help defend the stars and stripes in the great civil strife that was then being waged between the North and South. He enlisted in Company I, Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, and joined his regiment at Goldsborough, N. C. While there, unaccustomed to the privations of army life, he fell sick and was forced to spend eleven days in the hospital. He then re-entered the service, and was at Raleigh when Johnston surrendered. His army then started on the march to Washington, but he and others, who were disabled, went by water, and after their arrival at Washington took part with their regiment in the Grand Review of all the troops. They then went into camp three miles from the capital for two or three weeks, and at the end of that time were dispatched to Parkersburg, Va., and from there by the way of the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, to Ft. Leavenworth, whence they marched across the country to Ft. Kearney, Neb. They staid there a short time, then returned to Ft. Leavenworth, whence they proceeded to Springfield, Ill., where they were honorably discharged, and took to their homes excellent records as brave and patriotic soldiers. Glad to be reunited with his family, and to be able to enjoy again the comforts of his home, Mr. Argraves resumed his farming operations with renewed vigor, and, as we have seen, was favored by fortune in all his undertakings, putting his whole energy into his work, which he carried on systematically, making every stroke tell, and using due caution and close calculation in all his dealings, while at the same time he displayed enterprise, and never was unfair, or otherwise than just in money matters.

Our subject was married October 14, 1847, to Miss Martha Miller, and their marriage has been blessed to them by the birth of these four children: Winfield, Angelina, Martha, commonly known as May, and Samuel O. Mrs. Argraves was born in New York, March 20, 1832. Her father, John



Miller, was born in Ontario, Canada, and was a son of Jacob Miller, who was a native of Germany. On coming to America, he settled near Ancaster, and was a pioneer of that part of Canada. He secured both timber and plains land, and improved a good farm, which was his dwelling place until his death. The maiden name of his wife was Elizabeth Martin. She survived her husband, and came to Illinois to spend her last years with her children in Lee County. Mrs. Argraves' father was reared and married in his native place, taking as his wife Mary A. Hedges, a native of the State of New York. She died on the farm near Ancaster, in 1837, and, in 1842, Mr. Miller came to Illinois, and for a time was a resident of St. Charles. He then went back to Canada, and, in 1847, again came to Illinois, and bought a farm in this county, near Malugin's Grove. Some years after, he went to Kansas, and died there. The wife of our subject was a child when her mother died, and she lived with an aunt until she was fifteen years old, when she came to Illinois with her father. She is a woman of great worth, and a consistent Christian member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



**J**ONAS B. EICHOLTZ was just entering upon manhood when he came with his parents to this county. The thirty years that have since passed by have been fruitful to him of much good, as by persistent industry he has improved a valuable farm, and has been enabled to retire from active business while yet scarcely past the prime of life, with an income amply sufficient to fortify him against poverty, and to keep up the pleasant home to which he has retreated near the village of Nachusa.

Our subject was born in Adams County, Pa., March 26, 1840, the second son of John F. and Anna (Boyer) Eicholtz, who were both natives of Pennsylvania, and were descendants of the old families of that State, both being of German extraction. The paternal great-grandfather of our subject was a native of Germany, who came to this

country and settled in Pennsylvania prior to the Revolution. The family for generations have been farmers by occupation, and staunch members of the Lutheran Church. Frederick Eicholtz, the grandfather of our subject, lived and died in Adams County, Pa., which was also his birthplace. He attained a ripe old age. He married a Miss Rex, who was also a native of Adams County, and was born of similar parentage as her husband. She was like him a Lutheran in religion. Her marriage with him was fruitful of two children, of whom John F. was one. Her husband had one child by a second marriage.

John F. Eicholtz grew to manhood in the county of his nativity, and in due time took unto himself a wife, who was born and reared on a farm in Adams County, which had been in the family for years, and is yet. Her parents, Martin and Esther (Hoover) Boyer, were life-long residents of that county, and were of German parentage. They were prosperous tillers of the soil. In them the Mennonite Church had two faithful and helpful members. John Eicholtz and his wife continued to live in Adams County, Pa., after their marriage until their three sons and two daughters were born, when they removed to Carroll County, Md., and thence to Lee County, this State, in 1861, making their home for the future in Nachusa Township, where they both died in the fulness of time, the mother dying in 1881 at the age of sixty-eight years, and the father in 1887, at the age of seventy-three years. They joined the German Baptist Church after coming to Illinois, and remained true to that faith until death. Mr. Eicholtz was a faithful follower of the Democratic party in his politics.

Our subject is one of five children, all of whom are married and well settled in life as successful farmers. His two brothers, Daniel B. and George, live in Kansas and Kansas City, Mo., respectively. Of the two sisters, Susan is the wife of D. W. Barkman, a farmer of Nachusa Township, and Lydia B. is the wife of M. D. Wingert, of China Township. Jonas Eicholtz spent his early years on the paternal acres in Adams County, and was a healthy, active lad of twelve years when the family removed to Maryland, where the remainder of his youth was

passed, and three weeks after the emigration of the family to this State he attained his majority. He had lived in this county since that time, with the exception of two years, and has been greatly prospered in his undertakings. He has acquired a goodly amount of property, including some fine, well-improved lands in Naehusa Township, two hundred and fifteen acres in all, and that part of his farm lying on section 18, has been developed wholly by himself from a state of nature. He has been living in his present home near the village for nine years, and for the past five years has done no active business. He has held the office of Assessor of the township, and has always been earnestly interested in its welfare, all plans for public improvement meeting with his hearty support. He is a man whose stability of character and general trustworthiness make him a very desirable citizen, a good neighbor and staunch friend, and true and kind in his domestic relations. His politics are of the Democratic order, and he stands firmly by his party whatever betides. He and his wife are consistent members of the Lutheran Church.

Mr. Eicholtz was married in Adams County, Pa. to Miss Elanora Peters, and they dwelt there for a time before taking up their residence permanently in this county. Mrs. Eicholtz was born in Adams County, Pa., August 23, 1840, a daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Dutraugh) Peters, who were born, reared, married and died in Pennsylvania, passing their wedded life on their farm in Adams County, their native county, dying at the age of seventy-eight years. They were of German parentage, their parents being among the early settlers of Adams County, beginning life there in the timber. Mrs. Eicholtz comes of a long-lived race, and one of her grandmothers, whose maiden name was Hoffman, and who was well-known in her county, lived to be very old, her life being prolonged until she was past ninety years of age. Mrs. Eicholtz is the youngest of three children. Her brother Richard is married and is a merchant in Harrisburg, Pa., and her sister, Mrs. Sarah Rex, lives on the old family homestead in Adams County.

Our subject and his wife have one son, Oscar R., who was born March 26, 1866, in Adams County,

Pa. He is a practical, wide-awake young farmer, and is successfully operating his father's homestead farm on section 18, Naehusa Township. He married Miss Cora Parker, who was born in Indiana, but was reared and educated in this county. They have two children, Guy W. and Erma E.



**L**EANDER CYRENUS SAWYER, a representative farmer, residing on section 1, Amboy Township, was born in Clarke County, Ohio, January 11, 1818, and was eighteen years old when his parents removed to Lee County. He continued to reside under the parental roof until he was nineteen years of age, at which time he started out for himself, working on a farm until his marriage, which took place in Bradford County, Pa., July 28, 1842. The lady of his choice bore the name of Nancy Shumway. She was born in Bradford County, June 10, 1823, and was there reared to womanhood.

On coming back to Illinois after his marriage, our subject settled on section 1, Amboy Township, where he has ever since continued to reside, and he is the only settler between Lee Centre and Dixon who is at present living on land which was originally taken from the Government. This gentleman has always been engaged in farm work, at which he has been very successful, owning now two hundred and twenty-five acres of fertile and productive land, and having upon this excellent estate a first-class set of farm buildings. Besides the raising of cereals, Mr. Sawyer deals quite extensively in the raising of fine stock of all kinds, buying and selling.

Mr. Sawyer and his worthy wife have become the happy parents of four children, namely: Cyrus W., who is a banker in Woodbury County, Iowa; Lucinda F. married William H. Millen, of Ida County, Iowa; Annette B., who is the wife of F. A. Salsberry, of Ida County, Iowa; and a daughter who died in infancy.

The subject of this notice is always in favor of anything that will enhance the prosperity of his

township or county, and especially anything pertaining to educational matters, and hence he has been active as a School Director, and has also held some of the minor offices of his township. In his political views, he is always a stalwart Republican, and a strong temperance man. Mrs. Sawyer is a consistent Christian and a valued member of the Congregational Church.

The parents of Mrs. Sawyer were Cyrus and Bridget (Clink) Shumway, both natives of New York State, being residents of Bradford County, Pa. The father of our subject was Joseph Sawyer, a native of New York State, while his mother, Sarah Farnham, was born in Vermont. The father was an old school teacher in Vermont and Ohio, and taught for awhile after coming to the Prairie State, and was the first Postmaster of the old Inlet Grove Postoffice; he was also captain of a militia company in Ohio. For a more complete history of the parents, see the sketch of Darius Sawyer, which will be found elsewhere in the RECORD. Mrs. Sawyer had two brothers who fought in the late war—Henry and Harrison Shumway—the latter of whom was killed in Missouri.



**J**OHN DIXON, the founder of Dixon, was born in the village of Rye, Westchester County, N. Y., October 9, 1784. At an early age he removed to New York City, where for about fifteen years he was the proprietor of a clothing store. In addition to the successful prosecution of business he was untiring in his efforts for the promotion of temperance and religious interests, and in this connection became one of the active members and directors of the first Bible Society organized in the United States. This was organized February 16, 1809, under the name of "The Young Men's Bible Society, of the City of New York." While thus engaged, premonitory symptoms of a pulmonary disease manifested themselves, making a change of climate necessary, and in 1820 he set out for Illinois. He settled near Springfield, Ill. In 1825 Judge Sawyer, whose circuit nominally embraced Northwestern Illinois,

requested Mr. Dixon to take the appointment of Circuit Clerk, and remove to the then village of Peoria. The Government decided upon giving Galena mail facilities once in two weeks, and Mr. Dixon got the contract. In order to secure a passage for the mails over Rock River, he induced a man by the name of Ogee—a French and Indian half-breed—to establish a ferry at the point, now known as Dixon. This done, the travel to and from the lead mines so rapidly increased that Ogee's coffers became full—too full indeed for his moral powers to bear; the result was constant inebriation. To avoid the delays in the transmission of the mails which these irregularities entailed, Mr. Dixon bought the ferry from Ogee, and in April, 1835, removed his family to that point. From that date the place as a point for crossing the river became known as Dixon's Ferry. At that time a large portion of the Winnebago tribe of Indians occupied this part of the Rock River country. Mr. Dixon so managed his business relations with them as to secure their entire confidence and friendship, which on the return of the Sauks and Foxes, under their war chief Black Hawk in 1832, proved to be of inestimable benefit to himself and family. He was recognized by them as the "red man's friend." He entered the land upon which the most valuable part of the (now) city of Dixon stands, and in 1835 laid it off into town lots. In this connection it may not be improper to say that all the land thus subdivided were disposed of from time to time, and the avails, instead of being hoarded for individual use, have gone to build up the general interests of the city. In 1840, Mr. Dixon visited Washington with an application for the removal of the land office from Galena to Dixon, and Gen. Scott, and perhaps other army officers, personal friends of Mr. Dixon, who had become familiar with the topography of the country during the Black Hawk war, promptly interested themselves in his behalf, and introduced him to President Van Buren, who at once signed the order for its removal. Mr. Dixon's wife, formerly Rebecca Sherwood, of New York, a lady of superior mental capacity and energy, shared with her husband the toils and privations incident to frontier life. He

has witnessed the growth of the "Ferry" from a condition of wild grass and shrubbery to that of a busy city of five thousand inhabitants, bearing his honored name. He is honored and respected more than any other man who ever lived in this county.



**H**OWARD JOHNSON, a practical and enterprising farmer residing on section 21, Palmyra Township, has spent his entire life in Lee County. He was born on his father's farm in this township, August 20, 1850, and is the youngest but one of seven children, who are mentioned in the sketch of R. S. Johnson, on another page of this work. In the usual manner of farmer lads, the days of his boyhood and youth were passed, he aiding his father in farm work during the summer months, and attending the district school in the winter season. Under the parental roof he remained until he had attained his majority, when he began life for himself, and the occupation to which he was reared he has since followed. In all his undertakings he has met with success, possessing enterprise, perseverance and industry, qualities essential to a prosperous career. He now owns two hundred and eighty acres of land on sections 15 and 16, Palmyra Township, but is operating a one hundred and sixty acre farm on section 21, the property of his father-in-law. He has placed it under a high state of cultivation and the well-tilled fields yield to him a golden tribute. The farm is well stocked, having thereon about seventy-five milch cows, used for dairy purposes. This, however, is managed by other parties, while Mr. Johnson devotes his entire attention to general farming.

In Palmyra Township Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Alice A. Rogers, who first opened her eyes to the light of day February 28, 1853, on the farm which is still her home. She is a daughter of Walter and Hannah (Fellows) Rogers. Her father was born September 26, 1815, in the Province of Ontario, Canada, and, about 1839, came to this county, where he met and married

Miss Fellows, a native of New Hampshire, born in 1824. She was a maiden of ten summers, when, with her parents, Stephen and Rachel (McGaffy) Fellows, she emigrated Westward. Mr. and Mrs. Rogers began their domestic life in Lee County, upon a farm, where he improved a good home, it being his place of residence until the death of his wife, which occurred February 23, 1890. She was a member of the Methodist Church, and a lady beloved by her many friends. In November, 1890, Mr. Rogers removed to Dixon, where he is now living a retired life at the age of seventy-six years. He has been a prominent man of this community, has served as Supervisor for Palmyra Township for many years, and in politics is a staunch advocate of Republican principles.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson began their domestic life upon the farm where they still reside and their home has been blessed by the presence of two children—Elwyn and Lida M. The parents are both well and favorably known throughout this community, and in the social world, where true worth and intelligence are received as the passports into good society, rank high. In his political views, Mr. Johnson is a staunch Republican and for two years has served as Supervisor of Palmyra Township, proving himself an efficient and capable officer.



**J**AMES BROWN, honored as one of our most worthy citizens, came to Lee County many years ago, cast in his fortunes with its pioneers, and was of much assistance in developing the agricultural resources of this region. He was greatly prospered in his work, and was enabled to retire from active business ere old age came upon him, to a pleasant home in the pretty village of Ashton, where he is enjoying life at his leisure, freed from the necessity of labor by the possession of an ample competence.

Mr. Brown was born in Ireland, October 15, 1819. He was almost eight years old when his father, Thomas Brown, emigrated with his family to the New World, and thereafter made his home

in Canada, both he and his wife dying there. They were the parents of eight children, seven sons and one daughter, whom they reared to habits of usefulness.

Our subject grew to a vigorous manhood in Canada, and was a resident of that country until 1852, when he came to Illinois, and made a permanent settlement in this county. He bought land in Ashton Township, in time transformed it into a valuable farm, with a good class of improvements, and its two hundred and sixty acres were placed under excellent cultivation. He made money by his farming operations, as he attended strictly to his business, was shrewd, keen and discriminating in his dealings, and at the same time had a well-earned reputation for truthfulness and honesty, his word always passing current. In the spring of 1876, he abandoned farming, disposing of his farm at a good price, and since then has lived retired in the village of Ashton.

Mr. Brown did not have to struggle alone with the adversities of pioneer life when he came to Illinois to found a home in a newly settled country, but by his side was the young wife whom he had married in Canada, who was willing to brave any hardship and privation that might fall to their lot for his sake, and to her cheerful co-operation he owes much. Mrs. Brown, whose maiden name was Jane Walker, is also, like her husband, of Irish birth, and was born July 12, 1831. Much joy has fallen to our subject and his estimable wife in their wedded life, and among their blessings are the children spared to comfort them as the shadows of life lengthen towards sunset. Their eldest daughter, Elizabeth, is the wife of James W. Parsons; their daughter Victoria is the wife of Dr. Thomas Taylor, of Ashton, who is represented elsewhere in this volume, and their only living son married Miss Susie Chana. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have felt the chastening hand of sorrow in the death of four of their beloved children: James A., who died at the age of thirty-two years; Mary E., who married Frederiek Goebel, and died when twenty-four years old; George, who died in childhood, and Sarah, who died in infancy.

Our subject's every-day life bears testimony to the inherent uprightness of his character, and his

neighbors know full well that they can look to him for kindness, charity and helpfulness whenever they are in trouble or need assistance. He and his wife and all their children are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and have contributed their quota to the advancement of religion in their community. Mr. Brown is unwavering in his loyalty to the Republican party, and firmly believes that its policy in regard to all the great public questions of the day is for the best interests of the country.



**H**ARMON VAN PATTEN, one of the most intelligent and respected members of the farming community of Alto Township, has been identified with the agricultural interests of Lee County for a period of thirty years. He was born in Glenville, Schenectady County, N. Y., July 14, 1836. He is a lineal descendant of an ancient Holland family that was among the early Colonial settlers of the Empire State, and through his paternal grandmother comes of old New England stock.

Simon Bartlett Van Patten, the father of our subject, was born September 5, 1801, in the same town as his son, while his father, Frederiek Van Patten, was born in the Mohawk Valley, near Schenectady, N. Y. His last years, however, were spent in his home at Glenville, where he had taken up his residence when a young man. The maiden name of his wife was Sarah Bartlett, and she was born in Massachusetts, her ancestry being of English origin. She survived her husband many years, and died at her old home in Glenville.

The father of our subject was reared to agricultural pursuits. He purchased a farm of forty acres in the town of Glenville, one mile from the Mohawk River, and resided there until 1871, when he came to Illinois to pass his declining years with his children, and died in 1875, at the home of his son Abram, in Malta, De Kalb County. His wife preceded him in death, dying in Sehe-

nectady County, N. Y., in 1869. She was born in Gilderland, Albany County, N. Y., in 1804, her maiden name being Susan Van Patten, although she was not in any way related to her husband. She was a daughter of John and Margaret (Prince) Van Patten. These are the six children that she and her husband reared: Sarah, John, Margaret, Harmon, Abram and Jemima.

Harmon Van Patten received his early education in the district schools, and resided with his parents until he was sixteen years old, when he went to live with a widow in the neighborhood. He had but little work to do other than chores, and he gladly embraced the opportunity to advance his education, as he was very eager to learn all that he could, and attended both the district and a select school. He was thus well fitted for the profession of teaching, and in his twentieth year entered upon that vocation. He continued to live in his native State until 1859, when he came to Illinois, and located in Willow Creek Township, where he found employment in a nursery for a year. Desirous to still further increase his education, he then became a student at Rock River Seminary, at Mt. Morris, where he pursued a fine course of study. At the time of his marriage, he located on the farm that he now owns and occupies in Alto Township, and has since devoted himself to its improvement. He brings a cultured, well-trained mind to bear upon the problems that beset the skilled agriculturist who seeks to till the soil after the best methods, so as to make it produce abundantly without exhausting its natural fertility. His standing in financial circles is good, and none know him but to esteem him for those fine qualities of head and heart that are his distinguishing characteristics.

Mr. Van Patten was married March 17, 1861, to the lady who presided over his home, and had for many years been to him all that a true wife can be to a man. Mrs. Van Patten, formerly Miss Hannah Nettleton, was born in the Province of Ontario, Canada. Her union with our subject has been blessed to them by the birth of five children, namely: Winnie Estelle, Minnie Delle, Ernest Martin, John Frederick and Hannah Mabel. Winnie married Lester L. Atwood, of Boone

County, Ill., and they have three children: Edna May, Grace and Lois Mabel. Minnie married Henry P. Moon, of Rock Rapids, Lyon County, Iowa, and they have two children: Clarence and Ernest Frederick. Mrs. Van Patten died January 6, 1875. Mr. Van Patten was again married, September 4, 1878, to Miss Nettie Fuller, of Webster County, Iowa. This union has resulted in the birth of one child, Marian Delight.



**F**RANK WEISE. This gentleman is numbered among the old locomotive engineers in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, and is among the pioneers of this State. He was born in Saxony, Germany, November 30, 1835. His parents, Charles and Maria Weise, came to the United States in 1848, and settled on a farm near Aurora, Ill., where they both died. The father of our subject was twice married, by his first union becoming the parent of one daughter, Dorothea, who married Henry Figenger, of Aurora.

The parents of our subject had thirteen children, all born in Germany, of whom six grew to maturity, as follows: John, who died in Aurora; Frank; Louis, who resides in Aurora; Mary, wife of Charles Huff, of Chicago; Caroline, the widow of Fred Nichols, of Chicago; Charles, a resident of Denver, Col.; and Clara, who married August Nichols, and died in Chicago.

Our subject came to the United States with his father's family, and was reared on a farm at Aurora, also becoming a musician. He went to Mendota and worked at various employments, but gave most of his time to furnishing music for entertainments. From Mendota he came to Amboy, and after working for a few months in the machine shops of the Illinois Central Railroad, he became fireman on a locomotive, and in less than four years was given an engine, and is now the oldest freight engineer on the Amboy Division of that railroad.

Mr. Weise has been twice married, the first time in Amboy, to Mary Kufelt. She was born in

Germany, and died at Amboy in 1878, leaving five children: Frank, Herman, Mena, Theresa and Clara. By a former marriage Mrs. Weise was the mother of one child, Josephine, now Mrs. Nolte. Mr. Weise was a second time married, April 2, 1879, to Miss Delia Hartha. They have four children: Albert, William, Bertha and Ina. Mr. Weise is a staunch Democrat, and he and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church. The present Mrs. Weise is, by a prior marriage to Henry Brady, the mother of five children: May, Charles, Clara, Johnnie, and Louise (deceased).



**M**ATHIAS LIEVAN has played an important part in the development of Lee County as one of its most enterprising, far-seeing and clear-headed farmers, and although not one of the earliest settlers of this section of Illinois, he is fairly entitled to be classed among its pioneers. He has acquired a handsome fortune and is now quietly passing his declining years in retirement in his old home on section 17, South Dixon Township, where he settled April 1, 1857.

Our subject was born on the beautiful Rhine in Prussia, Germany, October 13, 1813, coming of pure German ancestry. His father, who was John M. Lievan, was also a Prussian by birth, and was a grape-grower, having his vineyard on the banks of the River Rhine. He was there married to Margaret Lievan, who was also a native of that province, and her father's people were also grape-growers and wine-makers.

Mathias Lievan passed his early life amid the romantic scenes of his birth, and some years after marriage decided on emigrating to the United States of America, as he was ambitious to acquire wealth, and thought that his chances of doing so would be better in the New World than in the Fatherland. Accompanied by his wife and aged father (his mother having previously died), he set sail from Havre de Grace, and after three months on the ocean landed in this country, in 1846. The ensuing eleven years he lived in Somerset

County, Pa., when he came here, and there his father died. Our subject was employed in various places in and around the ill-fated Johnstown, and at one time worked on the dam which breakage caused the awful flood that well-nigh destroyed that city. He also labored in the iron mines for some years. Hearing much of the rich virgin soil of the great Prairie State, he came hither in 1857, resolved to try his hand at farming. He obtained the first eighty acres of his present homestead at that time, while it was yet in a wild condition, and actively entered upon the labor of retrieving it from a state of nature. He had much to contend with in those early years, and he and his faithful wife endured many hardships and privations, and made many sacrifices before prosperity began to smile upon their persistent and unremitting toil. He had but little means when he began his struggles here, and he was so handicapped by having to pay a big interest that he had to give up forty acres of his original purchase. Better times came, however, and he grew rich, investing his money in other land until he became the owner of nine farms in this State and in Iowa, aggregating more than a thousand acres of fine farming land, nearly the whole of it being under cultivation. He has provided generously for his children, giving them a good start in life, distributing property among them to the value of \$40,000.

Our subject was first married in his native province to Miss Anna M. Mechel, who was born and reared there, and died at their old home after the birth of two children, while she was yet a young woman.

Mr. Lievan was married a second time in the land of his birth, Miss Magdalena Miller becoming his wife. She was born and reared in the same neighborhood as himself, and was of similar parentage, her father being a grape-grower. A long and felicitous wedded life has been vouchsafed to our subject and his estimable wife, and of the twelve children that have come to them, all are living but Charles, who died young. The others are Mathias, a farmer in Missouri, who married Mary Pifer; John W., a farmer residing near Dixon, who married Sophia Bremmer; Elizabeth, who is a resident, of St. Louis; Margaret, wife of Henry E. Miller, of whom a biography appears in this volume;

Kate, wife of William Mossholder, a farmer in this township; Jacob, also a farmer in this township, married Miss Sarah Genek; Rachel, at home with her parents; William, a farmer in Harmon Township, who married Miss Ella Fritz; Idell, married Burton Ross and lives in O'Brien County, Iowa; Sarah, wife of Detrick Seifkin, a farmer in O'Brien County, Iowa; Frank, a farmer in Marion Township, who married Lotta Vroman; Emma, wife of Henry Floto, a farmer at State Centre, Iowa; Henry G., a farmer in Harmon Township, who married Gertrude Wadsworth. The two children of Mr. Lievan's first marriage are Anna and Mary, and both own and occupy good farms near Manning, Iowa; Mary married John Parker. Mr. and Mrs. Lievan and the most of their children attend the Evangelical Church, and are liberal in their support of whatsoever tends to the moral and religious elevation of the community. Mr. Lievan is loyal in his citizenship to the country of his adoption, is a firm believer in the superiority of its institutions and government, and is a true Republican in his political sentiments. In closing this record of his life, we will add that a patient, resolute nature, a keen love of business, accuracy of judgment, and a never-failing self-reliance, together with honesty of purpose and act, have been his distinguishing traits, and mark him as a true type of our self-made men, whose career is eminently worthy of emulation and deserving of praise.



**S**AMUEL S. KAYLAR, a wealthy resident of Dixon, has valuable farming interests in Lee County, represented by two fine farms, not far from the city, the management of both being under his personal supervision. Mr. Kaylar was born half a mile from Martinsburg, Bedford County, Pa., April 11, 1832. His father, John Kaylar, was born in the same State, for aught that is known to the contrary. He was a harness-maker, and followed that trade in the winter seasons, and the remainder of the year gave his attention to farming. In 1846 he left Bedford County and removed to Indiana with his family,

going thither with a three-horse team. He settled among the pioneers of Elkhart County, buying a tract of timber land in the wilderness three miles from Goshen. The family moved into the log cabin that stood on the place and occupied it for a few years. The surrounding country was but little settled at that period, as was evidenced by the number of deer and other wild game that abounded, and there were no railways in that section for some years. Goshen was the market where the farmers went to dispose of their produce and obtain necessary supplies. The father of our subject became one of the principal farmers of that county, and in time had one of the finest farms anywhere about. He erected a handsome and commodious brick house, a large barn, and made other valuable improvements. He made it his home until his death in his seventy-sixth year. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Nancy Martin, and she was born in Blair County, Pa., a daughter of David Martin. She has attained the venerable age of eighty years, and now resides in Marshall County, Ind. She has been a faithful mother and has reared nine children to lives of usefulness.

Our subject was fourteen years old when he accompanied his parents to their pioneer home in Indiana. He attended the primitive schools of those days that were taught in log houses, which were furnished with seats made by splitting small trees, and hewing one side smooth, with wooden pins placed underneath for support. Mr. Kaylar continued to live with his father until he was twenty-one years old, and then worked on a farm by the month for three months. At the end of that time, he established a brick yard on his father's farm, and was engaged in the manufacture of bricks the ensuing seven years. He thus obtained a good start in life, and in 1858 he made a tour of the West with a view of investing some of his capital. While in Missouri he entered forty acres of Government land in Harrison County, and bought two hundred acres that had previously been entered. Returning to Indiana from that trip, he purchased eighty acres of land in Kosciusko County, and after living upon it two years, sold it at an advance. His next move was to Grundy County,



this State, and he invested in an eighty-acre tract of land in Braceville Township, to which he added eighty acres more by a subsequent purchase. In 1877 he went from there to Gardner, and was a resident of that place until 1882. Then selling his property there, he came to Lee County, bought a home in Dixon, a farm in Dixon Township, and another ten miles south of the city. Two years later he disposed of the latter farm, and bought one hundred and sixty acres, four and one-half miles south of the city. He still owns both farms, and superintends the working of them, although residing in the city.

Mr. Kaylar was married in 1860 to Miss Isabel Anderson, a native of Ohio, in whom he has found a wife who has materially contributed to his success in life. They have had three children: Albert, Emma and May. The latter, the youngest child, died at the age of six years. Emma married Eugene Bartholomew, of Dixon, and they have one child, whom they have named Maud.

Our subject's social and financial standing in the community is of the best. He is a loyal citizen, and as such interests himself in politics, being a firm supporter of the Republican party.



**W**ALTER LITTLE, an honored veteran of the late war, now proprietor of the Washington House, of Dixon, has witnessed the growth of Lee County since an early day, his parents being numbered among the honored pioneers of the community. His grandfather, Walter Little, was a farmer of the Highlands of Scotland, and there married Ellen Johnson. In their old home they resided until after the birth of all of their children, when they determined to come to the New World, and, sailing from Edinburgh, crossed the Atlantic to New York. They made their first settlement near Buffalo, in the Empire State, and the year 1837 witnessed their arrival in Illinois. They located on an unbroken farm in Brooklyn Township, Lee County, where the father developed a farm, the family living in

a log cabin in true pioneer style. The death of Walter Little, Sr., occurred on the old homestead, and his wife died at the home of their son, Andrew, in Viola Township, when about sixty-five years of age. They were adherents of the Presbyterian Church and brought up their children in that faith. Only one son is now living, James, a resident of Paw Paw, Ill.

Andrew Little, father of our subject, was born in the Scottish Highlands, and when a young lad accompanied his parents to America. In Lee County he attained his majority, and at Ross Grove, in De Kalb County, married Miss Charity Ross, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Holly) Ross, who were born in the Empire State. After their marriage they removed to Ohio, and thence came to Illinois in a very early day, locating in what is now Ross Grove, which was named in their honor as they were among the very first settlers of De Kalb County. Upon a farm which Mr. Ross there developed from the wild prairie, he and his wife resided for some years. Subsequently he went to Texas, and died at the home of his son in that State, when well advanced in life. His wife passed away in this county. They were well-known pioneers of Northern Illinois and were highly respected people.

After the marriage of Andrew Little and his wife, he made a claim of Government land near Compton, Lee County, where he improved a farm and subsequently engaged in farming in Viola Township, where he died on the 7th of March, 1857, at the age of forty-six years. His wife was called to her final rest November 16, 1850, when only twenty-four years of age. They left three children: Walter, of this sketch; Mary, wife of Ed C. Lamb, a farmer living on the old homestead; and Andrew, who also resides on a part of the old home farm. He married Catherine Christeance. Another child of the family, who also bore the name of Andrew, died in early youth.

Our subject first opened his eyes to the light of day on his father's farm in Brooklyn Township, in 1841, and his home has been in no other county than this. His labors were devoted to farm work until nineteen years of age, when he responded to

the country's call for troops to aid in crushing out the Rebellion, and enlisted October 7, 1861, as a member of Battery F, First Illinois Volunteer Artillery. He participated in the battles of Pittsburg and those of the Mississippi campaign, and was with Gen. Sherman throughout the Atlanta campaign and helped to drive Gen. Hood's Army from the North. When the war was brought to a successful termination, he was honorably discharged at Nashville, Tenn., on the 4th of February, 1865, after about three and a half years of active service. He had enlisted as a private, but during the last year served as Color-bearer of his regiment, the stand of colors being presented to the company by the ladies of Dixon. He was a young soldier but the country saw no braver, and at his post of duty he was always found. He was never wounded or taken prisoner, though on several occasions he narrowly escaped capture.

On his return from the war, Mr. Little resumed farming, which he followed until 1884, when he was elected Sheriff of Lee County. For two years he filled that office and in December, 1886, at the expiration of his term, became proprietor of the Washington House, a leading hotel of Dixon. He is a genial host who carefully looks after the comfort of his guests, and the hotel has therefore become a favorite with the traveling public. Mr. Little is still the owner of a hundred and sixty-acre farm near Sheffield, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, which is well watered and highly improved and cultivated.

In Brooklyn Township, this county, our subject was joined in wedlock with Miss Cornelia Nichols, a native of Michigan, and a daughter of Charles and Margaret Nichols, who had removed from that State to Illinois, in 1857, locating in Brooklyn Township. Some years later they removed to Ames, Story County, Iowa, where both died, having passed the allotted age of three-score years and ten. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Little have been born five children, but Fannie M. and George W. are now deceased. James W., Lillian G., and Ethel G. are still under the parental roof. The parents attend the Methodist Church and are highly respected people of the community, having many friends in and around Dixon. Mr. Little

is a member of the Blue Lodge and Chapter, and Dixon Commandery of Knights Templar of the Masonic order, and, with the exception of that of Master, has filled all the offices. He also holds membership with Dixon Post, No. 229, G. A. R.

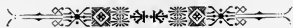
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**S**AMUEL F. MILLS, of the firm of Mills & Petrie, bankers at Ashton, was born in Herkimer County, N. Y., June 21, 1831. His parents, Loran A. and Eve (Petrie) Mills, were natives of the same place where they spent their entire lives and in which county they died. The father was a farmer by occupation.

Our subject is the fifth child of a family of three sons and three daughters. He remained upon the home farm until twenty-one years of age, when he went to Canada, where he spent one year engaged in speculating, and in which he met with fine success. From there he went to De Kalb, Ill., and engaged in the livery business for about six months, when he sold out and removed to Ashton, becoming interested in the pine and lumber business in 1858, which he carried on alone until he formed a partnership with N. A. Petrie. The partnership continued until 1865, when they closed out and entered into the mercantile business, carrying it on for four years, when they sold out and became interested in banking. In 1888 Mr. Mills built a handsome residence in Parish, N. Y., where he spends about half of his time and the remainder in Ashton. He was married in the latter place to Louisa Getman, who was also a native of Herkimer County, N. Y.

Mr. Mills was one of the chief founders of the village of Ashton, and has contributed in no small measure to the growth and prosperity of the town. In 1889 the business part of the town was destroyed by fire, or nearly so, and Mr. Mills, in company with his partner, N. A. Petrie, has practically rebuilt the place, and they are now the owners of nine stores, a hotel and a number of office buildings. Mr. Mills is a progressive man, enterprising and active, and of undoubted business ability. His public spirit has been manifested in many ways,

and he is held in the highest esteem for his liberality, which was so prominently manifested during the misfortunes which befell the town. Mr. Mills is strong and active in the ranks of the Republicans.



THOMAS WELLS, though not one of the early pioneers of this county, may be classed among them, as, during a residence of many years within its precincts, he has developed a farm, finely located in Willow Creek Township, on sections 27 and 28, whose improvements rank with the best in this vicinity. Mr. Wells is a native of Prince Edward Island, born December 10, 1831, a son of one of the old families of that insular locality. His father, Hugh Wells, was born in the same place at himself. The grandfather of our subject was a native of the North of Ireland, of Scotch ancestry, and was an early settler of Prince Edward Island, where he passed his remaining years in farming.

The father of our subject was reared and married in his birthplace, and resided there until 1844. In that year, accompanied by his wife and six children, he started for Illinois, traveling by water to Boston, thence by rail to Albany, by canal to Buffalo, by the Great Lakes to Chicago, and from there to his destination in Kane County, with an ox-team. His means were limited and he first rented land, which he cultivated for a while, and then, after spending a year and a half at Somonauk, he came to this county in 1856 and bought a tract of improved land in Allen's Grove, upon which he lived until death closed his mortal career. The maiden name of his wife was Ann Irving. She was born in Dumfrieshire, Scotland, and was a daughter of Thomas Irving. She died on the home farm. She reared seven children to useful lives.

Thomas Wells was thirteen years old when the family came to Illinois, and so remembers well the incidents of that long and memorable journey, and of the pioneer life of the first years that he lived in this State. For some time there was no

railway, and the greater part of the land in the northern part of Illinois was still owned by the Government, and has since been sold at \$1.25 an acre. He remained an inmate of the parental family until his marriage, and then located on a farm on section 25. He did not have the money to pay for it, and soon gave it up and farmed as a renter for a time. He then bought the farm in Willow Creek Township where he now resides. Since it came into his possession he has greatly increased its worth by many valuable improvements that he has placed upon it, including a neat and substantially built frame house, two good barns, granaries, sheds, etc. The land is under admirable tillage, and yields abundant harvests in repayment for the care bestowed upon it and the outlay of money necessary for its cultivation.

Mr. Wells had the good fortune to secure a devoted wife when he married Miss Helen J. Hallenbeck March 26, 1858. They have had two children, Addie and Arthur. The sorrow of their wedded life has been in the death of their daughter, July 7, 1887. She was born November 26, 1861, and was married to George Roberts, December 22, 1886. Arthur Wells was born September 29, 1864. He was married October 17, 1888, to Miss Nellie, daughter of Dennis and Ann Miller, who was born March 12, 1866. They have one child, Addie N. Mrs. Arthur Wells died September 6, 1891.

Mrs. Wells was born in Onondaga County, N. Y., October 2, 1840. Her father, Mathew Hallenbeck, is thought to have been a native of Schoharie County, N. Y., and was of German descent. He served an apprenticeship of seven years to learn the trade of a carpenter, and was engaged at that occupation in De Witt, Onondaga County, after his marriage, until 1857, when he came to Illinois and located at Cordova, Rock Island County, where he carried on his calling until his death. The maiden name of his wife was Catherine M. Shoudy, and she was a daughter of John and Catherine Shoudy. She was born in Schoharie County, N. Y., and died at Cordova, Ill. Mrs. Wells is a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church, and a true Christian in every respect. Mr. Wells is a man whose character and habits are above reproach, and during his many years' residence in Willow

Creek Township, his course has been such as to win him the respect and trust of all who know him. In his political views, he is a Republican and stands firmly by his party.



**G**EORGE SEYBERT, who is an enterprising young farmer, and a native of the county, is connected with the dairy interests of this section, and is conducting a good business in that line on section 18, South Dixon Township, where he has a valuable farm, that is complete in its appointments. He is the youngest son of Wallace Seybert, a wealthy retired farmer of Dixon, of whom an account appears in the sketch of his son, Charles Seybert, on another page of this volume.

Our subject was born in South Dixon Township, September 11, 1862, and here he grew to manhood. He obtained an excellent education in the local schools, and a fine training in all that pertains to farming on his father's farm. He remained an inmate of the parental home until he attained his majority, and in due time began to pursue agriculture on his own account, showing in his work and methods an intelligent appreciation of the principles of his calling, and he has already met with assured success, so that we may safely prophesy that he will at no distant day stand among the foremost farmers of the county. He obtained possession of the farm upon which he lives in 1890. It comprises a quarter of a section of rich farming land, and its pastures give support to a goodly number of cattle, including twenty-five milch cows of the best breeds for dairy purposes, our subject making a specialty of that business, and he has, besides, horses and swine. Fine buildings adorn the place, including a substantial, conveniently arranged residence, and a barn recently erected, which is one of the best in the county, being provided with all the modern improvements, and it is commodious in size, 84x48 feet in dimensions, and its well-finished basement is sufficiently large to shelter fifty head of stock.

The marriage which united Mr. Seybert and

Miss Carrie Eddy was celebrated in Dixon. One child, Earl V., completes their happy household. Mrs. Seybert was born in Dixon, January 7, 1870, was educated in the city schools, is thoughtful and well informed, and is a true homemaker. She is a daughter of Jacob and Zerendia (Wood) Eddy, who are well-known residents of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where Mr. Eddy is still engaged at his trade as a carpenter, although he is an elderly man. He and his wife were born, reared and married in Pennsylvania, whence they subsequently came to Illinois, and for several years prior to their removal to Cedar Rapids, made their home in Dixon. They are members in high standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics, he is a Republican.

Our subject is a bright young man, of much capability and decision of character, and is temperate and steady in his habits. He and his wife are Lutherans in religion, and as to his politics, he is a true Democrat.



**C**YRUS BRIDGMAN, one of the prominent grocery dealers at Amboy, has been a resident of Lee County since 1838. He was born in Bainbridge, Chenango County, N. Y., May 30, 1821, and is a son of Curtis T. and Fannie (Carter) Bridgman, natives of Massachusetts. The father of our subject was a prominent lumberman in the Empire State, residing for a number of years in Steuben County, and during a portion of that time being pilot on boats and rafts on the Canisteo, Chemung and Susquehanna Rivers.

Curtis T. Bridgman came to Illinois, being accompanied hither by two sons, making the trip by water. He located in what is now Amboy Township, and in the fall of that year returned to New York and brought his family in wagons to Illinois, locating on the land in the above-named township. Here he resided during the remainder of his life; the mother died in 1850. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in politics Mr. Bridgman was a Whig.

The parental family included the following

children: Permelia, now Mrs. Church, of Colorado; Uriah, a resident of California; our subject, who is the third in order of birth; Curtis T., of Oswego, Kan.; Fannie, who married Judson Eells, is now deceased; Adna died when sixteen years of age, and LeRoy died in Amboy. The early days of our subject were passed on the home farm, where he attended the district school and later came with his father and brother to Illinois, since which time he has resided in Lee County, with the exception of about six months, when he removed his family to Lanark, Carroll County. He followed farming for a number of years, and on removing to Amboy sold his land and has since been in business either for himself or in the employ of other firms.

Mary J. Holmes became the wife of our subject in 1849. She was the daughter of Seth W. Holmes and was born in Steuben County, N. Y., coming with her parents to Illinois. To them have been born one child, Fannie, who is the wife of Fred R. Doty, of Amboy. In his political relations, Mr. Bridgman is a Republican and has served in the important positions of Assessor and Alderman. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and socially is a Mason.



**L**EWIS BUNEL WARD, whose farm is on section 30, Harmon Township, settled in Lee County in the spring of 1869, and in the twenty and more years that have since elapsed has been a valuable member of its farming community. He is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, born May 1, 1834, a son of Elias and Rhoda (Miller) Ward, who were natives of New Jersey. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Israel Ward, was also a native of that State.

Elias Ward and his wife grew to maturity and were married in the State of their birth, and in 1811 took their way to the wilds of Ohio and were among the first to settle at Madisonville, Ohio, seven miles from Cincinnati. In 1832 they removed from there to Cincinnati, whence they went to Franklin County, Ind., in 1841, and in 1864 came to Illinois. They settled in Magnolia, Putnam

County, but the mother subsequently died in Marshall County in October, 1868, and the father died in Whiteside County in 1870. In early life he learned the trade of a harness-maker, and when he went to Ohio he worked as a carriage-trimmer, but on going to Indiana became a farmer. His last days were spent with his children, of whom he had twelve, eleven of them growing to manhood and womanhood, as follows: Hetty, the second child, now in her eighty-first year, married Edward Simpson and lives with her children; George, the eldest, who was a farmer, died in Putnam County in 1846; Robert, who in early life was a plane-maker, and later a farmer, died in Marshall County; Ellis, a blacksmith, died in Putnam County; Luke, a carriage painter died in Cincinnati, in December, 1886; Israel, a carriage-trimmer, died in Putnam County; James, a blacksmith, died in Washington, Iowa; John, a carriage-trimmer, died in Aurora, Ill.; Rhoda, now Mrs. Tyler McWhorter, of Sterling, and Mary, who married George Washington Walker and died in Marshall County. Religiously, the parents of our subject were worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and gave their children Christian training.

He of whom these lines are written is the youngest of the family and the only son now living. He accompanied his parents in their removal to Indiana when he was a child, and there he grew to a stalwart manhood amid pioneer surroundings and was bred to the life of a farmer on his father's farm. In due time he took unto himself a wife in the Hoosier State, marrying Miss Emeline Hoffman, who was born in Camden, Preble County, Ohio, October 14, 1837. She has faithfully done her part in the upbuilding of their home, and looks carefully after the comfort of her household. Their marriage has been blessed with children, of whom these five are living: Emma J., wife of Henry S. McNett, of Washington; Ellis T., a resident of Clinton, Iowa; Carrie H., wife of George W. Mikesell, of Mendota; Daniel H., a resident of St. Paul, Minn., and Clarence A., who is at home with his parents. Death has crossed the threshold of the home of our subject and his wife and taken from them their son, Charles Clifford, who died in 1886, at the age of eight years.

In 1866 our subject left his old home in Indiana and became a resident of Marshall County, this State, where he rented land until 1869. In the spring of that year he came to Lee County and bought one hundred and twenty acres of his present farm in Harmon Township, which, when it came into his possession, was a tract of wild prairie, and never a furrow had been turned. He now has it under excellent tillage, judging by the abundant harvests produced on its fertile acres, and he has added to its dimensions by further purchase and now owns a quarter-section, all of which is well improved. Everything about the place is well arranged and the neat set of farm buildings are the work of Mr. Ward's own hands, for although he is not a carpenter by trade, he has good mechanical ability. He has pretty groves of trees on the farm, which add to its value as well as its attractiveness. Mr. Ward is a loyal Republican in his political views and is a man of sensible opinions on all subjects with which he is conversant. His dealings are always on the square, and his credit in money matters, and in all things, whatsoever, is sound.

**C**ONRAD MEISTER, who resides on section 16, Bradford Township, came to this county at an early day, and belongs to that class of intelligent, enterprising German citizens of whom frequent mention has been made in these pages. He was born in Germany, near Hesse-Cassel, December 30, 1835, and in 1846 came with his parents to the United States. They landed in New York, and from that city pursued their Westward way until reaching Illinois, where they made their first stop at Chicago, remaining there but a few weeks and then coming on to Lee County, where they settled in China Township.

Our subject remained with his parents, assisting them in the varied duties of a pioneer life, until he was twenty-one years of age, when he was married in China Township, July 26, 1857, to Miss Rosina Hiller, who, like himself, was a native of Germany, being born in Wurtemberg, July 20, 1836. For

a year and a half after his marriage, Mr. Meister assisted his father on the home place, after which he came to Bradford Township and settled on section 16, where he has since resided. He has been successful in his operations as a farmer, and is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres.

In politics, Mr. Meister is a Democrat, and, with his wife, is a member of the Lutheran Church. He is an intelligent man, who keeps well posted on the topics of the day and who has always given his influence on the side of right and justice, and in behalf of whatever would tend to the welfare of his township and county. The family of our subject consists of eight children: Kate, Mary, George, John, Emma, Levi, Anna and Fred.

**A**LEXANDER HARPER, ESQ., a pioneer of Northern Illinois, and a son of one of the early pioneer families of the State, is a prominent citizen and farmer of Viola Township. A native of this Commonwealth, he was born one and one half miles south of Whitehall, in Greene County, June 1, 1827. His father, Ephraim Harper, one of the earliest settlers of Illinois, was born in Juniata County, Pa. Of his father but little is known, save that he was of Scotch ancestry, and was born either in Scotland or America.

Ephraim Harper was a young man when he left his native State for Ohio, where he was married in the town of Marietta to Christina Kistler, who was also of Pennsylvania birth. He learned the trade of a tanner and currier and concluded to establish himself in business in some more recently settled State in the "Far West." He embarked on a keel boat and proceeded to St. Louis on the waters of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. He was somewhat disappointed in that place, as he had expected to find a flourishing village, instead of the collection of huts and small houses that composed the city. He consequently recrossed the river to Milton, Ill. This was the year in which this State was admitted to the Union. He stopped in that town a short time, and then took up his abode in Greene Coun-

ty, he being among the first to settle there. He bought a tract of timber land near the present site of Whitehall, built thereon, and established a tannery, which he operated, and at the same time superintended the improvement of his land. He did important work as a pioneer, and at his death August 17, 1844, his community lost one of its best citizens. His wife did not long survive him, but died in the home that she had helped him to make in May, 1845. They reared four children, named John G., Alexander, Eliza J. and Margaret.

The early life of our subject was passed amid the pioneer scenes of his native county. At that time, Northern Illinois was still occupied by the Indians, and deer and other wild game were abundant throughout the State. There were no railways in any portion of Illinois for many years. The first one that Mr. Harper ever saw extended from Naples, a town on the Illinois River, to Jacksonville, the cars being drawn by horses. The pioneer schools that he attended were taught in log houses, and the furniture was of the most primitive kind, the seats being made of undressed planks, without backs, and the schools were conducted on the subscription plan.

In 1848 our subject and two others started to explore Northern Illinois in search of Government land. He had previously purchased a soldier's warrant calling for a quarter-section, paying the sum of \$100 for the same. The little company of explorers found the vast prairies of the northern part of the State unoccupied, and one of them entered a tract in Tazewell County. In common with many others, Mr. Harper had but little faith that the prairies would ever be of much use as farming land, and he concluded that he would rather have his money than such unprofitable real estate, so on his return he sold his land warrant. He soon after began to learn the trade of a blacksmith at Ottawa, in La Salle County, serving an apprenticeship of three years, and he then did journey-work for a short time. After that he opened a smithy in Earlville, in the same county, and carried on business there very prosperously for many years. In 1868 he bought a farm in Shabbona Township, De Kalb County, and lived upon it two years. In 1870 he purchased the farm that he owns and occupies in

Viola Township, and is successfully carrying on agriculture on its well-tilled acres.

Mr. Harper was married March 12, 1853, to Miss Elizabeth Cox, a native of North Carolina. Her parents, David and Phebe (Jones) Cox, were also natives of that State, whence they came to Illinois in 1835. They spent one year in Kendall County, and then went to Champaign County and were among its early settlers. Mr. Cox bought land two miles north of Urbana, upon which he and his family lived for a time, and then took up their residence in the village. They afterward removed to Earlville, where they died, the father at the venerable age of eighty-two years, on August 29, 1891; the mother passing away February 16, 1892 at the age of eighty-three years.

Mr. and Mrs. Harper have three children: Lillian G., Annie and Jennie. Lillian is the wife of Rufus Johnson, and they have one son, Guy. Annie is the wife of Clark Butler, and they have two children: Gertrude and Elmer. Jennie married Amzi Van Campen, and they have three children: Edith, Arthur and Elizabeth.

Mr. Harper was a Whig until the dissolution of that party, and since then he has affiliated with the Democrats. He has filled various offices of trust, and has always given satisfaction as a conscientious, capable official. He served two terms as Highway Commissioner, two terms as Assessor, and is at the present time Justice of the Peace and School Director, he having been an incumbent of the former office sixteen years. He is justly regarded with feelings of respect and esteem, as he is fair minded, candid and open handed, and has the interests of his neighbors and the community at large at heart, never neglecting an opportunity to forward them where he can.

**D**EIK MILLER is an enterprising farmer and dairyman, who devotes his whole energies to his business, and is making the most of his farm that is beautifully located on the banks of the picturesque Rock River in Nelson Township. Mr. Miller was born in Hanover, Germany, in

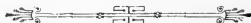
1843. He passed his boyhood in attendance at the excellent schools of that country, and in accordance with the stringent laws of the land, entered the army when he became of suitable age, becoming a member of the Sixth Hanover Regiment, which had a high reputation for military prowess, the men composing it being known as hard fighters, and daring and fearless in battle. Our subject served with it five years, from 1863 to 1868, took part in many a heated campaign, and had many narrow escapes from death while bravely fighting the enemy in various noted battles. He was in the midst of the conflict on the field on that memorable 8th of May, at Dapa Ford, in Denmark, when the Hanoverians whipped the Prussians, and he took part in the battle of Longzalsa, in Saxony.

After he left the army in 1868, our subject sought Fortune's favors in America, and after landing on these shores came to Illinois to try life on its broad, breezy prairies. He at first located in Stephenson County, and he also spent a year in Ogle County before coming to this county in 1871. He was pleased with the outlook here, and determined to make this his future home. In 1881 he purchased one hundred and thirty-seven acres of land on the Rock River, and in this location so favored by nature, he is very pleasantly situated. His land is admirably tilled, and besides yielding abundant harvests, supports a number of cattle, horses and hogs. Mr. Miller is constantly making improvements, and is always busy about his farming affairs, his dairy business demanding much of his time, as he has a good herd of well-graded milch cows to attend to.

Our subject was a single man when he came to this country, but during his residence in Stephenson County he had the good fortune to secure a very estimable wife in the person of Miss Augusta Staumbaugh, to whom he was wedded in Ridott Township. She is also a Hanoverian by birth, and came to the United States in 1869 with her parents, Claus and Foelke Staumbaugh. They located on a farm in Ogle County, where the father died at the age of sixty-five years. His wife, who has attained the venerable age of eighty-one years, is a welcome inmate of the home of our subject. She

is of the German Reformed faith in religion, her husband also belonging to that church.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller are the parents of eight children, of whom these two are deceased, Henry and Rebecea. Those living are: Flora, Rebecea, Hannah, August, Harry and Louisa. Our subject has followed intelligently the course of political events since he became a citizen of this country, and exercises his right of suffrage by voting with the Republican party. He and his wife are members of the German Reformed Church, and they are recognized as among the best people of the community.



COL. HENRY THEOPHILUS NOBLE was a citizen of whom Dixon was justly proud, as he was prominent in her business circles, was one of the most distinguished officers that represented the military of Lee County during the war, was a pure and patriotic leader in politics, and was noted for his generous public spirit and devotion to the best interests of city and county, his name being associated with many enterprises that have been potent in their advancement, and his money was freely given to help forward whatever was for the good of the community.

Col. Noble came of sterling New England stock, and was a lineal descendant of Thomas Noble, a native of England, who settled in Boston previous to 1653, and removed from there to Springfield, Mass., and thence to Westfield, in the same State, where he spent his last years. The Colonel was born May 3, 1829, in the town of Otis, Berkshire, Mass., and was reared among the beautiful Berkshire hills to a vigorous manhood. He had the advantages of a sound education, of which he laid the foundation in the district school, and when the State Normal School was organized at Westfield, Mass., he entered the first class and pursued the prescribed course of study. Ambitions for a broader field of action than was afforded by his native place, in 1850 he came to Dixon, and the following two years his time was fully employed in teaching and as a clerk in the



land office. In 1852 he embarked in an enterprise, which was characterized by the sagacity and forethought that were conspicuous features of his career as a business man throughout his entire life. He went South in that year for the purpose of buying land warrants, held by soldiers who had fought in the Mexican War, and he visited the States of Missouri, Texas, Alabama and Kentucky, in carrying out his scheme, which he made very profitable. On his return to Illinois he engaged with his uncle, Silas Noble, in banking and real-estate business, continuing with him until 1857.

Our subject was in the very prime of his life when the Rebellion broke out that threatened to destroy the Union. From his very boyhood he had been interested in national affairs, had always taken pains to keep himself well-informed concerning the government of his country, and as soon as old enough began to take part in local politics, throwing the weight of his influence on the side of the party that he considered in the right. He watched with intense interest and anxiety the course of events that led up to one of the greatest civil wars ever waged in the history of mankind, and at last when the South began hostilities by firing on the old flag, he unhesitatingly sprang to its defense, and to him belonged the honor of being the first man in Lee County to enlist, enrolling his name as a member of an Illinois regiment on April 17, five days after the first gun had been levelled at Ft. Sumter. On the 20th of that month he was chosen Lieutenant of Company A, Thirteenth Illinois Infantry, and was further honored on the 24th of the following May by being mustered in as Captain of his company.

The Colonel was in active service throughout the war and until the fall of 1866. During that time he took part in many important engagements, and his value as a leader was duly recognized by his promotion from the rank of captain to be successively Major, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Colonel of his regiment, his promotions being the result of his intrepid daring and coolness in the face of the enemy, and his skill in handling his troops in the heat of battle. The Thirteenth Illinois was the first regiment to cross the Mississippi River into

the hostile regions of the State of Missouri, and the greater part of the time for the following two years it was on duty in Missouri and Arkansas, and did great execution among the rebels. Later it did gallant service in the Vicksburg campaign, taking part in all the important battles fought around that city, and in its siege and capture. Our subject was appointed a member of Gen. J. J. Reynolds's staff, and subsequently served on the staff of Gen. E. O. C. Ord. In the spring of 1865, he was appointed to the important post of Chief Quartermaster of the Department of Arkansas, and held that position until his honorable discharge from the army, October 5, 1866. Many favorable comments were made by his superior officers upon his fitness for so responsible a position, and upon the faithful manner in which he discharged the arduous duties of his office. Gen. Meigs said of him in his official communication to the authorities at Washington: "Col. Noble has performed the duties of Quartermaster to the entire satisfaction of all concerned, and has won the confidence and esteem of all who know him." Gen. J. N. Crittenden, in a communication to the War Department, dated December 19, 1864, says: "For the excellent order in which all books, papers, cash accounts, etc., have been kept, thanks are due to Col. Noble's able management of the duties devolving upon him, and to his untiring devotion to his work. His standing as a man of pure and incorruptible character is high with all who know him, and I deem him capable of carrying out any and all plans in the Quartermaster's department."

After his long and honorable service in the army, our subject returned to this county, and the soldier was soon merged in the business man. That fall (of 1866) he bought an interest in the Grand Detour Plow works at Dixon, and was permanently connected with the management of business until his untimely death. Thus was brought to a close a life that was not only successful from a financial point of view, as the Colonel accumulated a handsome fortune, but from the light of his great personal worth and the high estimation placed upon his value as a man and a citizen. The whole city mourned his loss, as his unvarying geniality and

courtesy, his warm sympathy and never-failing generosity, had drawn to him many firm friends, and of a very extensive acquaintance all accorded him the esteem due to a man of his character. The Colonel was always warmly interested in the young people of the community, and held a strong place in their affections, as the following sincere tribute to his memory attests, and which we select from many resolutions adopted by various societies at the time of his death:

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE COL. HENRY T. NOBLE.

In view of the death of the late Col. H. T. Noble, the Irving Literary Society of the Dixon High School feel called upon to express their appreciation of his worth and their sorrow at his loss.

We remember him as an energetic and faithful worker in every enterprise relating to the prosperity of our city:

We think of him as a man of broad views, genial disposition and courteous bearing.

We have in mind his kind, sympathetic nature, tenderly regardful of the wants and comforts of even the dumb brute—and the prominent part he took in organizing and encouraging the "Band of Mercy."

We reflect with pleasure on the generous interest he took in the children of our city, and especially in the school children, always holding in his heart the welfare of our public schools.

We recall with pride the fact that this kind gentleman, public benefactor, enterprising citizen and true, warm friend was also a patriotic and brave soldier throughout the dark days, when valor and love of country alone were the salvation of our beloved land.

Therefore to-day we record our admiration of his virtues in public and private life, our reverence for his devotion to the liberties of our country, and the deep consciousness we have of the heavy loss we suffer in his removal.

Col. Noble was prominently identified with various social organizations. He was a member of Dixon Post, G. A. R., of the Loyal Legion of Illinois, and March 31, 1873, joined the Army of the Tennessee, which was organized at Raleigh, April 25, 1865. He was also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Dixon Lodge, No. 39. The Colonel was a Republican in politics, and was high in the councils of the party. He was twice Presidential Elector on that ticket,

and in 1876 was a delegate to the Republican National Convention, where he did himself and his constituents honor as one of the immortal "306," that voted for his old leader, Gen. Grant, on every ballot. He was a member of the commission appointed to locate a soldiers' home, and used his influence in favor of Dixon. Quincy was, however, selected as the site.

Our subject was twice married. His first marriage was in 1853, with Miss Jane A. Herrick, a native of Chautauqua County, N. Y., and a daughter of Samuel and Sally (Nash) Herrick. She was killed in the bridge disaster at Dixon, May 4, 1873. The maiden name of the Colonel's second wife was Mary Augusta Hampton. She was born in the town of Boston, Erie County, N. Y., a daughter of Slatc and Minerva (Ellis) Hampton, natives respectively of New Jersey and Boston, N. Y. Mrs. Noble was a devoted wife, and cherishes reverently the memory of her beloved husband in the beautiful home that she shared with him, and still occupies, that is pleasantly located on the corner of Galena and Third Streets.



**O**TIS TIMOTHY, who resides on section 1, China Township, near the village of Franklin Grove, Lee County, is an early pioneer of this county, having come here on the 2d of March, 1837. He was born in Williamstown, Hampshire County, Mass., August 30, 1812, and is a son of Elkanah and Clarissa (Power) Timothy. His family have been residents of the New England States for several generations. Mr. Timothy received a common-school education, which, in the days when he was young, was not a very liberal one. He was reared upon the farm, and in 1830 went to Niagara County, N. Y., to which place his parents had removed the year previous, and where they made their home during the remainder of their lives. The father died when sixty-five years old, and the mother at the age of sixty-seven, after having reared a family of seven children, four sons and three daughters.

Our subject is the second-born, and the only one

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of his father's family to come West. As before stated, he came to this county in 1837, and took up a claim on which he still resides, and, when the land came into market, purchased eighty acres. He has ever since given his attention to agriculture, and has increased his real estate to one hundred and twenty acres.

Mr. Timothy was married in 1838 to Sarah L., daughter of Cyrus and Louisa (Andrus) Minor. She was a native of Lebanon, Madison County, N. Y., the date of her birth being April 1, 1820. Her parents were also natives of New York, her father being a joiner by trade. She is the eldest of seven children. Her father has two children by a previous marriage, one son and one daughter, and her mother, who had also been married before, had one son, by the name of A. R. Norton. The parents of Mrs. Timothy came to this county, December 1, 1876, and settled in Franklin Grove, where her father pursued his trade, and also carried on farming. Here they died, the father on March 3, 1846, and the mother, September 27, 1839.

Our subject and his wife have been the parents of eight children, as follows: Charles, born January 3, 1849, married Persis E. Coats, and is a farmer near Springfield, Ill.; Andrew, who was born December 9, 1842, married Dalla Reed, and died near Louisville, Ky.; he was a farmer, and left one son and one daughter. Clara, born January 8, 1845, married Henry A. Black and resides in Austin, Ill.; John, born May 13, 1847; Inez A., who was born June 24, 1849, married Michael Kennedy, editor of the *Dixon Sun*; Daniel R., born February 6, 1852, married Flora Taylor and resides at home; George O., born May 9, 1854, married Florence Leadham, of Clinton, Iowa; Hattie M., born September 29, 1859, is the wife of Nathan A. Whitney, of China Township.

Mr. Timothy has lived a remarkably temperate life, never indulging in intoxicating liquors of any kind, and is remarkably well preserved, looking many years younger than he really is. His wife is also hale and hearty, and together they are a good illustration of the results of a sober, honest and upright life. He is a man who is prompt in the fulfillment of his obligations, and is well known for his integrity and honest deal-

ings in all business matters. He has spent his entire life as a farmer and has also dealt considerably in cattle. He relates many interesting incidents of the early days when the settlers did their marketing at Chicago, it then requiring eight days to reach that place. Wheat was then only thirty-five cents a bushel and other farm products in proportion. Mr. Timothy has never taken a very active interest in politics, but usually votes the Republican ticket. His wife is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



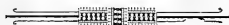
**H**ENRY HINTZ, who follows general farming on section 24, Nachusa Township, was born in Meeklenburg, Germany, April 23, 1866. His parents were Peter and Sophia (Miller) Hintz, who in Meeklenburg, their native province, were reared and married. For several years Mr. Hintz engaged in running a flat boat from his home to Haunburg, Germany. Three children were born unto them in the Fatherland, but one had died ere the emigration of the family to America, in 1872. They crossed the Atlantic in a steamer, landing at Castle Garden, New York City, in the spring of that year. Stopping not in the East, they continued their journey to Dixon, Ill., and soon afterward settled upon a farm in Palmyra Township, where the father was employed as a farm hand. He was in very limited circumstances at that time, in fact, was \$40 in debt, but ere his death became well-to-do.

In Ogle County, Mr. Hintz, Sr., purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land and to the development and improvement of his farm devoted his entire time and attention until called to his final rest, January 23, 1888, at the age of fifty years. He was a worthy and valued citizen and in political sentiment was a Republican. In religious belief he was a Lutheran, to which church Mrs. Hintz also belongs. She still resides on the old homestead in Ogle County, at the age of fifty years. With her live her two sons, William and Charles, who operate the farm for their mother.

Our subject is the eldest of the three brothers.

He was a lad of six summers when he crossed the Atlantic, and under the parental roof he remained until after attaining his majority. He was reared to farm life and when he started out for himself continued to engage in agriculture. As a companion and helpmate on life's journey, he chose Miss Elnora Floto, their union being celebrated in Taylor Township, Ogle County, January 31, 1889. The lady was born on her father's farm in that locality, on the 8th of October, 1865, and is the youngest daughter of Louis Floto, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. In the common schools her education was acquired, and she remained at home until she gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Hintz. Unto them were born two children, but one died in infancy. The other is a little son, Harry I.

In 1889, Mr. Hintz purchased eighty acres of land on section 24, Nachusa Township, and has since engaged in its cultivation. He is one of the wide-awake enterprising young farmers of the community who will undoubtedly make of life a success. In politics, he supports the Republican party and keeps himself well informed concerning the issues of the day. Himself and wife are both members of the Evangelical Association. Although they have resided in Lee county but a short time, they have already formed a wide circle of friends and acquaintances and made many warm friends.



**E**MANUEL H. RICKARD. On section 5, Palmyra Township, Mr. Rickard and his wife own a fine farm of one hundred and thirty-six acres, highly cultivated and improved with first-class buildings, and there they have resided since 1883. He also owns nineteen acres of timber land in another part of the township, and has large landed interests, the value of which is rapidly increasing.

Mr. Rickard was born in Medina County, Ohio, November 14, 1857, and there remained until coming to Whiteside County, this State, in 1880. His parents, Daniel and Christina (Hunker) Rickard, were natives of Pennsylvania, the former born

February 9, 1825, in Bucks County, and the latter June 12, 1822, in Westmoreland County, both being of German or Dutch ancestry. They were married February 5, 1846, in Westmoreland County and began their wedded life on a farm. After the birth of two children—John and Isaac, they removed to Medina County, Ohio, where they carried on farming and where the mother died May 23d, 1888, at the age of sixty-six years. She was an excellent woman and an earnest member of the Lutheran Church. The father is still living on his farm in Medina County, with his daughter, Mrs. E. G. Tinstman. He is a Republican in his political views and a prominent man in Montville Township, where he has resided for a number of years and where he has held various local offices.

Our subject is the fifth child in a family of six sons and three daughters, all of whom but one are now living in Medina County, Ohio, our subject being the only representative of the family residing in this State. He was married in Jordan Township, Whiteside County, Ill., September 28, 1882, to Miss Anna E. Williams, a native of that township, where she was reared and educated. Her parents, Osborn and Martha (John) Williams, were born in Columbia County, Pa., married July 27, 1848, and some six years afterward removed to Illinois and settled in Ogle County. A year or two later Mr. Williams purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Jordan Township, Whiteside County, and afterward became the owner of two large farms in Lee County, upon which he placed fine improvements. He died July 8, 1884, in the sixty-first year of his age, his birth having occurred October 20, 1823. He came of an old Pennsylvania family, descendants of Roger Williams, and his parents, both of whom were Quakers, died when he was a boy. He was diligent, generous and industrious; loved to see peace among all men and no discord among churches. A successful farmer he acquired a comfortable fortune in that calling. He was a Republican and was prominent in local politics, having held the office of Justice of the Peace for many years and serving as Assessor of his township and also as Supervisor for some years. Mrs. Williams, who survives her husband and resides on the old homestead in Whiteside Coun-



ty, was born March 12, 1823 of Quaker parents. Mrs. Rickard is the youngest of three children, and was born on the 7th of May, 1862; her brothers, Comley, and Reuben, are both farmers, and are married, the former residing in Lee County and the latter in Whiteside County. She is a lady of culture and refinement and well educated; before her marriage she followed the profession of a teacher for some time. She is the mother of one child,—Clark, born July 14, 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Rickard hold a prominent place in the social circles of the community and their pleasant home is the favorite resort of the young people. In politics he belongs to the Republican party.

On another page in this volume will be found a view of the attractive residence of Mr. Rickard, with its rural surroundings.



**J**OSEPH P. PLUMMER, manager of the Riverside Shoe Factory at Dixon, was closely connected with the inception of this well-known factory, one of the most important institutions of the city. The buildings occupied by the establishment are conveniently constructed and arranged after the most modern plan and with a view to sanitary conditions. It is devoted to the manufacture of children's, misses' and ladies' shoes, while the Dixon Shoe Factory, which is under the same management, turns out men's shoes only. They give employment to as many as six hundred hands and have a capacity for five thousand per day of children's, misses' and ladies' shoes, the regular output being about three thousand. The capacity of the men's shoe department is about seven hundred per day and is usually run at its full capacity.

The company also has a factory at Jefferson City, Mo., for men's and women's peg work in boots and shoes, and owns a small factory in Chicago for a similar grade of work. Frederick Watson and Joseph P. Plummer have the management of the concern while all goods are shipped to Chicago for common distribution by the owners of the factories, C. M. Henderson & Company. Mr. Plummer has

been associated with the Henderson Boot and Shoe Company since 1875 with the exception of two years, during which he was with his father in the wholesale drug trade in Chicago. Prior to removing to Rockford he was with the company in Pittsburg, Pa., and came West when its headquarters were transferred here.

Mr. Plummer was born in Richmond, Ind., February 8, 1859, and when fifteen years old commenced in business for himself. His father, Jonathan W. Plummer, is a member of the firm of Morrison, Plummer & Company, one of the largest importers of drugs in Chicago, located at No. 200-206 Randolph Street. His mother, whose maiden name was Hannah Ballard, was born in Lorain County, Ohio, the daughter of Thomas Ballard. The parents of our subject are adherents of the Friends Church, and prominent in that society at Chicago. He has given largely to charitable institutions and benevolent purposes, and is a man of upright character and large influence.

In Pittsburg, Pa., Joseph P. Plummer was married to Miss Sarah H. Lightcap, who was born in that city, and is an accomplished and refined lady. Mr. Plummer is Secretary and Treasurer of the Electric Light Company of Dixon, and one of the organizers of the company. He is also Vice-president of the Dixon Ice Company, of which Mr. Watson is President. His business abilities are of no common order, and his judicious management has been rewarded by the possession of a competency.



**M**ARTIN WILLIAM BRAUER. Many of the most thrifty and intelligent agriculturists of this section of Illinois, were born and reared on the other side of the Atlantic, and to Germany especially, is Lee County indebted for some of her most enterprising and prosperous citizens. Such is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch, and who was born in Javer Dukedom, Oldenburg, Germany, March 12, 1815. He was reared and received a good

education in his native place, and at the early age of sixteen years went to sea, setting out as man-before-the-mast. He sailed the seas on merchant vessels for about ten years, being as far north as longitude ten degrees and as far south as Costa Rica. At the expiration of that time he returned to his native home, and in 1840 sailed for the United States. Proceeding directly to this State he settled in Palmyra Township, this county.

In 1848 Mr. Brauer returned to Germany, and while there was married in his native place to Miss Helen Harms. This lady was born and reared in Oldenburg, and like her husband, came of good old German stock. Immediately after her marriage she accompanied her husband to the United States, and has assisted him in building up their attractive homestead. She became the mother of two sons—Anton, a successful young farmer, married Miss Lillie Butler, and they live on a farm in Sterling Township, Whiteside County, this State, with their two children, Myrtle and Lee; Frank lives on the old homestead, which he manages in connection with property of his own, comprising one hundred and seventy acres. He

married Miss Dora Walter, of this county, and they have three children, Ettia, Fred and Walter.

Religiously, Mr. and Mrs. Brauer are sincere Christian people and members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Brauer uses his political influence in favor of the Democratic party, but formerly was a Republican.

One of the most valuable farms of this county is owned and cultivated by Mr. Brauer, who is well and favorably known throughout the county. As a splendid example of what may be accomplished by an energetic, determined and economical man, we point to Mr. Brauer, who is a representative farmer, and who owns a splendid estate of one hundred and forty acres of fertile land, with a fine and substantial set of buildings thereon, besides thirty acres of timber. He secured his farm upon first coming here in 1840, when it was in a wild and unbroken state, and on it he began life in true pioneer style and has since brought it to its present fine condition. As is plainly to be seen, he is the architect of his own fortune, which he has accumulated by thrift, sagaciousness and perseverance.













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